



Many local residents are aware of the long, proud history of the Metuchen Fire Department, but they may not know that the building currently used by the department was not originally a fire house.

In 1882, the Eagle Hook and Ladder Company was established in the village, and soon after built a firehouse on Main Street – that building is still there today at 398 Main Street.

In 1897, the Washington Hose Company was established, and they also built a firehouse – this is now the Boro Art Center at 505 Middlesex Avenue.

For many years these two volunteer fire companies served the community and maintained their separate firehouses. As the village grew into a borough and became more densely developed, a larger space was needed for the both the firemen and the apparatus. In the early 1950s, an old garage on Middlesex Avenue was proposed to be retrofitted for use by both departments.



This “new” building – where the Metuchen Fire Department is now located – had been constructed in 1914 as a gas station and automobile repair garage, but over the years had become an “eyesore” to many residents.

There was much debate at the time as to whether or not this was the proper course of action, since the building they were moving into was neither in good repair nor suited to their needs. Some town leaders called it “a little bit icing spread over a stale cake” and “half-soling an old shoe.” But, in part due to budget concerns, the decision was made to convert the garage into a firehouse that would last hopefully last for another 40-50 years.

More than 60 years later, the Metuchen Fire Department is still located in the building, although the Mayor has recently appointed a committee to look at the possibility of a new building and/or location that would be more suitable for a modern department’s fire prevention and safety needs.

*-Tyreen A. Reuter, 2015*

