

Southwark Queen Village Firehouses

A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR BY
PHILADELPHIA NEIGHBORHOOD



60 – minute Walk

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[ENGINE 11](#)

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Checkpoint 1

Old Engine 11





Start at **1016 South Street**,
between 10th and 11th Streets.
The firehouse is directly next
to the **Magic Gardens**.

Engine 11 moved to [this station](#) in 1902, and stayed here until it moved again to its current location. Beginning around October 1918, Engine 11 became a segregated company, **the only place African-American firemans were stationed**. This lasted until February 19, 1949 when 11 African-American members were transferred to stations located throughout the city. Engine 11 remained a segregated company until 1952.

[Stephen Presco](#), the second black member of the Fire department, became the city's first black firefighter who died in the line of duty in 1907.

Checkpoint 2

Engine 11



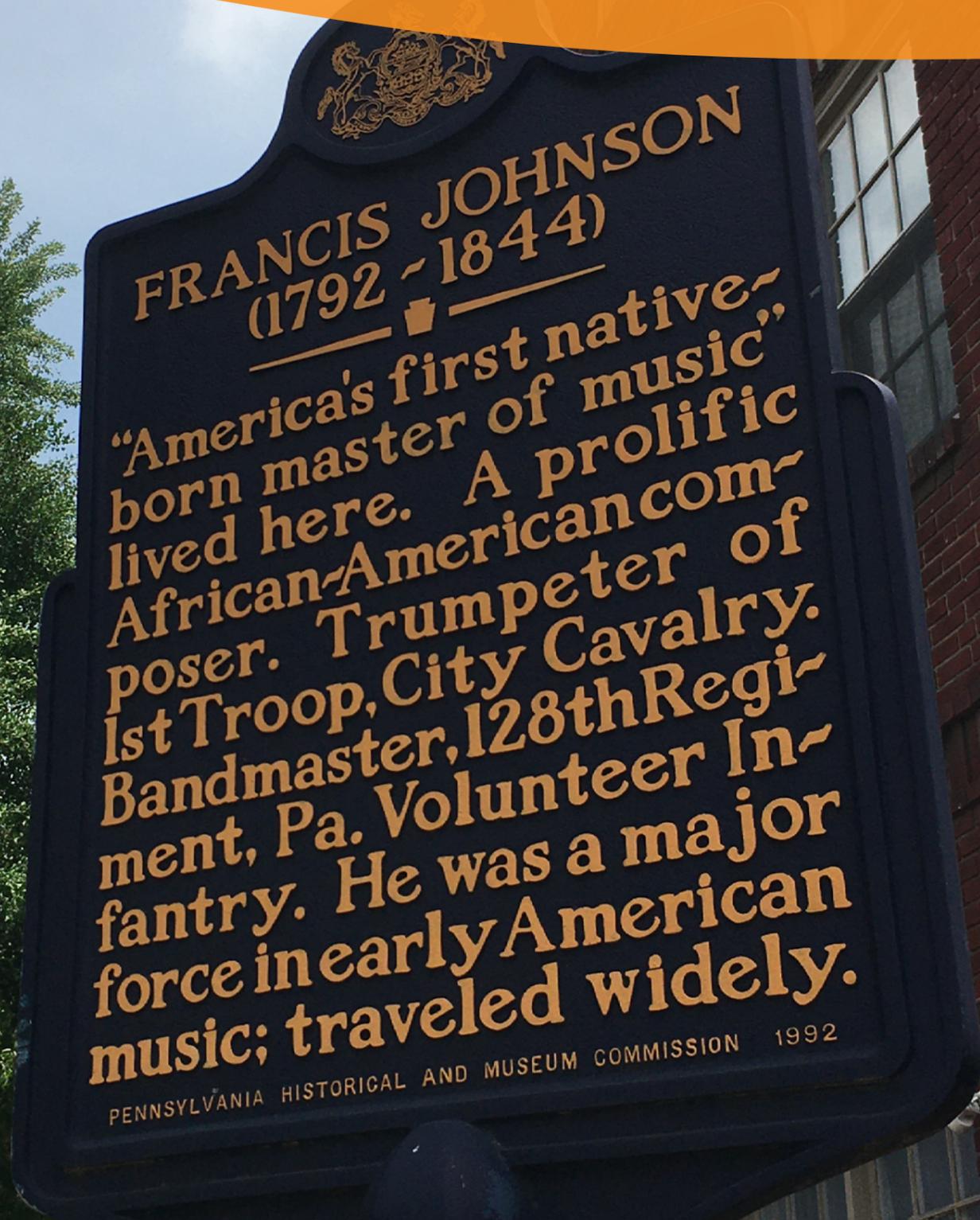


Head **East** on South Street. The firehouse is located on the **corner of South and 6th Streets.**

Engine 11 moved here in 1976 and remains at this location up until today. The history of the company and segregation is reflected in the beautiful [mural art](#) on the side of the building depicting African-American firefighters.

Checkpoint 3

Francis Johnson





Head North on 6th Street, then **turn right onto Pine Street.** Look for a Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission marker.

[Francis Johnson](#) (1792-1844) was an **African-American bandleader, musician, and composer.** He directed military bands and society dance orchestras, taught music, and introduced the promenade concert style to America. **He also wrote [music](#) for several of the city's volunteer fire companies.**

Checkpoint 4

Southwark Hose Company





Head **East on Pine Street**, then turn **right onto 3rd Street**. Once you pass Lombard St., you will see a tall brick building with a cast iron faced first story on your right.

In April 1856, the *Southwark Hose Company* bought property on this site. This hose house was built by the company and completed on September 13, 1858. The building was built to **accommodate a steam fire engine**, which was delivered in early July of 1859. The company remained at this location until placed out of service on March 15, 1871, when the paid department commenced service.

Checkpoint 5

Head House





Head back to Pine Street, then turn right. At the **corner of 2nd and Pine Street**, you will see the Head House, an ornate brick building.

In 1804, *Joseph Wetherill*, a wealthy merchant and master builder, encouraged the City of Philadelphia to erect the Head House at the north end of New Market. The [Head House](#) is a Georgian-style brick firehouse which was occupied by the *Hope Hose Company*. The building's cupola once housed a **fire bell**. This firehouse is now used as a **community center**.

New Market, with a history dating to 1745, is one of the oldest surviving market buildings of its type in the nation. The market originally extended all the way to [South Street](#).

Checkpoint 6

Engine 3





Head **South on 2nd Street**, then **turn left onto Queen Street**. Look for a brick building with three garages and a [firefighter statue](#) in front of the building.

This station was built for **Engine 3** in [1898](#) at 115-17 Queen St. The company would remain here until June 29, 1960 when they moved to their [present station](#) at Moyamensing and Washington Avenues. This property was bought by a private citizen who also bought the building next door, and replaced it with a smaller replica of the original building. Prior to this location, Engine 3 was located right next door at the Weccacoe Fire Company's house at 117-19 Queen St. from [1871](#).

Checkpoint 7

Marion Hose Company





Head West on Queen Street. **Right before 6th Street**, look to your left for a **taller brick building between row homes**.

This hose house was built about late 1833 to 1834, and remained in active service until the paid fire department commenced service on March 15, 1871. The hose house previously had a [steeple](#) which **was the tallest in the Southwark area of Philadelphia County** until *St. Peter's Church* built its steeple in 1842.

Checkpoint 8

Hope Fire Company





Turn right at 6th Street, then head North to **Fitzwater Street. Look to your right for a colorful, four-story building.**

This was the quarters of the *Hope Fire Company of Philadelphia* and was built in 1852. The company was instituted on November 11, 1796 and remained in active service until March 15, 1871 at this address when the paid department commenced service.

Thank you

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