

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

## FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 22

DATE: February 7, 2006

STAFF: Karen McWilliams

### SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 023, 2006, Designating the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper, Owned by the Poudre Fire Authority, as a Fort Collins Landmark Pursuant to Chapter 14 of the City Code.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Landmark Preservation Commission and staff recommend adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading. At a public hearing held on January 25, 2006, the Landmark Preservation Commission voted unanimously to recommend designation of this object as a landmark for the fire truck's significance to Fort Collins, under Landmark Standards (1) and (3).

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The owner of the property, Poudre Fire Authority, is initiating this request for Fort Collins Landmark designation for the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper. The fire engine is eligible for individual Fort Collins Landmark Designation under both Landmark Standards (1) and (3). For fifty years, for three districts, this fire engine has played an important role in fire protection and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area. The engine is being restored to become a part of the Poudre Fire Authority's safety program.

### BACKGROUND

In 1938, the Fort Collins Rural Fire Protection Association was established, delineating the boundaries in which the Fort Collins Fire Department would provide fire protection services to the surrounding rural areas. Until the establishment of the Association, rural fires were fought as best as could be, by residents and neighbors, with help from volunteers from the nearest town. The Fire Protection Association attempted to bring some measures of consistency and professionalism to fire fighting in the rural areas. In an agreement with the Fort Collins Fire Department, the Association arranged to pay the City of Fort Collins for its fire protection services to the outlying area.

While the arrangement was initially beneficial, over time the Fort Collins Fire Department failed to receive sufficient funding for necessary equipment and men, and by the late 1940s, the arrangement was severely taxing the resources of the city department. A committee was formed to investigate forming a Fire District, which could raise a steady stream of revenue from a mill levy. On April 14, 1950, Judge Coffin signed the order forming the newly organized district,

called the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District. Two weeks later, city officials and the district's directors agreed on a contract whereby the city would continue to provide fire protection for the fringe rural area surrounding Fort Collins. In exchange, the Fire Protection District would pay each Fort Collins fireman \$25 a month. The Poudre Valley Fire Protection District included roughly the same area that was served by the Rural Protection Association which it supplanted. This consisted of all or part of thirteen school districts, the town of Timnath, and the Colorado A&M College.

In October 1952, the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors received a bid of \$8,000 plus the trade in value of an old engine, for a brand new fire engine from the American Fire Apparatus Co. of Detroit. This engine was a 1953 GMC chassis that was equipped with a 500 gallon-per-minute front mount pump, and a 500 gallon reserve water supply tank. On May 8, 1953 at 1:30 p.m., Mr. Bell delivered the truck. Firemen Jerry Collins and Reinie Reinick were detailed to man the rural engine. Four-and-a-half hours later, the truck was initiated when firemen were called to the Ben Fabrizius Farm, 1½ miles east of Harmony.

This 2 or 2½ ton 1953 GMC truck was custom ordered for rural firefighting. Significantly, it had a 500 gallon-per-minute Front Mount Pump. Having the pump mounted on the front permits using the pump while the truck is in motion, critical for fighting grass fires. The truck had two booster hose reels each carrying 200 feet of 1-inch hose. Attached to the hose were high pressure fog nozzles. It also had four 12-foot sections of hard suction hose for pumping water out of a stream, lake or well. Two of the sections were 4 ½ inches in diameter, the other two 2 ½ inches. Some of the equipment the truck carried included two carbon dioxide fire extinguishers, a fire axe and wrecking bar, plus two 24-foot sections of an aluminum extension ladder and twelve foot roof ladder. The vehicle had electric brakes in addition to the conventional type, and an auxiliary battery system.

The 1953 GMC Fire Engine was used by the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District and the Fort Collins Fire Department from May 8, 1953 to January 1968. From 1968 to 1976, the truck was assigned to the District's Laporte Volunteer Fire Department, serving the area north of Fort Collins and around Laporte. The PVFPD gave up the engine in 1976, when the Laporte Volunteer Fire Department disbanded upon creation of the town's first paid force, with Chuck Willis as district chief. The truck was next sent to the Wellington Fire District, becoming the principal fire truck at the Waverly station. In June 1991, the Livermore Volunteer Fire District organized, and the following year took possession of the 1953 GMC Pumper from the Wellington Department. In the spring of 2003, the Livermore District retired the engine.

While over the years the fire truck has undergone some modifications, the vehicle retains amazingly good integrity. At some point, the hard suction hose brackets, originally mounted on the truck's sides, were removed and replaced with equipment storage compartments. A rail was added over the bed of the truck, creating a frame to stretch a cover over the truck's open back. Two compartments behind the wheel were added, for "Scott" brand self contained breathing equipment. The truck also was equipped with emergency lighting and siren.

Its future is finally assured.. Due to the efforts of Retired Fire Chief Ed Yonker, the 1953 GMC Front Mount Pump Engine is being restored, to become a part of the Poudre Fire Authority's safety program. For fifty years, for three districts, this fire engine has played an important role

in fire protection and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area. It is well deserving of recognition as a Fort Collins Landmark.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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- Landmark Preservation Commission staff report dated January 25, 2006.



## Community Planning and Environmental Services

Advance Planning Department

### LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION

January 25, 2006

### STAFF REPORT

**REQUEST:** Fort Collins Landmark Designation of the Poudre Fire Authority's 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Karen McWilliams, Preservation Planner

**APPLICANT:** Poudre Fire Authority, Owner.

**Significance and Physical Integrity:** The owner of the property, the Poudre Fire Authority, is initiating this request for Fort Collins Landmark designation of its 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper. The fire engine is eligible for individual Fort Collins Landmark Designation under both Landmark Standards (1) and (3). For fifty years, for three districts, this fire engine has played an important role in fire protection and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area. The engine is being restored, to become a part of the Poudre Fire Authority's safety program.

#### **Background:**

In 1938, the Fort Collins Rural Fire Protection Association was established, delineating the boundaries in which the Fort Collins Fire Department would provide fire protection services to the surrounding rural areas. Until the establishment of the Association, rural fires were fought as best as could be, by residents and neighbors, with help from volunteers from the nearest town. The Fire Protection Association attempted to bring some measures of consistency and professionalism to fire fighting in the rural areas. In an agreement with the Fort Collins Fire Department, the Association arranged to pay the City of Fort Collins for its fire protection services to the outlying area.

While the arrangement was initially beneficial, over time the Fort Collins Fire Department failed to receive sufficient funding for necessary equipment and men, and by the late 1940s, the arrangement was severely taxing the resources of the city department. A committee was formed to investigate forming a Fire District, which could raise a steady stream of revenue from a mill levy. On April 14, 1950, Judge Coffin signed the order forming the newly organized district, called the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District. Two weeks later, city officials and the district's directors agreed on a contract whereby the city would continue to provide fire protection for the fringe rural area surrounding Fort Collins. In exchange, the Fire Protection District would pay each Fort Collins fireman \$25 a month. The Poudre Valley Fire Protection District included roughly the same area that was served by the Rural Protection Association which it supplanted. This consisted of all or part of thirteen school districts, the town of Timnath, and the Colorado A&M College.

In October 1952, the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors received a bid of \$8,000 plus the trade in value of an old engine, for a brand new fire engine from the American Fire Apparatus Co. of Detroit. This engine was a 1953 GMC chassis that was equipped with a 500 gallon-per-minute front mount pump, and a 500 gallon reserve water supply tank. On May 8, 1953 at 1:30 p.m., Mr. Bell delivered the truck. Firemen Jerry Collins and Reinie Reinick were detailed to man the rural engine. Four-and-a-half hours later, the truck was initiated when firemen were called to the Ben Fabrizius Farm, 1½ miles east of Harmony.

This 2 or 2½ ton 1953 GMC truck was custom ordered for rural firefighting. Significantly, it had a 500 gallon-per-minute Front Mount Pump. Having the pump mounted on the front permits using the pump while the truck is in motion, critical for fighting grass fires. The truck had two booster hose reels each carrying 200 feet of 1-inch hose. Attached to the hose were high pressure fog nozzles. It also had four 12-foot sections of hard suction hose, for pumping water out of a stream, lake or well. Two of the sections were 4 ½ inches in diameter, the other two 2 ½ inches. Some of the equipment the truck carried included two carbon dioxide fire extinguishers, a fire axe and wrecking bar, plus two 24-foot sections of an aluminum extension ladder and twelve foot roof ladder. The vehicle had electric brakes in addition to the conventional type, and an auxiliary battery system.

The 1953 GMC Fire Engine was used by the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District and the Fort Collins Fire Department from May 8, 1953 to January 1968. From 1968 to 1976, the truck was assigned to the District's Laporte Volunteer Fire Department, serving the area north of Fort Collins and around Laporte. The PVFPD gave up the engine in 1976, when the Laporte Volunteer Fire Department disbanded upon creation of the town's first paid force, with Chuck Willis as district chief. The truck was next sent to the Wellington Fire District, becoming the principal fire truck at the Waverly station. In June 1991, the Livermore Volunteer Fire District organized, and the following year took possession of the 1953 GMC Pumper from the Wellington Department. In the spring of 2003, the Livermore District retired the engine.

While over the years the fire truck has undergone some modifications, the vehicle retains amazingly good integrity. At some point, the hard suction hose brackets, originally mounted on the truck's sides, were removed and replaced with equipment storage compartments. A rail was added over the bed of the truck, creating a frame to stretch a cover over the truck's open back. Two compartments behind the wheel were added, for "Scott" brand self contained breathing equipment. And, the truck was equipped with emergency lighting and siren.

Its future is finally assured. Due to the efforts of Retired Fire Chief Ed Yonker, the 1953 GMC Front Mount Pump Engine is being restored, to become a part of the Poudre Fire Authority's safety program. For fifty years, for three districts, this fire engine has played an important role in fire protection and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area. It is well deserving of recognition as a Fort Collins Landmark.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approving this request for Fort Collins Landmark designation of the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper, under both Standard (1) and Standard (3). For fifty years, for three districts, this fire engine has played an important role in fire protection and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area.



**RESOLUTION 4, 2006  
OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDING LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THE  
1953 GMC 500 GPM FRONT MOUNT PUMPER  
OWNED BY THE POUFRE FIRE AUTHORITY, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO**

WHEREAS, it is a matter of public policy that the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of sites, structures, objects, and districts of historical, architectural, or geographic significance, located within the city, are a public necessity and are required in the interest of the prosperity, civic pride and general welfare of the people; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the City Council that the economic, cultural and aesthetic standing of this city cannot be maintained or enhanced by disregarding the historical, architectural and geographical heritage of the city and by ignoring the destruction or defacement of such cultural assets; and

WHEREAS, the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper Fire Truck, has individual significance to Fort Collins under Landmark Preservation Standards (1) and (3), as this fire engine has played an important role in fire protection for fifty years, and for three districts, and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Landmark Preservation Commission has determined that the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper meets the criteria of a landmark as set forth in Section 14-5 of the code and is eligible for designation as a Fort Collins Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the property, the Poudre Fire Authority, has consented to such landmark designation.

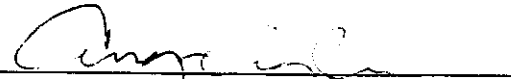
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Landmark Preservation Commission of the City of Fort Collins as follows:

Section 1. That the object known as the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper, owned by the Poudre Fire Authority and currently stored in the Street Car Barn, 330 North Howes Street, be designated as a Fort Collins Landmark in accordance with Chapter 14 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins.

Landmark Preservation Commission  
Resolution No. 4, 2006  
1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper Fire Truck  
Page 2

Section 2. That the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines for the treatment of historic properties, and/or conservation standards adopted for the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper and approved by the Landmark Preservation Commission, will serve as the standards by which alterations, additions, and other changes to the object will be reviewed for compliance with Chapter 14, Article III, of the Code of the City of Fort Collins.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Landmark Preservation Commission of the City of Fort Collins held this 25th day of January, A.D. 2006.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angie Aguilera, Acting Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Staff



**Community Planning and Environmental Services**

Advance Planning Department

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## Local Historic Landmark Designation Nomination Form

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**Date:** January 16, 2006

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**Legal Description:** 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper, owned by the Poudre Fire Authority

**Current Location:** Fort Collins Street Railway Car Barn, 330 North Howes Street.

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### FORM PREPARED BY:

**Name and Title:** Ed Yonker, Retired Fire Chief

**Address:** 832 Ashford Lane, Fort Collins, CO 80526

**Phone:** (970) 223-8113

**Relationship to Owner:** Former Fire Chief

**Name and Title:** Karen McWilliams, Preservation Planner

**Address:** City of Fort Collins, Advance Planning Department, P.O. Box 580,  
Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580.

**Phone:** (970) 224-6078

**Relationship to Owner:** None

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### OWNER INFORMATION

**Name:** Poudre Fire Authority

**Phone:** 970-221-6570

**Address:** 102 Remington Street, Ft. Collins

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### CLASSIFICATION

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	<b>Existing Designation</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> National Register
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> State Register
<input type="checkbox"/> Site			<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object			<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	
<input type="checkbox"/> District			<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Government	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Other	



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## **SIGNIFICANCE**

- Standard 1: The object is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history;
- Standard 2: The object is associated with the lives of persons significant in history;
- Standard 3: The object embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- Standard 4: The object has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

(Please describe why the object is significant, relative to the Standard(s) above.)

The 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper is eligible for individual Fort Collins Landmark Designation under Landmark Standards (1) and (3). For fifty years, for three districts, this fire engine has played an important role in fire protection and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area. It is well deserving of recognition as a Fort Collins Landmark.

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## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND and PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

In 1938, the Fort Collins Rural Fire Protection Association was established. The Fire Protection Association delineated the boundaries in which the Fort Collins Fire Department would provide fire protection services to the rural areas surrounding Fort Collins. The service area was comprised of all or parts of thirteen nearby school districts, and the college. (Prior to the establishment of the Poudre R-1 consolidated school district in 1960, Larimer County had over thirty separate school districts.) The first board consisted of the presidents of each school district. F. A. Whitaker served as president of the Association, with A. G. Scott as secretary. Fort Collins Mayor Ray R. Mathews also served on the board. Until the establishment of the Association, rural fires were fought as best as could be, by residents and neighbors, with help from volunteers in the nearest town. The Fire Protection Association attempted to bring some measures of consistency and professionalism to fire fighting in the rural areas. In an agreement with the Fort Collins Fire Department, the Association arranged to pay the City of Fort Collins for its fire protection services to the outlying area.

While the arrangement was initially beneficial, over time the Fort Collins City Council failed to provide the Fort Collins Fire Department with sufficient funding for necessary equipment and men, and by the late 1940s, the arrangement was severely taxing the resources of the city department. A lack of strict building codes and the type of construction of the average building in the rural areas, combined with the distances Fort Collins' firemen had to travel to reach them, meant that rural fires tended to be larger and harder to fight. There also were no fire hydrants, so often the only water supply was what the truck could carry itself. Compensation from the Rural Fire Protection Association was minimal. In the late 1940s, for example, the Fort Collins Fire Department received an average of \$19 a year per fireman for its efforts in fighting rural fires, a sum which didn't even begin to pay for shoes and clothing damaged while fighting these fires.

In the late 1940s, a committee was formed to investigate forming a Fire District, which could raise a steady stream of revenue from a mill levy. Fifty signatures of tax-paying residents were needed in order to create the district. On April 14, 1950, Judge Coffin signed the order forming the newly organized district, called the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District. Two weeks later, city officials and the district's directors agreed on a contract whereby the city would continue to provide fire protection for the fringe rural area surrounding Fort Collins. In exchange, the Fire Protection District would pay the each Fort Collins fireman \$25 a month. The Poudre Valley Fire Protection District included roughly the same area that was served by the Rural Protection Association which it supplanted. This consisted of all or part of thirteen school districts, the town of Timnath, and the Colorado A&M College.

In 1952, after 22 years' service, Fort Collins Fire Chief Thomas Treadwell resigned. His replacement was Chief Clifford L. Carpenter. With a new fire chief, the City Council was more receptive to purchasing much-needed fire equipment and increasing firemen's salaries. By June 1955, when a young Ed Yonker joined the department, he was paid a starting salary of \$225.00 a month. After one month, the salary was supplemented by the additional \$25 from the rural district, making his monthly salary \$250.00 for an 84-hour workweek.

In October 1952, the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors received a bid of \$8,000 plus the trade in value of an old engine, for a brand new fire engine from the American Fire Apparatus Co. of Detroit. This engine was a 1953 GMC chassis that was equipped with a 500 gallon-per-minute front mount pump, and a 500 gallon reserve water supply tank. Painted white, the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District name was proudly displayed on the truck's door. The regional representative of the American Fire Apparatus Company was L.L. Bell of Western Fire Department Supply in Denver, and on May 8, 1953 at 1:30 p.m., Mr. Bell delivered the truck. Firemen Jerry Collins and Reinie Reinick were detailed to man the rural engine. Four-and-a-half hours later, the truck was initiated when firemen were called to the Ben Fabrizius Farm, 1½ miles east of Harmony.

This 2 or 2½ ton 1953 GMC truck was custom ordered for rural firefighting. Significantly, it had a 500 gallon-per-minute Front Mount Pump. Having the pump mounted on the front permits using the pump while the truck is in motion, critical for fighting grass fires. The truck had two booster hose reels each carrying 200 feet of 1-inch hose. Attached to the hose were high pressure fog nozzles. It also had four 12-foot sections of hard suction hose, for pumping water out of a stream, lake or well. Two of the sections were 4 ½ inches in diameter, the other two 2 ½ inches. Some of the equipment the truck carried included two carbon dioxide fire extinguishers, a fire axe and wrecking bar, plus two 24-foot sections of an aluminum extension ladder and twelve foot roof ladder. The vehicle had electric brakes in addition to the conventional type, and an auxiliary battery system. (Also in 1953, the Fort Collins department took possession of a new GMC 750 gpm midship pump engine, manufactured by the Central Fire Equipment Company of Illinois. Because the two trucks both have 1953 GMC chassis, they are sometimes confused. They are distinguished from each other by the location of the pump, front-mounted or mounted "midship" i.e., on the side.)

The 1953 GMC Fire Engine was used by the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District and the Fort Collins Fire Department from May 8, 1953 to January 1968. To gain experience, all new recruits were assigned to the Rural Engine, which had many more fire runs. From

1968 to 1976, the truck was assigned to the District's Laporte Volunteer Fire Department, serving the area north of Fort Collins and around Laporte. The PVFPD gave up the engine in 1976, when the Laporte Volunteer Fire Department disbanded upon creation of the town's first paid force, with Chuck Willis as district chief. The truck was next sent to the Wellington Fire District. In 1982 the Wellington Department built a station at Waverly, and for several years, the 1953 GMC engine became the principal fire truck based out of the Waverly station. In June 1991, the Livermore Volunteer Fire District organized, with David Korth as its first fire chief. On February 29, 1992, Livermore took possession of the 1953 GMC Pumper from the Wellington Department. In the spring of 2003, the Livermore District retired the engine. Ed Yonker received the call he had been waiting for, and brought the truck back to Fort Collins, where it has been stored in the City's Street Car Barn to protect it from the weather.

While over the years the fire truck has undergone some modifications, the vehicle retains amazingly good integrity. At some point, the hard suction hose brackets, originally mounted on the truck's sides, were removed and replaced with equipment storage compartments. A rail was added over the bed of the truck, creating a frame to stretch a cover over the truck's open back. Two compartments behind the wheel were added, for "Scott" brand self contained breathing equipment. And, the truck was equipped with emergency lighting and siren.

Its future is finally assured. Due to the efforts of Retired Fire Chief Ed Yonker, the 1953 GMC Front Mount Pump Engine is being restored, to become a part of the Poudre Fire Authority's safety program. For fifty years, for three districts, this fire engine has played an important role in fire protection and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area. It is well deserving of recognition as a Fort Collins Landmark.

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**REFERENCE LIST or SOURCES of INFORMATION** (attach a separate sheet if needed)

Fort Collins Coloradoan, "Firemen Receive New Rural Engine." May 2, 1953.

Fort Collins Coloradoan, "Rural Engine Arrives," photograph with caption. May 5, 1953.

McWilliams, Karen. Correspondence from Ed Yonker, Former Fire Chief, Fort Collins Fire Department.

Yonker, Ed. History of the Fort Collins Fire Department. Fort Collins, CO: Vestige Press, 2004.

Yonker, Ed. Photographs and other ephemera from Mr. Yonker'd private collection.

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Determined "Eligible" \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance # \_\_\_\_\_

Application within last 12 months?  Yes  No

Date Recorded \_\_\_\_\_

**AGREEMENT**

The undersigned owner(s) hereby agrees that the property described herein be considered for local historic landmark designation, pursuant to the Fort Collins Landmark Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 14 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins.

I understand that upon designation, I or my successors will be requested to notify the Secretary of the Landmark Preservation Commission at the City of Fort Collins prior to the occurrence of any of the following:

1. Preparation of plans for restoration or alteration of the 1953 GMC Front Mount Pumper Fire Truck;
2. Preparation of plans for construction of, addition to, or demolition of the 1953 GMC Front Mount Pumper Fire Truck;

DATED this Twentieth ~~10th~~ day of January, 2006.

Pauche Fire Authority  
Owner Name (please print)

John Mulligan  
Owner Signature

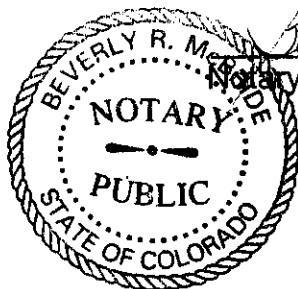
State of COLORADO)

County of LARIMER) ss.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 20 day of JANUARY, 2006.

by JOHN MULLIGAN

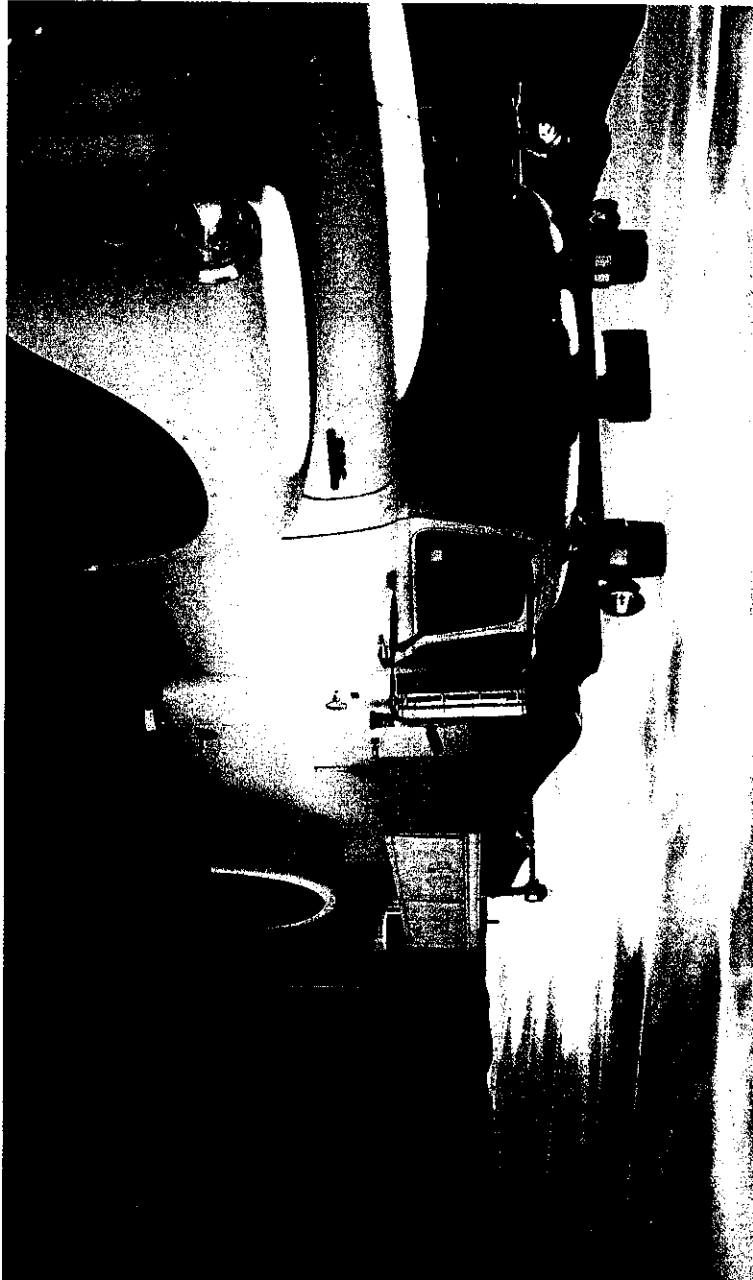
Witness my hand and official seal. My commission expires 03-01-06.



Beverly R. M. [unclear]  
Notary Public

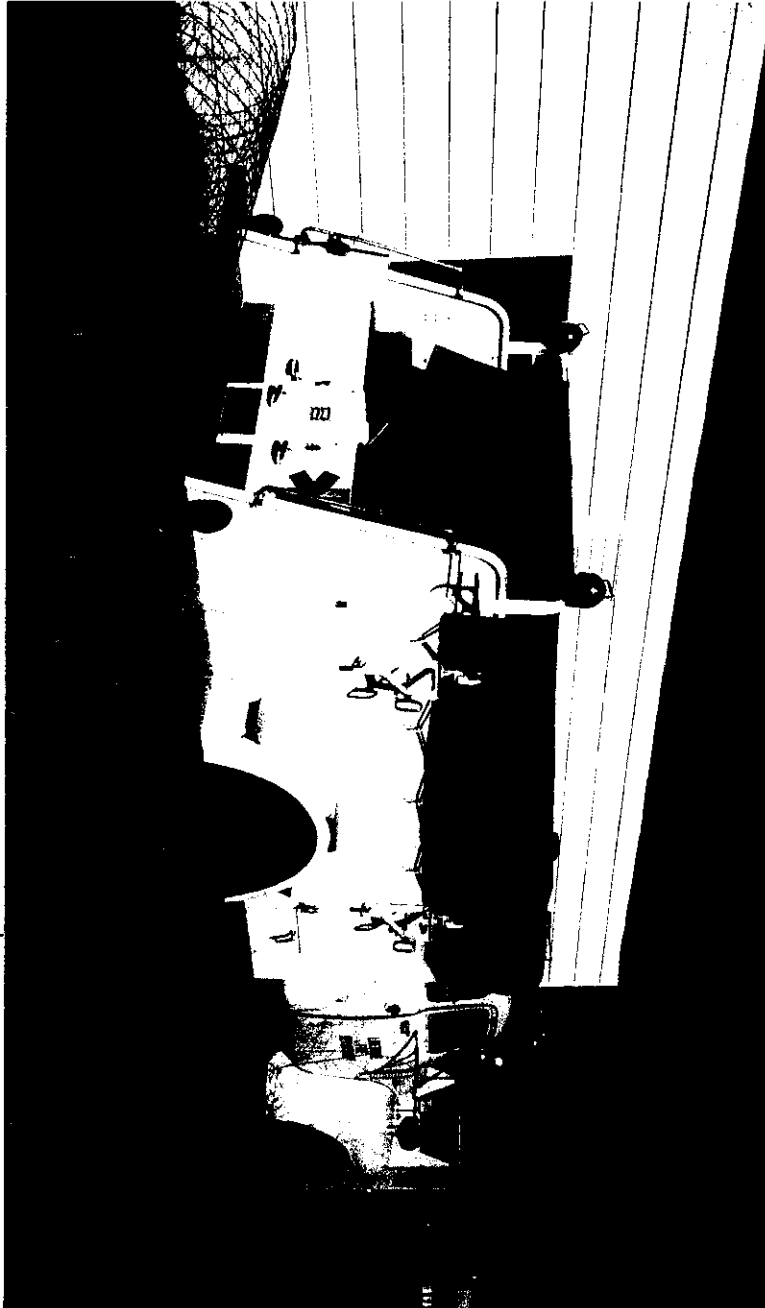


" Chief Carpenter Fire Prevention  
1953 PVFD Engine "



"1953 GMC 500 GPM Pumper  
PVFD 1st Pumper"

1953 GMC 500 G.P.M. Pumper  
1st PVPD Engine



**LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION  
FOR A  
1953 G.M.C. FIRE ENGINE**

**On February 8, 1953, the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District Board signed a contract order for a new fire engine for the district. On May 8, 1953, the engine was received and it responded to its first fire.**

**It has a 500 g.p.m. front mount pump (Barton-American –C-101-1953) built in Battle Creek, Michigan. The engine is a G.M.C. 1953, 131 horse power (serial number 453-30-5991) with a gross weight of 4500 pounds. It was built in Pontiac, Michigan. L.L. Bell, representing the American Fire Apparatus Company out of Detroit, Michigan, drove the engine to Fort Collins. It was all white in color with the lettering P.V.F.P.D. on the hood and the words POUUDRE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT on the doors.**

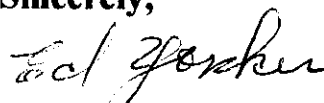
**It was used by the District and the city of Fort Collins from May 8, 1953 to January 1968. It went to the LaPorte Volunteers from January 1968 to 1976. The LaPorte Volunteers disbanded in 1976, when a new fire station was built with Chuck Willis as district chief. This was the beginning of paid firemen in the LaPorte area.**

**It was sent to the Wellington Fire District in 1976 to February 29, 1992. They used the engine for the city and the district. When Station 2 was built in Waverly in 1982, it operated in that part of the district.**

**February 29, 1992, the engine went to the Livermore Volunteer Fire District which had organized June 17, 1991, with David Korth as their chief. The District retired the engine in the spring of 2003 at which time Ed Yonker brought it back to Fort Collins and stored it in the Trolley Barn in Fort Collins out of the weather.**

**This fire engine has played an important roll in fire protection for three districts for 50 years and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area. It will become a part of the future fire safety program with the Poudre Fire Authority. This should qualify the fire engine as a local landmark status.**

Sincerely,



**Former Fire Chief**



**LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION  
FOR A  
1953 G.M.C. FIRE ENGINE**

Shortly after the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District was established in 1952, they ordered a fire engine with a 500 G.P.M. (gallons per minute) pump to give fire protection to 260 square miles of property surrounding the city of Fort Collins, CO.

The engine carried 500 gallons of water with a 500 G.P.M. front mount pump which permitted using the pump while moving to fight grass fires. The engine had two high pressure hose reels carrying 200 feet of hose with fog nozzles used for both grass fires and house fires. It also had four hard suction hoses for pumping water from lakes and streams where there were no fire hydrants. It was equipped with electric brakes in addition to the conventional hydraulic system. It also had an auxiliary battery system.

The history of the engine and services to the districts began May 8, 1953, when it was tested and accepted by the rural board.

The following is a listing of the times the fire engine spent in each district:

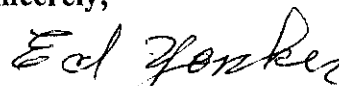
Poudre Valley Fire Protection District- 1953-1976- It was the first response engine for 23 years.

Wellington Fire District- 1976-1990- It was the second response engine for 14 years.

Livermore Fire District- 1990-2003- The remaining time the engine was in service.

The fire engine has played an important roll in fire protection for three districts for 50 years and holds a unique place in the history of the fire service in the area. It will become a part of the future fire safety program with the Poudre Fire Authority. This should qualify the fire engine to be granted a local landmark status.

Sincerely,



Former Fire Chief

# Firemen Receive New Rural Engine

Members of Fort Collins Fire Company 1 barely had time Thursday to achieve a nodding acquaintance with a new rural fire engine before they had to take it out to a fire.

L. L. Bell, representative of the American Fire Apparatus Company drove the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District's new rural engine into Fort Collins about 1:30 p. m. Thursday. Four and a half hours later the firemen took the equipment to the Ben Fabrizio farm, 1 1/2 miles east of Harmony.

There a discarded cigaret had set afire a pile of manure in a sheep corral.

## Loss Prevented

Firemen Jerry Collins and Rennie Reinick, who were detailed to man the rural engine, unreeled the two high-pressure, one-inch lines and used the fog guns to extinguish the blaze. There was no damage to buildings or fences.

The new engine, ordered last November, cost the district about \$8,000 plus the trade-in value of the old rural engine.

The pumper engine is mounted on a General Motors chassis. The pump itself, of 500 gallons a minute capacity, is mounted on the front of the truck. This will permit using the pump while the truck is in motion for such work as fighting grass fires. It is an improvement over the old engine, which had its pump mounted in the center and could not be used while the vehicle was in motion.

The old engine also had only a 250-gallon reserve water supply.

## Has 400 Foot Hose

The new engine mounts two reels, each carrying 200 feet of one-inch high pressure hose. Attached to the hose are high pressure fog guns.

The engine also has four 12-foot sections of hard suction hose for pumping water out of a stream, lake or well. Two of the sections are 4 1/4 inches in diameter, the other two 2 1/4 inches.

The new engine is equipped with two carbon dioxide fire extinguishers, a fire ax and wrecking bar, plus two 24-foot sections of an aluminum extension ladder with a 12-foot roof ladder.

The vehicle has electric brakes in addition to the conventional type and an auxiliary battery system.

## Commencement Speakers Engaged For A & M College

Two nationally recognized educators, Dr. J. F. Pomfret of San Marino, Calif., and Dean Paul Roberts of Denver, will be the principal speakers at Colorado A & M College's commencement and baccalaureate services June 5 and 6.

Dr. Pomfret, former president of William and Mary College, is now director of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery at San Marino. He is also national president of Phi Beta Kappa, scholarship fraternity.

Dean Roberts is dean of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral and has a nationwide reputation as a speaker. He also spoke in the college's baccalaureate service in 1951.

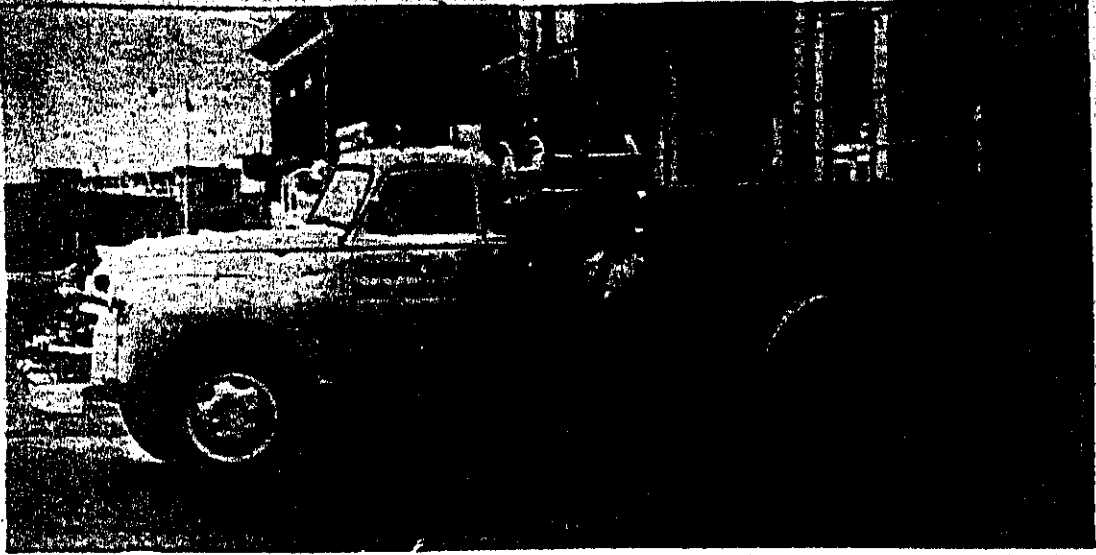
M. Warner Miller, A & M counselor for men, said the baccalaureate service June 5 will be held at Colorado Field, marking the first time in the institution's history this ceremony has been staged outdoors. It has been set for 8 p. m. The following day's commencement will open at 10 a. m., in the east stands of Colorado Field.

Additional features of this year's commencement will be

SHIP BLUCKED IN HA  
The British steamer Duk  
off up to the bridge sect  
an American ship in the  
on the Duke of York.

# Opening STOCK CAR RACES

WATER-LOGGED STU  
the tide against the No  
York is held by French



RURAL ENGINE ARRIVES — L. L. Bell, right, of the Western Fire Department Supply Company of Denver turned over to Chief C. R. Carpenter and the Fort Collins fire department Thursday afternoon this brand-new rural engine. The

engine, manufactured by the American Fire Apparatus Company of Detroit, carries a 500-gallon-a-minute pumper and a reserve water supply tank of the same size. It was purchased by the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District.

Mrs. John after a two son, Harlan in-law and W. F. Goss. "Personal son to be give the Junior Demonstration Mrs. Harry Young in a Strughold w Young assist covered-dish m. Rolcall "One of M Qualities."

Mrs. Chest turned from Wednesday a tonall open Twenty fr Orville Car home Wedn prise birth dancs honor freshments Mr. and son Gary of guests of M Mr. and M cently.



IN MUSICAL COMEDY — Debble Reynolds and Donald O'Connor are shown in "I Love Melvin," a musical comedy in color now showing at the Traff theater.

Jackson Court; Decker, Frank, 128 Sylvan Court; Edwards, Edward, 1001 Mathews; Evans, Kenneth, 704 South College; Gross, Doyle E., 114 South Bryan; Hall, James, 1034 Akin; Hampton, Tony, 117 3rd. Jenkins, H. B., 728 Cherry; Johnson, Richard, 424 Laporte; Kerns, Oliver, 1001 Akin; Knodle, B. L., 214 South Sherwood; Lieb, Tom H., 208 Remington; Manweiler, Paul, 518 South College; Merrick, Dwight, 307 South College; Meyer, John, 417 Garfield; Morrell, Dr. Robt., 723 South Washington; Morrison, James, 401 East Laurel; Murray, Mrs. Henry, 629 South College; Orona, Margaret, 534 North Shields.

Skit Given A skit, "I was given Ladies Aid terian Church day, after Mrs. Char Charles Jen and Mrs. part in the Elliott, Mr E. L. Fost

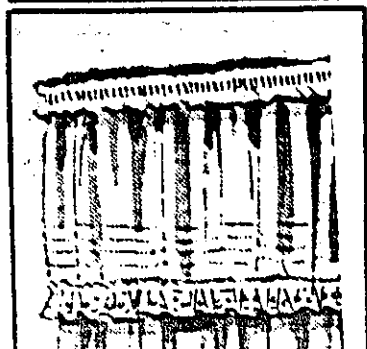
Packer, Dorothy, 201 Stuart; Person, Walter, 345 Parker; Pinkerton, Fred A., 617 East Coy Drive; Poulter, Darrel, 317 Parker; Quasebarth-Brooks, 212 South College; Reitzer, William, 419 Pearl; Schelet, Adolph, 650 Stover; Schmidt, Mary, 300 East Lincoln; Schurr, Leon, 513 East Oak; Senteny, George F., 123 West Magnolia; Shannon, Hally, No. 15 Laurel; Strack, Mrs. Belle, 525 North Sherwood; Toole, Charles, 716 Cherry; Wallace, William R., 1700 Laporte; Will Shimer Studio, 624 South College; Williams, Mozelle, 334 East Oak; Wilmarth, W. E., 406 Peterson; Worth, Julius, 119 West Magnolia.

Postal At For Worth

U. S. See tee hearing sal to abo system of T partment a the part of er, William Although Collins an mately \$1.0 tal savings fice, Mr. P cern over those accot system is No Revenue Postal si expense to labor by e nue accru

New Light Meter Connections Told

Electric meters connected by the city light and power depart.



ment in the week ended May 5 included: Anderson, Grace F., 1202 Remington; Baggot, Jim, City Park R.R.; Beye, Arthur, Rt 4 Box 321A, Brenningman, Gordon, 406 Peterson; Brown, Robert, 318 Peterson; Cole, Claude, 334 East Oak; Conley, Lula, 828 East Myrtle; Cook, S. M., 620 Mathews; Crahtree, Ralph, 716 Cherry; Devitt, Layland, 119 Peak; Donovan, Mrs. C. E., 417 Garfield; Dreiling, Frank, 920 Pioneer; Dunn, Charles, 650 Stover; Fields, Ivan, 201 Stuart. Holbert, Irene, 345 Parker; Kerns, Oliver, 513 East Oak; Kraxberger, M. J., 629 South College; Lundstrom, L. E., 617 East Coy Drive; McClusky, Robert, 114 South Bryan; McConnell, Ben F., 201 Stuart; Mannon, R.

Letters From Readers

Don rEditor

ORDINANCE NO. 023, 2006  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
DESIGNATING THE 1953 GMC 500 GPM FRONT MOUNT PUMPER, OWNED  
BY THE POUFRE FIRE AUTHORITY  
AS A FORT COLLINS LANDMARK PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 14  
OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 14-2 of the City Code, the City Council has established a public policy encouraging the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of landmarks within the City; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution dated January 25, 2006, the Landmark Preservation Commission (the "Commission") has determined that the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper has individual significance to Fort Collins under Landmark Standards (1) and (3), as this fire engine has played an important role in fire protection for fifty years, and for three districts, and holds a unique place in the history of fire service in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has further determined that said object meets the criteria of a landmark as set forth in Section 14-5 of the Code and is eligible for designation as a landmark, and has recommended to the City Council that said object be designated by the City Council as a landmark; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the fire truck has consented to such landmark designation; and

WHEREAS, such landmark designation will preserve the object's significance to the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the recommendation of the Commission and desires to approve such recommendation and designate said property as a landmark.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the object known as the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper, owned by the Poudre Fire Authority and currently stored in the Street Car Barn, 330 North Howes Street, Fort Collins, is hereby designated as a Fort Collins landmark pursuant to Chapter 14 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins.

Section 2. That the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines for the treatment of historic properties, and/or conservation standards adopted for the 1953 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper and approved by the Landmark Preservation Commission, will serve as the standards by which alterations, additions, and other changes to the object will be reviewed for compliance with Chapter 14, Article III, of the Code of the City of Fort Collins.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 7th day of February, A.D. 2006, and to be presented for final passage on the 21st day of February, A.D. 2006.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading on the 21st day of February, A.D. 2006.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk



The Rural Fire Engine which is housed and operated by the  
Fort Collins Fire Department