

**State of California The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code

Review Code Other Listings Date
Reviewer Reviewer

Page 1 of 4 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 530 5th Street

P1. Other Identifier: Davis Fire Station 31–Fire Department Headquarters

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

- *a. County Yolo and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)
- *b. USGS 7.5' Quad Davis, CA Date 2018 T ; R ; of of Sec ; B.M.
- c. Address 530 5th Street City Davis, CA Zip 95616
- d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone , mE/ mN
- e. Other Locational Data: APN 070 211 08 and 070 211 09

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
530 5th Street is a two-story concrete fire station located at the southwest corner of 5th and E streets (**P5a.**) The building serves as the headquarters location for the Davis Fire Department (DFD), and also includes a business office for DFD.¹ The building is set back to from the street toward the center of its rectangular lot, with concrete-paved vehicle circulation and parking areas to the front and rear of the building. The building is capped by a flat roof that overhangs the building footprint slightly at all elevation. The roof fascia is clad with replacement aluminum siding with lapped siding of a similar color to original wood siding.² The first story is largely void of windows, excepting several aluminum-frame casement windows at the rear elevation. A narrow ribbon of aluminum-framed windows wraps around the building just below the overhanging roof. The facade features two massive garage bays with roll-up doors. Each door has a bank of oval lites. A detached concrete structure with a one-street facing window is located to the south of the station and is visible from E Street. This structure appears to partially enclose/surround mechanical or similar equipment. A flagpole stands near the northwest corner of the building and a radio tower stands near the southeast corner of the building.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP14. Government Building, HP 39. Fire Station.

P5a. Photograph or Drawing



- *P4. Resources Present:
 Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)
- *P5b. Description of Photo:
Subject building viewed from 5th Street, looking south.
March 14, 2019.
- *P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: 1965. City of Davis.
 Historic Prehistoric Both
- *P7. Owner and Address:
City of Davis
23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616
- *P8. Recorded by:
Garavaglia Architecture, Inc.
582 Market Street, Suite 1800
San Francisco, CA 94104
- *P9. Date Recorded:
March 14, 2019
- *P10. Survey Type:
Intensive survey for California Register, National Register, and Local eligibility.

*P11. Report Citation: N/A

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List): _____

¹ City of Davis, "Stations," City of Davis website, accessed March 19, 2019. <https://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/fire-department/about-dfd/stations>.

² See attached 523 B Building, Structure, and Object Record form for construction chronology.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 530 5th Street *NRHP Status Code 6Z

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B1. Historic Name: 530 5th Street/Station 31-Fire Department Headquarters

B2. Common Name: 530 5th Street/Station 31-Fire Department Headquarters

B3. Original Use: Fire Station B4. Present Use: Fire Station

*B5. Architectural Style: Modern Fire Station

*B6. Construction History: Built in 1965. In 1986, wood fascia along the cornice was replaced with aluminum siding of a similar color. Between 1993 and 1994 a kitchen within the building was remodeled. The station's front desk was altered including: new wall for front accessibility desk, plexi-glass window for front desk area and door with low voltage buzzer to the right of the accessible desk. Heating ventilation and air condition work was done 1994 and 2009-2010. Plans relating to alterations in 1986 were unable to be reviewed due to low/illegible scan quality.¹

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features: N/A

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme _____ Area Davis
Period of Significance N/A Property Type Civic Applicable Criteria N/A

Station 31 is the City of Davis' headquarters station or the downtown station. The station receives over half of the City's calls, and houses the Fire Department's business office.² Station 31 was the second of three fire stations constructed in the City of Davis following the construction of former City Hall and the Davis Fire Station of 1938 at 3rd and F Streets in the downtown area. The first station, known as Station 33 or "South Davis Station," is located on Mace Boulevard and serves the east and south sections of Davis, including Interstate-80 and the Causeway, per the City of Davis Fire Department. The third station, known as Station 32 or West Davis Station, was built in 1985 and is located at Arlington and Lake boulevards. It serves the west and north sections of Davis and the Springlake Fire Protection District outside of Davis city limits.³

Located roughly two blocks north of the former City Hall and Davis Fire Station, the subject building was built during Davis' Explosive Growth Period, as identified by Brunzell Historical.⁴ As the City of Davis expanded from its original grid plan, extension of municipal services including firefighting followed, providing additional capacity for such given the city's rapid residential growth during the period. As Brunzell describes, "Development of civic and institutional properties was more rapid in the 1960s than in any other era of Davis' history. The population growth and prosperity of the era meant that new public buildings were required."⁵ (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: **HP14. Government Building HP. 39 Fire Station**

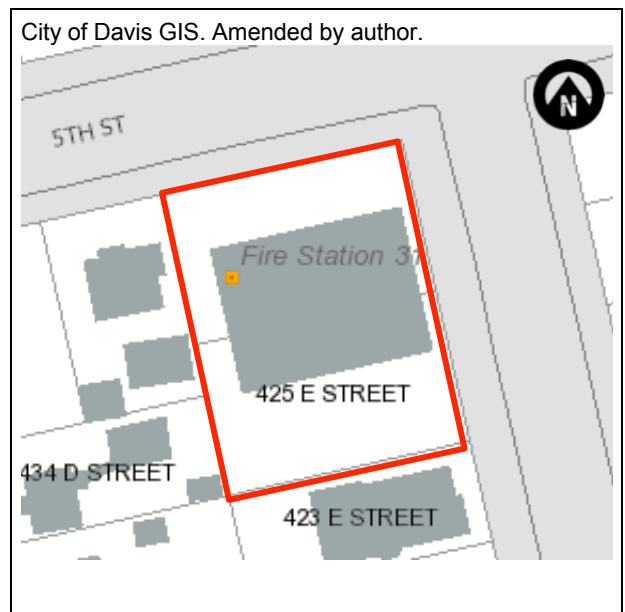
*B12. References: Building Permit Records, City of Davis Planning Department. Kara Brunzell, Brunzell Historical, *Davis, California: Citywide Survey and Historic Context Update*, 2015. Central Davis Historic Conservation District, Historical Resources Survey, August 2003. Architectural Resources Group, *City of Davis Cultural Resources Inventory and Context Statement*, (Davis, CA: City of Davis Parks and Community Services Department, September 30, 1996). Historic Environment Consultants, *Cultural Resources Inventory: Final Report*, (Davis, CA: June 1980). Proquest Digital Sanborn Maps, online. John Lofland and Phyllis Haig, *Images of America: Davis, California: 1910s-1940s*, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000). John Lofland, *Images of Modern America: Davis Transformation*, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2016). U.S. Census and City Directory data researched at Ancestry.com.

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Garavaglia Architecture, Inc.

*Date of Evaluation: August 12, 2019

(This space reserved for official comments.)



¹ Permit and plan records provided by the City of Davis Planning Department.

² City of Davis, "Stations," City of Davis website. Accessed May 10, 2019. <https://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/fire-department/about-dfd/stations>.

³ City of Davis, "Stations," City of Davis website. Accessed May 10, 2019. <https://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/fire-department/about-dfd/stations>.

⁴ Kara Brunzell, Brunzell Historical, *Davis, California: Citywide Survey and Historic Context Update*, 2015, 40-41.

⁵ Ibid., 41.

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*B10. Significance (Continued):

This included construction of several school buildings for elementary, intermediate, junior, and high school levels. The City of Davis describes, "No formal fire department existed in the City of Davis at the turn of the century. After a series of devastating fires destroyed many buildings in town, the citizens recognized the need for a formal fire department. In March of 1917, a meeting was held to establish an official fire department."⁶ When Station 31 was constructed in 1965, the fire department consisted of 19 profession and 43 volunteer firefighters. During the 1970s, additional apparatuses were acquired by the department. Station 32's construction in 1985 enabled the adaption of the 1938 station attached to City Hall for Police Department evidence storage.⁷

The subject station and the City of Davis's Fire Department on a larger scale have provided supportive firefighting services the UC Davis Campus since the establishment of the University Farm in 1908. However, the University's fire department, which grew from a roster of volunteer students and professors that utilized hose carts to fully-fledged professional department by the mid-1950s, has served as the campus's primary firefighting entity.⁸

Fire Station Building Typology

The following historic context of the development of the fire station typology is adapted from Tom Wilkinson's "Typology: Fire Stations."⁹

The Fire Station building typology is one reflective of changes in firefighting technology that have occurred over many centuries, from efforts to fight fires bucket-by-bucket in ancient Rome, and later the invention of motorized fire engines by the turn of the twentieth century. By the mid-seventeenth century, firefighting equipment was began to be mounted on horse-drawn carriages, which required stations that accommodated such equipment and personal. Leather fire houses invented in Amsterdam in 1673 required hanging to dry out to avoid rot; hence, the need for hose towers at many stations. By the mid-1700s, both private and volunteer firefighting companies were established in the United States, preceding the establishment of municipal crews as cities grew rapidly.

Stations were often limited by the narrow urban lots they were built upon, necessitating vertical space and multiple stories to house equipment and personnel.

As Wilkinson notes:

Fire crews had to take the stairs until David B Kenyon...invented the firehouse pole in 1878. This made his unit noticeably faster and was quickly adopted worldwide.

Motori[z]ed engines were introduced around 1900, but these slotted fairly easily into existing buildings. By the middle of the century, however, a number of technological changes altered firefighting. Structural steel made buildings taller, requiring much longer ladders, and cherry pickers were also added to the kit. These innovations made fire engines bigger and this rendered many older stations unfit for purpose. A new wave of buildings was constructed with Modernist disregard for historical precedent, for instance Robert Mallet-Stevens' 1936 station in Paris, Owen Williams' 1938 station for the Boots drug factory in Nottingham, and Claude Ferret's 1954 Bordeaux station surmounted by a Corbusian accommodation block. From the mid 1960s to the 1980s the Greater London Council built a large number of stations, such as the one at Shoreditch with its exposed concrete frame and cantilevered apartments. Hose towers were no longer disguised as campaniles or machicolated keeps, but stripped down to skeletal béton brut [rough textured concrete common to Brutalist style architecture].¹⁰

The subject building may be categorized as a modernistic station that has typical features of a fire station such as apparatus bays, spaces (offices), and is build of robust materials with minimal ornamentation. The building's exterior is minimally adorned with a stucco exterior, wide roof fascia, and tall-wide apparatus bays sized for modern apparatuses. The building is also minimally fenestrated with ribbon windows that became common features of both corporate and civic building during the 1960s when the International style of architecture was applied to various building typologies.

⁶ City of Davis, "History," City of Davis website. Accessed May 10, 2019. <https://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/fire-department/about-dfd/history>.

⁷ City of Davis, "History," City of Davis website. Accessed May 10, 2019. <https://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/fire-department/about-dfd/history>.

⁸ University of California Davis, "UC Davis Fire Department," website. Accessed May 10, 2019. <https://fire.ucdavis.edu/our-history>.

⁹ Tom Wilkinson, "Typology: Fire Stations," *The Architectural Review*, February 3, 2016. Accessed online, April 16, 2019.

<https://www.architectural-review.com/essays/typology-fire-stations/10002048.article>.

¹⁰ Ibid.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Evaluation:

The following section provides evaluation of the subject property for eligibility for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), and the Davis Register of Historical Resources (local register), which contains buildings identified as Landmarks and Merit resources. The CRHR bases its criteria on that of the NRHP, and the local register criteria are based on those of the NRHP/CRHR. Therefore, evaluation under all three registers is undertaken simultaneously.

Criterion A/1 (Events)

The subject building does not appear to be individually eligible under Criterion A/1 for listing in the NRHP/CRHR or local register. Built in 1965, the subject property was constructed during a period of explosive growth in Davis, as university enrollments increased rapidly and the town expanded beyond its historic grid through numerous residential subdivisions. The period saw the construction of numerous public school buildings and two fire stations including the Station 33 in 1962 and the subject Station 31 in 1965. With the City of Davis, exclusive of the University of California Davis campus which is served by separate a fire department, the subject building is not the earliest of fire stations in the City, and is not the first built during its period of construction. Although the subject building was among modern civic and public buildings constructed in Davis during its period of explosive growth, the building does not individually reflect that period of growth. Available information relating to the history of the Davis Fire Department and the City's historic did not find evidence to support a finding of individual significance under this criterion.

Criterion B/2 (Persons)

The subject building does not appear to be individually eligible under Criterion B/2 for listing in the NRHP/CRHR or local register. Historic information related to the David Fire Department and the subject building's role within the department's history indicates that numerous individuals have occupied the building as firefighting personnel since 1965. Although many firefighters have contributed to the general development of municipal services in Davis since the early 1900s, research did not find evidence that the subject building bears direct association with a particular individual, or that the building reflects the achievements of a particular person.

Criterion C/3 (Architecture-Design)

The subject property does not appear to be individually eligible under Criterion C/3 for listing in the NRHP/CRHR or local register. The subject building was constructed in 1965 and is not designed in a sense that a particular architectural style is embodied. The building's ribbon window just below the roofline is representative of the International style, which was commonly applied to civic and institutional buildings between the mid 1930s and late 1960s. The exterior concrete-stucco walls are representative of aspects of the Brutalist style, but do not fully represent rough-cast concrete. Research did not identify a designer or builder of the station through archival research including building permit and plan records. As a building typology, the fire station evolved from high-style examples of the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries to more robust, yet economical designs of the mid-twentieth century as the buildings were adapted to larger equipment. The subject building features large apparatus bays, sparse fenestration, and a robust aesthetic common to modern fire stations, but does not appear to be an individually important example of its type or period of construction.

Criterion D/4 (Information Potential)

Archival research and physical investigation of the property focused on the above ground resource only. Therefore, no informed determination could be made regarding the property's eligibility for the NRHP, CRHR, or local register under Criterion D/4.

The property at 530 5th Street does not meet the criteria for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHP), or the City of Davis Register (local register) as a Landmark or Merit Resource. The property is not a historical resource for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code.