

PRESERVING THE FIRE SERVICES HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS IN THE HISTORIC LIBERTY NO. 5 FIRE STATION

America 250 Pa IIPC Proposal



Reading Area Firefighters Museum

501 S. Fifth St
Reading, Pa 19602

484-525-0590
rdgfiremuseum@gmail.com

Liberty Fire Station 1854 - 2023



First Station House Circa 1870



Second Station Circa 1876



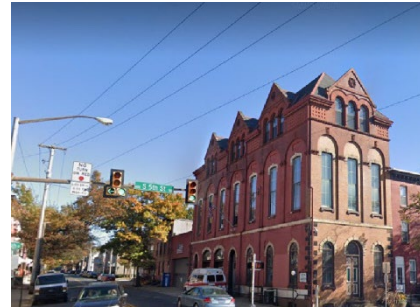
Third Floor added Circa 1895



Fire Station Circa 1925



Fire Station Circa 2012

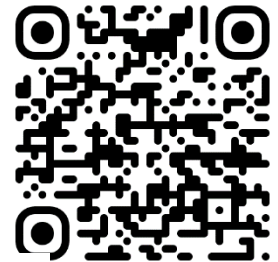


Fire Station Circa 2023



**NORTH AMERICAN
RECIPROCAL MUSEUM (NARM) ASSOCIATION**

Participating Partner Museum with these programs



Prepared by RJT
Reading Area Firefighters Museum
August 2023

Reading Area Firefighters Museum Inc.

About our organization

The Reading Area Firefighters Museum is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization consisting of 54 members. This volunteer organization is overseen by a Board of Directors. The museum's mission is to Preserve, Educate and Exhibit the Firefighting History of the City of Reading, and the surrounding Communities of Berks County.

The Reading Area Firefighters Museum is located at the southeast corner of South Fifth and Laurel Streets in the Callowhill Historic District of the city. The museum organization was founded in 2002 and has grown to what it is today. In the past 8 years the museum has performed interior preservation and refurbishment work to make it appear as it did at the turn of the last century through mostly private donations.

PRESERVE: Our Collections consists of artifacts dating back to the late 1700's and continuing up to the modern day. The 1876 built fire station with its ornately appointed rooms preserved for all to enjoy and admire. The types of artifacts in the collection range from artwork, uniforms, firefighting equipment, furniture, books, and so much more. Many of these artifacts are special one-of-a-kind items. Our goal is to preserve the stories and history of these artifacts for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

EDUCATE: Education is a main component of our organization. We host multiple Public and Home school groups throughout the year. We offer free, minimal, or special fee costs to a full range of educational services and programs for all age groups. Our curricula are about the RAFM exhibits as well as public safety information for use with school districts, vocational technical schools, colleges and universities, senior homes, and general audiences. Based on the Berks County population growth and ethnic shift especially in Reading over the past few decades, we are currently working to provide access materials and programming in Spanish. Starting with the 2023/2024 school year we are implementing an ongoing program with the Reading School District to educate close to 6,000 school children.

EXHIBIT: Our exhibits tell the story of the progression of the fire service from the colonial period of fighting fire using buckets of water up to the modern era of motorized firefighting. We display hand drawn, horse drawn and motorized apparatus along with numerous other artifacts related to the life of a fireman. The firehouse was once the social hub of any community, our artifacts show that fireman were involved within their community and how they interacted with other communities with travel and tournaments. Promote the building's architecture and design to history groups and higher education institutions. Utilize the Liberty Meeting Room and Wanamaker Room for lectures and study groups.

Partnerships are another integral part of our organization. We work closely and have a great relationship with our regional tourism bureau. We participate in the annual Pennsylvania Bus Association event to promote the museum to the Motor Coach tour business. The last few years with COVID has significantly impacted the tourism aspect at the museum but is slowly returning. The museum has an outstanding working relationship with the County History Center, and other Fire Museums in the Commonwealth. Partnerships with other organizations such as United Way, Berks County Community Foundation, Union Historical Fire Society, and the local fire companies and departments help us maintain our operations each year with their support.

Liberty Fire Company No. 5, Who Are they?

The Liberty Fire Company No. 5 was organized on January 21, 1854. Many prominent citizens lent their support to a subscription campaign that by February 18, 1854, netted the company \$764 towards the purchase of a fire engine and shelter. A committee appointed the previous month had selected the new site at the southeast corner of 5th and Laurel streets for the location of the new Firehouse. The land was purchased by the city for \$650, plans for the building were drafted in the fall of 1854 and the first Firehouse was erected by the city at the cost of \$1490. The building, a two-story brick structure 25 feet by 40 feet was completed early in 1855. The Liberty Company purchased its first hand drawn fire apparatus on October 17, 1854 from John Agnew of Philadelphia for \$2510.00.



Painting of Lady Liberty

An especially prominent name in the company's records was Captain Frederick Sheerer Boas. The Liberties first Vice President, later President, and longtime active member, at the age of 21 in 1855 he helped organize the renowned Reading Rifles unit. When the civil war broke out Captain Boas organized company I of the 20th regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, mustering 110 men many of whom were members of the Liberty Fire Company. On the evening of April 19, 1861 four days after the fall of Fort Sumter a special meeting was called for the purpose of addressing the members on the present state of the country, stirring speeches were made by President Boas and others, it was resolved that a military discipline be introduced and that a number of officers to be chosen to instruct the members and their duties as civilian soldiers, the lower room of the Firehouse became the drill hall. A drill was being held every weekday evening with Captain Boas as the chief instructor. Many from this training joined the unit known as the Liberty Fire Zouaves, Pa 20th Reg Co G.

The company acquired its first steam fire engine a 1st Class Amoskeag about the middle of December 1865, its housing was a gala event and was preceded by a parade. Support for the new steamer had begun a full year before with the public circulation of a letter appealing for subscriptions. The City Council appropriated \$2000 towards its purchase in April 1865. The Liberty company was the first fire company in Reading to purchase horses in 1872. The original site of the Liberty Firehouse was purchased from the city by the company; an additional property adjoining the lot was acquired on April 27, 1874.

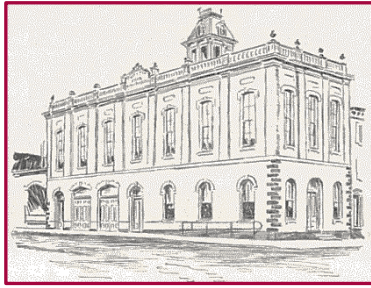
The first building was replaced by the present structure in 1876 at the company's expense. Liberty was the only company in the Reading Fire Department to own their own station house at this time.



1881 Silsby Steamer



1897 Combination Hose Wagon



The new headquarters was a two-story brick building, the excavation work was done by the members of those who worked in the daytime dug at night while those employed at night dug during the day. The dirt was hauled in wagons owned by the members and drawn by the companies' horses. Sand was obtained from the Schuylkill River by members who went after it in a canal boat that was loaned by an enthusiastic supporter. During the period from April 4th to October 30, 1876, a total of \$6411.87 was appropriated from the company

treasurer to the building committee towards the cost of the construction.

The Liberty Fire Company station house is one of the most important architectural and historic landmarks in the City of Reading and the County of Berks. The site has functioned as the home of the Liberty Fire Company since 1854. The unusual combination of utilitarian purposes, the architectural quality of the structure, and its intact original character makes it one of the best-preserved historical landmarks in the city and county. Numerous tours have been conducted through the building and without exception, the tour participants, whatever their age, background, or experience, have reacted with genuine surprise, mixed with both respect and appreciation for the elegance and beauty of the various rooms. The structure is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This building still contains the original furnishings from 1876 which were donated by the Philadelphia department store mogul John Wanamaker following a display of these items at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition of the United States at Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. During those early days, the firehouse was considered the center of social activity in every neighborhood. The South Fifth Street area was inhabited by many people of high social and professional standing who were friends of Wanamaker.

After 145 years, the building needs some help!

In 2021 an architectural firm re-evaluated the structure and identified areas that required code compliance. With the assistance of the City of Reading, a capital improvement project was established at an estimated cost of 3.1 million dollars.

The City of Reading has appropriated the museum \$1,000,000 in ARP money, \$500,000 in Community Block Grant funding for the HVAC project, and an additional \$250,000 from their annual capital improvement fund to cover the cost of the projects on the list featured below.

As part of our 5-year strategic plan we are identifying potential donors and partners to help complete the major capital improvement items listed below. With the completion of this project, we will be able to open the entire third floor which is currently closed due to fire code violations. Opening our third floor will allow us to expand our exhibits and create areas for educational purposes.

Capital Improvement Projects:

1. HVAC System, replace old steam heating system with ducted HVAC with humidity control and air purifying appliances. This work also includes structural support upgrades for support of air handlers.
2. Electrical Upgrade, Main & Sub - Electrical Panels to meet Capital Budget project electrical demands, such as a fire pump, HVAC units, emergency lighting, and exit signs.

3. Second stair tower to interface with the elevator with a common stair tower lobby as to provide second means of egress from second and third floors. Smoke proof enclosure for existing center grand staircase.
4. Fire suppression sprinkler & standpipe system, approved by City Fire Marshal, to limit piping in the historical area with extended throw sprinkler heads. Replacement of automatic fire alarm system.
5. ADA compliant passenger elevator for the first through third floors.
6. Exterior repointing and repair of masonry walls. Replacement of original 1876 windows with energy efficient type matching original style. Sealing & painting of exterior masonry and wood trim.



Liberty Fire Company at Harrisburg 1922

Why should we preserve the building and the stories the artifacts tell?

Historic preservation is a conversation with our past about our future. It provides us with opportunities to ask, "What is important in our history?" and "What parts of our past can we preserve for the future?" Through historic preservation, we look at history in different ways, ask different questions of the past, and learn new things about our history and ourselves. Historic preservation is an important way for us to transmit our understanding of the past to future generations. Our nation's history has many facets, and historic preservation helps tell these stories. Sometimes historic preservation involves celebrating events, people, places, and ideas that we are proud of; other times it involves recognizing moments in our history that can be painful or uncomfortable to remember.

Every artifact, whether it be a small item like a badge or a large item like the building itself, it has a story to tell. Some artifacts we don't know the story, some we know the story well. As each year passes, we are continuously researching and finding new connections from the people who lived and used these objects. History gives us a very clear picture of how the various aspects of society – such as technology, governmental systems, and even society as a whole – worked in the past so we understand how it came to work the way it is now.

Our historic artifacts continue to reveal stories from the past:

The earliest history tells the story of the Reading Union Fire Company of 1771 and the Sun Fire Company of 1800 fighting fire with leather buckets filled with water. Each member was assigned two leather fire buckets and they identified their buckets with their full name and surrounded it with beautiful artwork.

In 2019 our Fire Museum curator was able to obtain two original period fire buckets from the Berks County History Center, one from each of the aforementioned volunteer fire companies. Both original leather fire buckets, being well over 200 years of age, were in need of professional reconditioning. Our curator was able to secure a donation from a private individual in order to finance the professional restoration. After considerable work it was determined that the Reading Union leather fire bucket assigned to volunteer “James May” was able to be repaired and restored to its original condition.

The “Sun Fire Company” leather bucket was not able to be restored and was returned in its original condition. However, the professional restoration contractor was willing and able to produce an exact replica, as it appeared new in the year “1800”. Both fire buckets are on display at the Reading Area Firefighters Museum. But the story does not end there.

During a recent tour Donald Keim, a new Fire Museum member and former Carpenter Steel Corporation Health & Safety Director and Fire Chief noticed the “Sun Fire Company” leather fire bucket and identified it as the fire bucket belonging to his 3rd great grandfather “George DB Keim... ..and by the way, George DB Keim became the President of the Reading Water Company and was instrumental in providing the first gravity water system and first fire hydrants in the City of Reading in 1821.



Donald Keim points out his family's bucket.



Union Fire Co. bucket 1771



Reproduction Sun bucket next to the original 1800

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Lady Liberty was a symbol used often by the Liberty Fire Co. No. 5.

Administration

President: William H Rehr III
 Vice President: Terry Francis
 Treasurer: Robert Jordan
 Secretary: Virginia Francis

Curator: R John Trimble
 Long Range Planning Advisor: Debbie Westmorland

Collections Committee

Terry Francis, Chair

Apparatus Committee

John Schach, Chair

Education Committee

Harry Koppenberg, Chair

Buildings & Grounds Committee

Richard Boyer, Chair

Governance Committee

William Sheeler, Chair

Grants & Fundraising Committee

Robert Jordan, Co-Chair
 R. John Trimble, Co-Chair

Marketing Committee

Linda Wobell, Chair

Planning Committee

William Sheeler, Chair



Gold Badge of fireman Issac Sheetz 1866



Photos of Liberty members and mascot Circa 1870's

Private financial donations 2017-2022 (\$250 or more)

- 1.- Rainbow Fire Company -\$10,000 for building renovations
- 2.- Reading Hose Fire Company -\$5,000 for building renovations
- 3.- Friendship Fire Company \$12,500 for building renovations
- 4.- Liberty Fire Company \$65,000 to purchase 1931 Liberty 1000 GPM Buffalo Pumper
- 5.- Schuylkill Fire Company \$2,000
- 6.- RAFM Member David Silcox & Family
 \$15,000 cash for purchase of Rainbow Fire Co. 1937 Peter Pirsch Pumper
 \$5,600- for Operational expenses
- 7.- RAFM-Friend of the Fire Museum M. Moyer \$500
- 8.- RAFM Board Member R. Boyer \$1110 for operational expenses
- 9.- Liberty Historic Meeting Room Furniture Restoration Project
 \$8,480 cash donated by RAFM Members and Community at Large.
- 10.- Friend of the Fire Museum - \$5,000 - for building renovations
- 11.- First Energy Foundation \$1,500 for Technology Upgrades
- 12.- Toyota Corp/Freedom Auto Group \$5,000 for building renovations
- 13.- Twiford Electrical Company \$1500 for educational programs
- 14.- Fire Antiques LLC. \$1000 For artifact restoration
- 15.- Herbine Company Grant \$250 for Education Committee projects.
- 16.- Union Historical Fire Society \$2400 for exterior signage project.



Liberty Fire Co. members being received at the White House by President Coolidge - 1926

Artifact transfers to RAFM 2017 - JUNE 2022

- 1.- Berks History Center
 - 1909 Union Fire Company Steamer \$150,000 (estimate) (2020)
 - Historic Artifacts Collection \$70,000 (estimate) (2019/2020)
- 2.- Friendship Fire Company Historic Artifacts Collection \$30,000 (estimate) (2021)
- 3.- Liberty Fire Company Entire collection transferred upon the future passing of President William Stoudt, Sr. value estimated 1.5-2 million
- 4.- Washington Fire Company Historic Artifacts Collection \$10,000 (estimate) (LTL)
- 5.- Hampden Fire Company Historic Artifacts Collection \$15,000 (estimate) (LTL)
- 6.- Marion Fire Company Historic Artifacts Collection \$10,000 (estimate)
- 7.- Riverside Fire Company Historic Artifacts Collection \$18,000 (estimate)
- 8.- Rainbow Fire Company Historic Artifact Collection Transferred to RAFM \$36,000 (estimate) (2021)
- 9.- Junior Fire Company Historic Artifact Collection \$8,000 (estimate) (2021)
- 10.- Keystone Fire Company Historic Artifact Collection \$4,000 (estimate) (2019) (LTL)
- 11.- Womelsdorf Borough 1812 Pat Lyons Hand Pumper (long term loan)(2021)
- 12.- John J. Zolomij Early 19th Century Bronze Statuary "Firefighter Rescuing Child" \$4,000 (estimate) (2017)
- 13.- Robesonia Furnace Assoc. 1905 Hand Crafted Hose Cart & Ladder Truck Model \$12,000(estimate)(2017)
- 14.- Board Member J. Trimble Historic Artifact Collection \$3,900 (estimate) (2017-2021)
- 15.- Board Member T. Francis Historic Collection of "Fire Marks" \$1,750 (estimate) 2021
- 16.- RFD Volunteer Photographer T. Miccicke Collection of Thousands of City & County Historic Photographs (estimate unavailable) (2017-2020)
- 17.- Board Member R. Boyer Collection of ephemera & fire service gear \$2,000 (estimate) (2017)
- 18.- Other Board Members and Community Individuals Collectable Artifacts and Donations (estimate unavailable) (2017-2021)
- 19.- Neversink Fire Company #3 - Historic Collection of Artifacts -\$3,000. (2022)
- 20.- Career Fire Fighter Ronald Heller-Collection of Firefighting Artifacts-\$1500-(2022)
- 21.- Bernville Fire Company 1790's hand pumper by Richard Mason-\$20,000. (2021)
- 22.- 1931- 1000 GPM Buffalo Pumper- Appraised value \$195,000. (2021)
- 23.- 1923 American LaFrance 750 GPM Pumper - Current estimated value \$12,000. (2022)
- 24.- 1895 Hose Cart - On Extended Loan from Western Berks F.D.- Current estimated value \$2,500. (2022)

Services Directly donated to RAFM 2017 - JUNE 2022

- 1.- Fire Alarm & Security System \$30,000 - Berkshire Systems/S.A.H (2017)
- 2.- First Floor ADA Restroom \$35,000 Berks Fire & Water/Essig Plumbing/Yeager Supply (2017)
- 3.- Pool Table & Accessories Restoration \$2,500 (2018)
- 4.- Body Work & Painting of 1937 Peter Pirsch Pumper \$7,500 - Penske Corp. (2021)
- 5.- Electrical Installation Services for East Apparatus Bay Restoration - Installed ceiling LED lighting fixtures-\$2,500-Woody Twiford Electrical Company. (2021)
- 6.- Courtesy discount for installation of East Bay Apparatus floor-Engine Bay Floors, Inc.-\$1500. (2021)

Annual services provided to RAFM from the City of Reading

- 1.- Utility costs - (water/sewer/gas/electric/internet/security-fire monitoring)
- 2.- Trash removal
- 3.- Building, bay door, structural and roof repairs
- 4.- Engineering and architectural services
- 5.- Snow removal
- 6.- Heating and plumbing repairs
- 7.- Purchasing of renovation building supplies: paint & supplies/plastering services/ceiling tiles/LED ceiling lights.

Value of Donations

Financial Donations:	\$141,840.00	
Artifact Values:	\$1,007,650.00	not including the Liberty Collection value.
Service donations:	\$79,000.00	
Annual Services provided by City of Reading:		Financial information not provided from them.
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,228,990.00	

Reviews posted by visitors

Linda L Cherry Hill, NJ Apr 2023

Antique fire trucks and artifacts and wonderful stories take you to a fascinating time period in our nation's history.

Several fire trucks and equipment from the 1700s and the 1800s have been lovingly and beautifully restored and were fascinating to see. We loved the stories of the lifelong dedication of the horses that lived in the firehouse who left their stalls and lined up at attention ready to be harnessed and pull the equipment when the bells rang. There were pieces that honored these horses that served and showcased their tails and horseshoes, and it was obvious how much these horses were loved. The upstairs room included many historic pieces of the time period. We ended up spending 2 full hours in this museum and would highly recommend it!

Rebecca Z Dec 2022

Rich history, highly recommend

The guides in this historical treasure are retired firemen who have loved those work and share this enthusiasm. They tell stories and were excellent with my 4 kids.

The building, especially the second floor was a delightful surprise in the rich architecture and decor of bygone era. Beautiful preserved and restored pieces.

Highly recommend this tour.

Jennifer G Aug 2021

Must see Reading Area Firefighter Museum

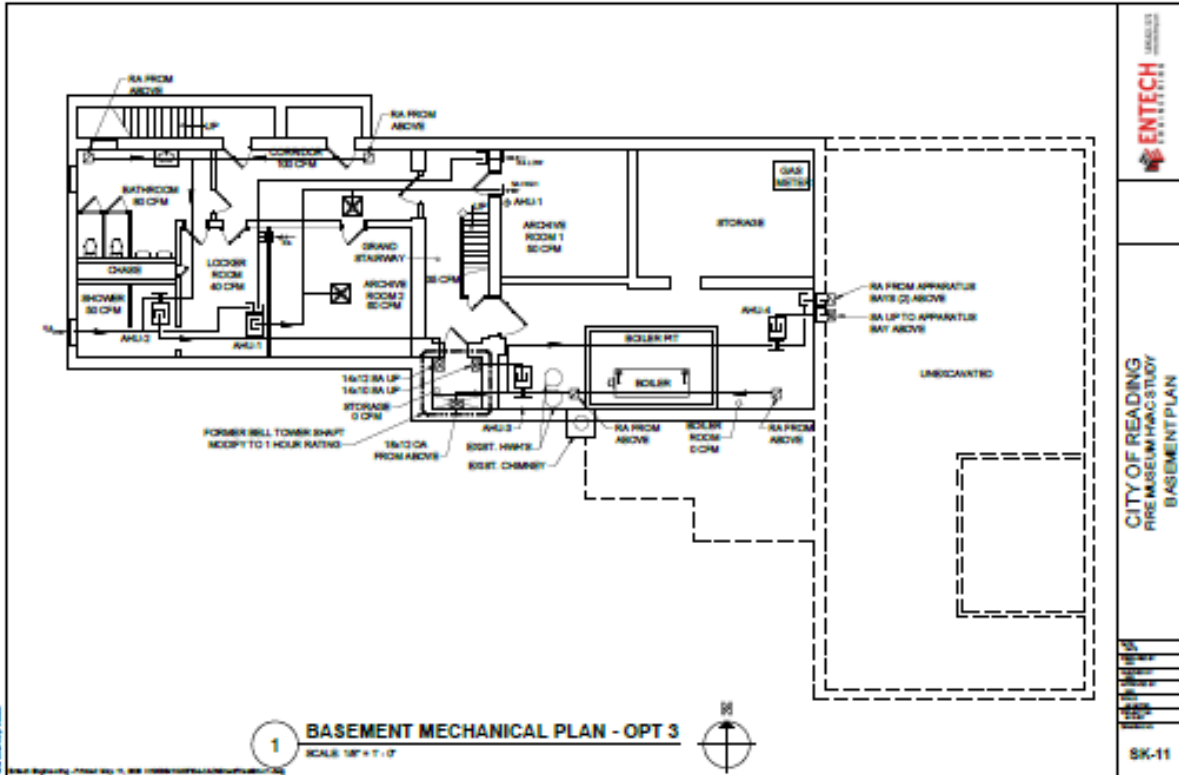
We had an amazing time learning about the local Reading Area history of firefighters. I was not an avid firefighter history buff, but I was impressed with the collection. The tour guides were real life heroes who are passionate and knowledgeable and made me want to learn. The memorabilia, the fire trucks, the clothes and equipment, plus the architecture, artwork, and Wanamaker furniture collection was just awesome. I recommend everyone to take an hour or two to see it and learn.

Jennifer Shade Oct 2021

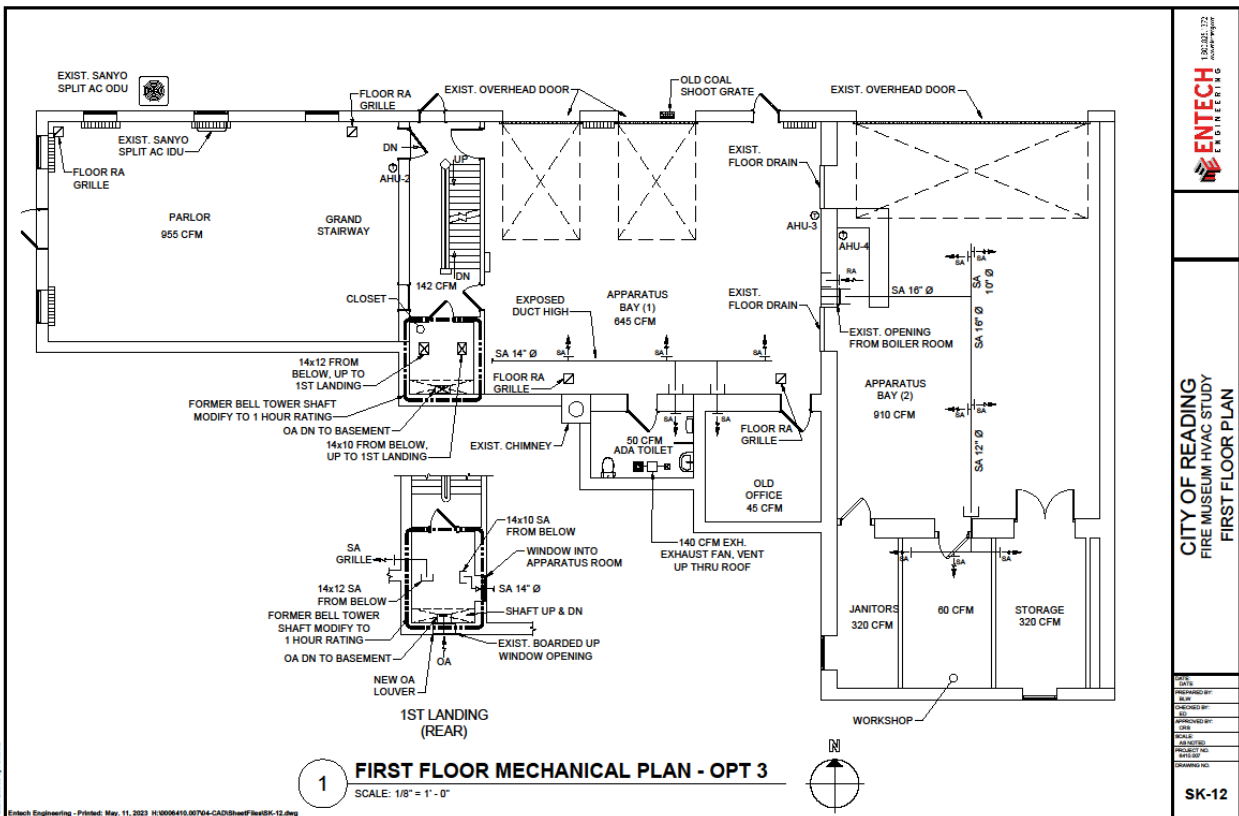
We had an amazing time at the museum.

What we thought was a small museum turned out to be packed with history, memorabilia, incredible architecture, furniture, and the passion of true life heroes who served the Reading Area Community with fervor for lots of years. Special shut out to Mike Long, one of the first four paramedics in Berks County, who was a knowledge tour guide filled with passion! Go see this place for yourself, you will not regret it!

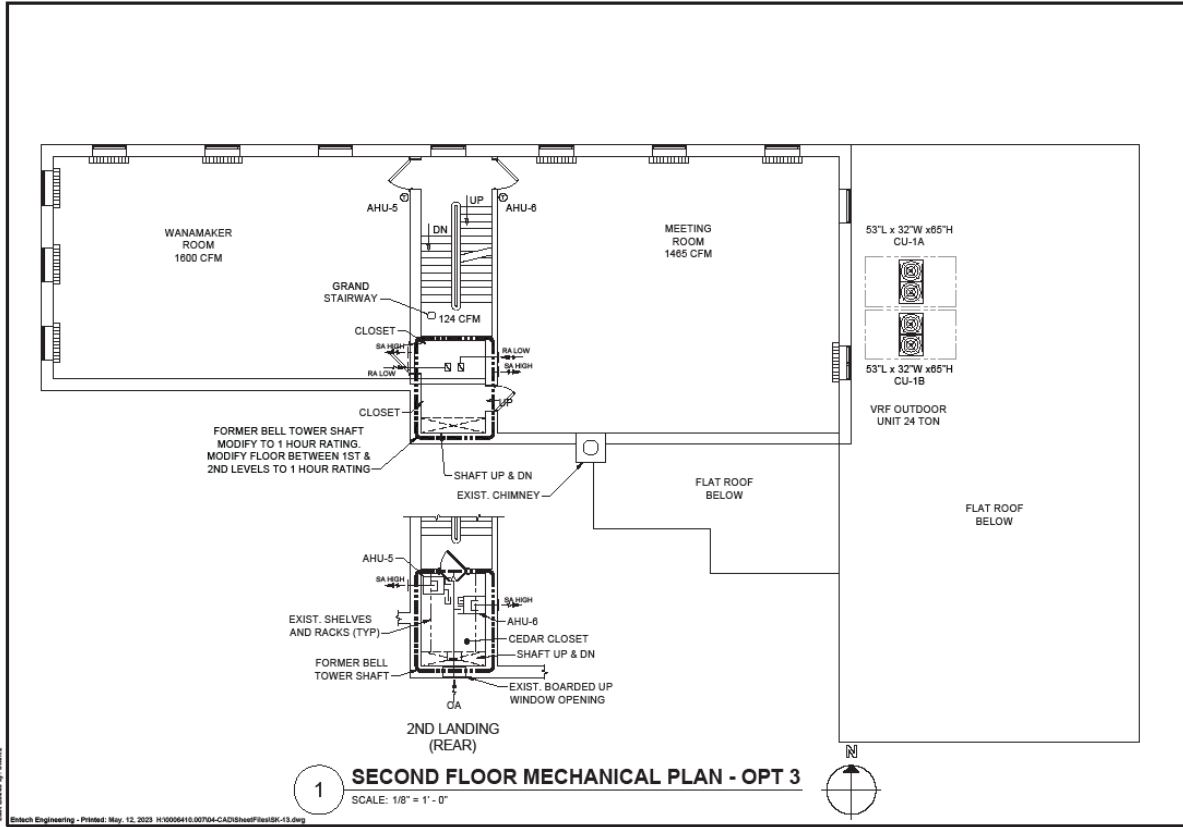
Mechanical & Architectural Drawings



ENTECH ENGINEERS
 CITY OF READING
 FIRE MUSEUM HVAC STUDY
 BASEMENT PLAN
 SK-11



ENTECH ENGINEERS
 CITY OF READING
 FIRE MUSEUM HVAC STUDY
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SK-12



1 SECOND FLOOR MECHANICAL PLAN - OPT 3
SCALE: 1/8" = 1' - 0"

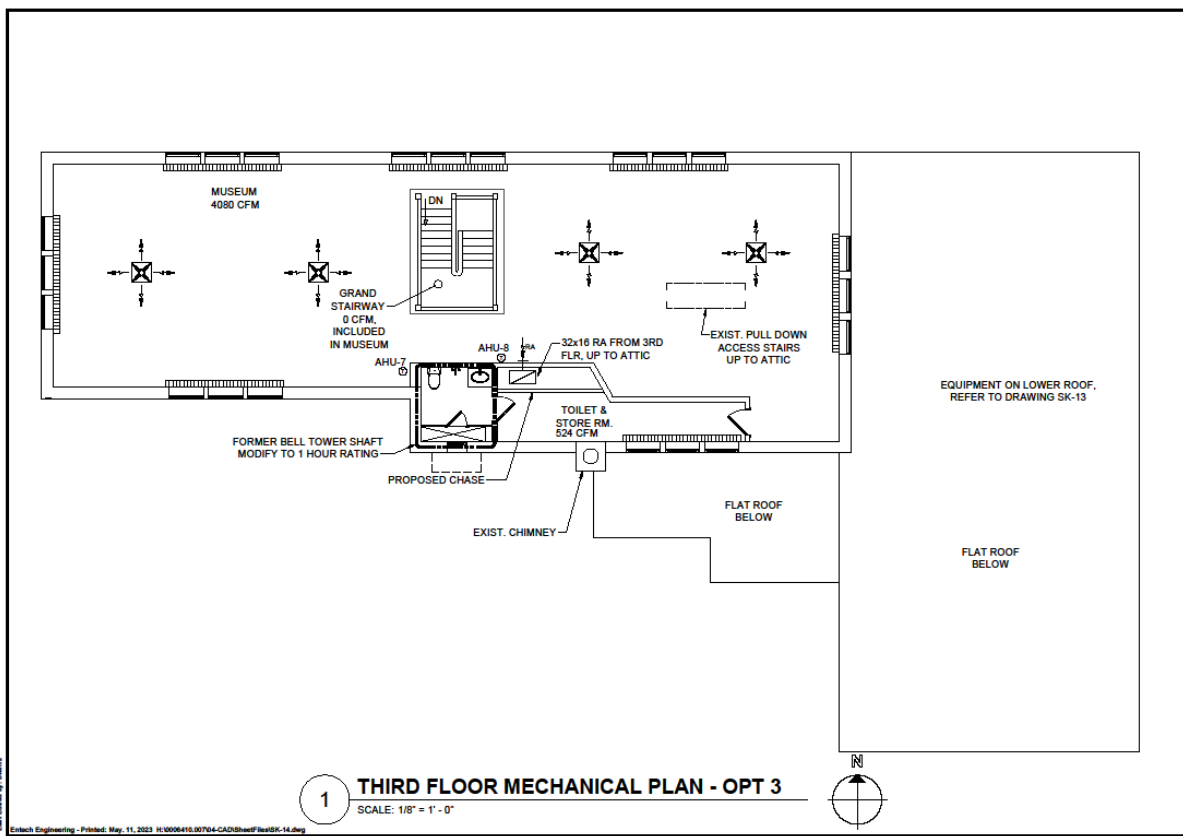
Last Edited by: hawrte

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**CITY OF READING
FIRE MUSEUM HVAC STUDY
SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

DATE:	13.06.2022
SCALE:	1/8" = 1'-0"
PREPARED BY:	SLW
CHECKED BY:	SLW
APPROVED BY:	SLW
SCALE:	
PROJECT NO.:	
DRAWING NO.:	SK-13



1 THIRD FLOOR MECHANICAL PLAN - OPT 3
SCALE: 1/8" = 1' - 0"

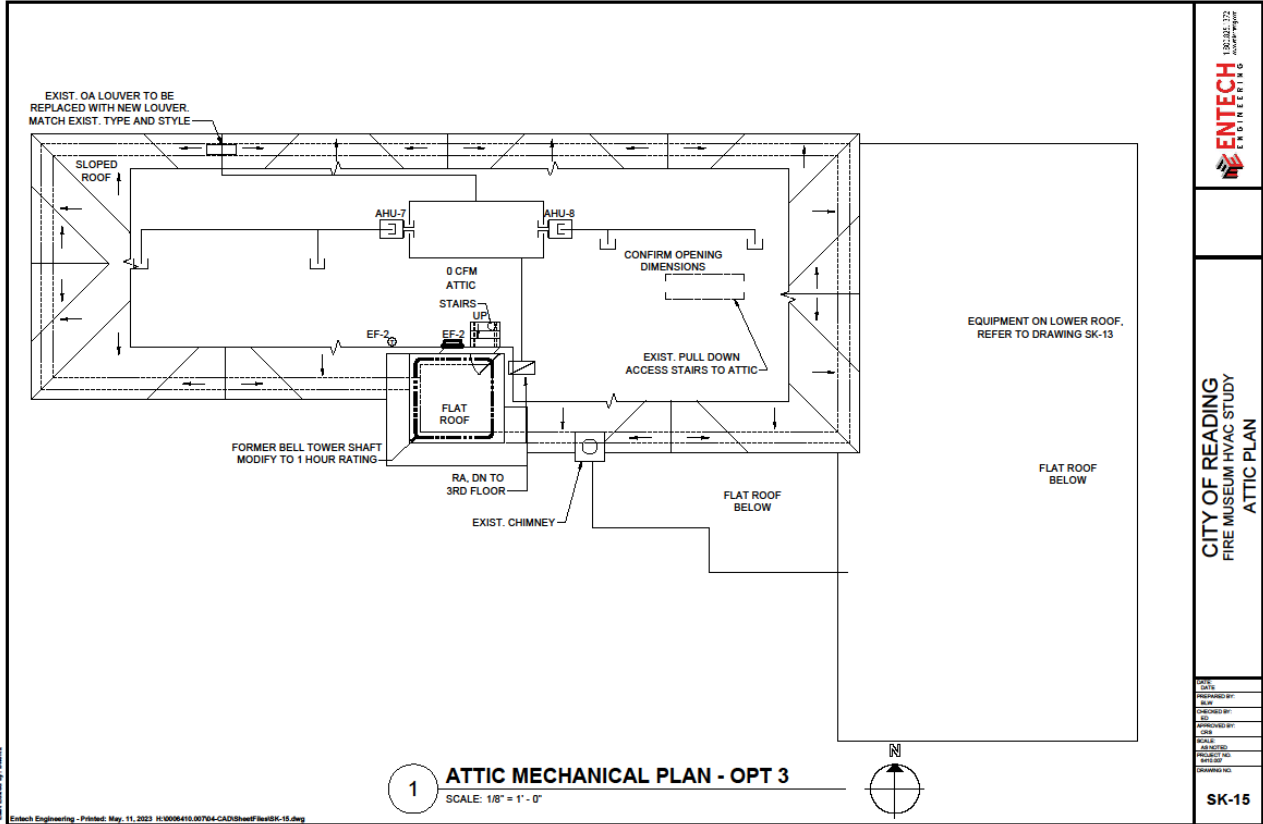
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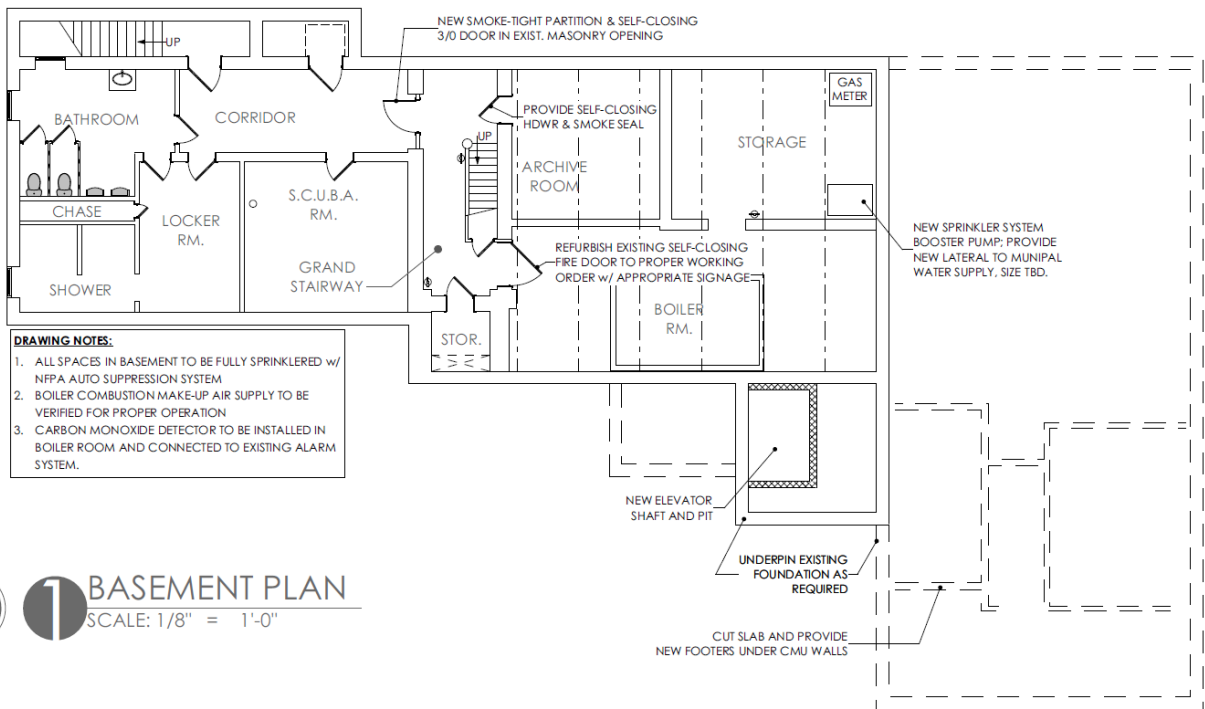
**CITY OF READING
FIRE MUSEUM HVAC STUDY
THIRD FLOOR PLAN**

DATE:	13.06.2022
SCALE:	1/8" = 1'-0"
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CHECKED BY:	SLW
APPROVED BY:	SLW
SCALE:	
PROJECT NO.:	
DRAWING NO.:	SK-14

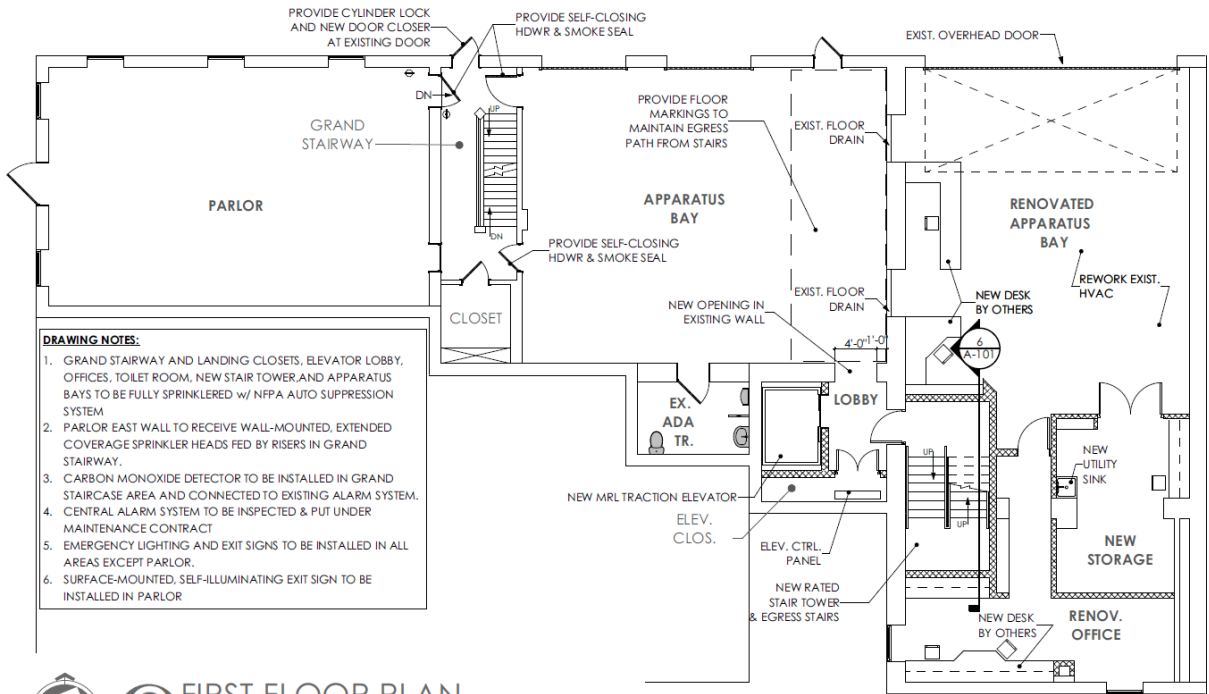


BUILDING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

501 SOUTH 5TH STREET READING, PA 19602



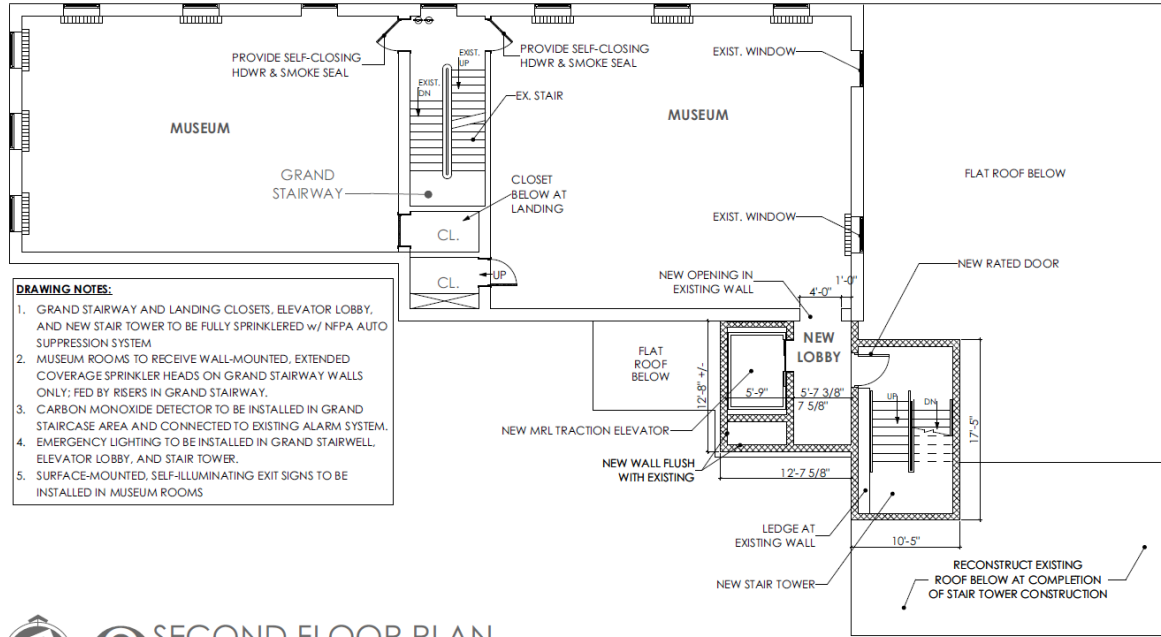
1 BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



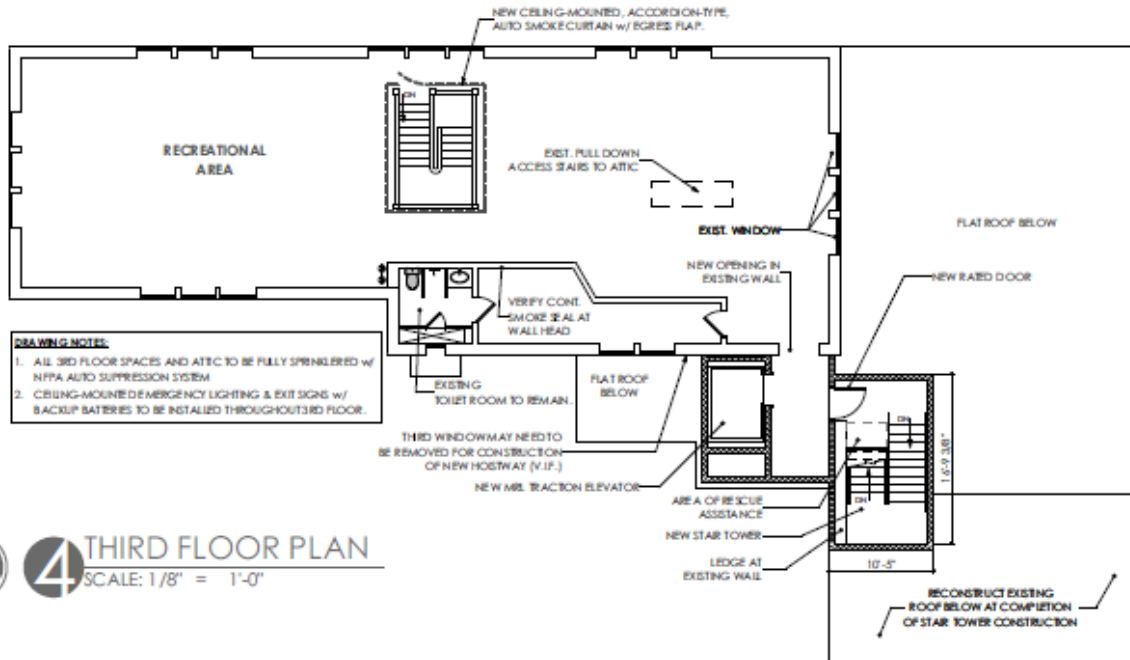
2 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

READING AREA FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM
 BUILDING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

501 SOUTH 5TH STREET READING, PA 19602



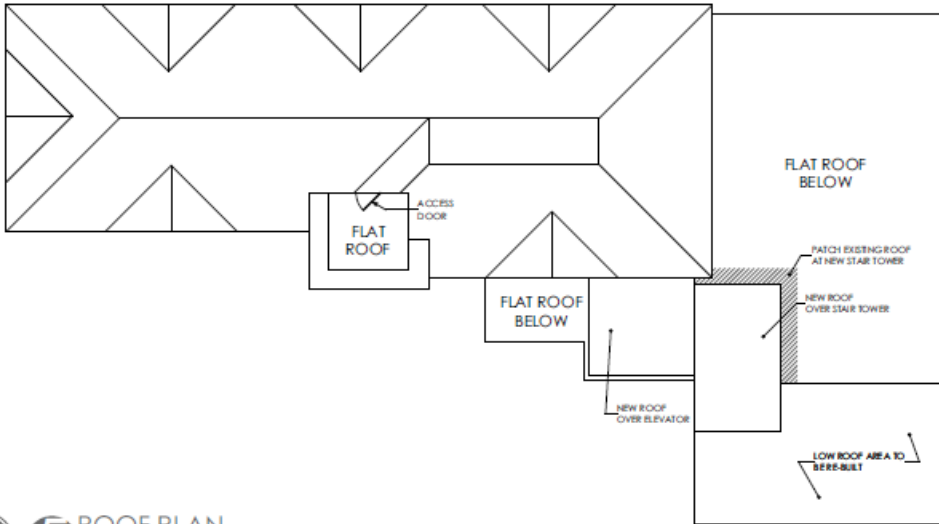
3 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



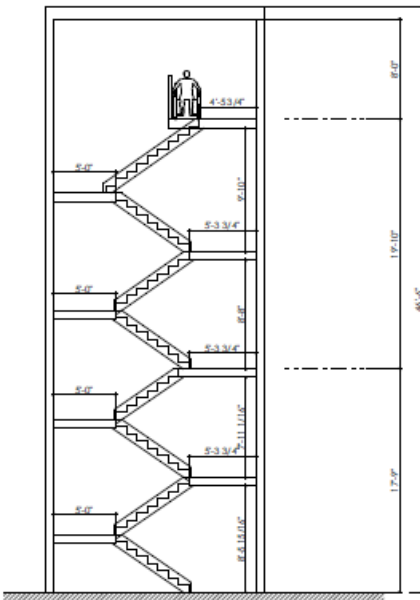
4 THIRD FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

READING AREA FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM
BUILDING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

501 SOUTH 5TH STREET READING, PA 19602



5 ROOF PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



6 SECTION THROUGH STAIRWELL
SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"

MG ARCHITECTS ESTABLISHED 1920

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
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WYOMISSING, PA 19610
610.376.4927
www.MG-ARCHITECTS.COM

PROJECT #
4402

PROFESSIONAL SEAL

SCOTT GRAHAM AIA, LEED AP+
SCOTT@MG-ARCHITECTS.COM

THE CITY OF READING
contact: CINDY CASTNER
503 N. 6TH ST.
READING, PA 19601
610.655.6220
Cindy.Castner@readingpa.gov

READING AREA FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM
BUILDING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
501 SOUTH 5TH STREET READING, PA 19602

Preliminary Cost Estimates

Facility Name	READING AREA FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM		
Project Location	501 South Fifth St., Reading, PA 19602		
Project Description	Building Renovations Estimate		
Project Number	4402A		

COST ESTIMATE - PRELIMINARY

ARCHITECTURAL				
Proposed Improvement	Unit	Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimated Cost
DEMOLITION				
General Demolition/Patching	LS	\$25,000.00	1	\$25,000.00
EXTERIOR ENVELOPE				
Masonry Repointing Allowance	SF	\$12.00	1,500	\$18,000.00
Masonry Re-finishing/Paint/WP	SF	\$6.00	10,600	\$63,600.00
Scaffolding	LS	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
Roof Repair/New Roof Areas	LS	\$25,000.00	1	\$25,000.00
OPENINGS				
Large Replica DH Arch Windows	EA	\$4,000.00	17	\$68,000.00
Small Replica DH Arch Windows	EA	\$1,500.00	24	\$36,000.00
Storefronts/Entrances	LS	\$20,000.00	3	\$60,000.00
Interior Doors/Hardware	EA	\$2,200.00	4	\$8,800.00
Smoke Containment @ 3rd Fl	LS	\$20,000.00	1	\$20,000.00
NEW CONSTRUCTION				
CMU Walls/Stair Tower/Hoistway	LS	\$500,000.00	1	\$500,000.00
EQUIPMENT				
Elevator	LS	\$150,000.00	1	\$150,000.00

FIRE PROTECTION				
Proposed Improvement	Unit	Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimated Cost
Misc. Life Safety Devices	LS	\$10,000.00	1	\$10,000.00

Sprinklers	LS	\$120,000.00	1	\$120,000.00
Automatic Fire Alarm System	LS	\$42,000.00	1	\$42,000.00
Sprinkler Booster Pump	LS	\$20,000.00	1	\$20,000.00

UTILITIES

Proposed Improvement	Unit	Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimated Cost
Water Service Upgrade	LS	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
Electric Service Upgrade	LS	\$12,000.00	1	\$12,000.00

MECHANICAL / ELECTRIC

Proposed Improvement	Unit	Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimated Cost
Remove Hydronic System	LS	\$10,000.00	1	\$10,000.00
HVAC System	LS	\$694,000.00	1	\$694,000.00
Misc. Electric	LS	\$10,000.00	1	\$10,000.00
Elevator-related Elec/HVAC	LS	\$40,000.00	1	\$40,000.00

SUB-TOTAL				\$1,992,400.00
SOFT COSTS		10%		\$199,240.00
CONTINGENCY		20%		\$398,480.00
GENERAL CONDITIONS		10%		\$199,240.00
CONTRACTOR OH/P		15%		\$298,860.00

Project Total **\$3,088,220.00**

ARP Funding **\$1,000,000.00**

Community Block Grant \$500,000.00

City of Reading CIF \$250,000.00

TOTAL OF FUNDING SECURED **\$1,750,000.00**

AMOUNT OF FUNDING NEEDED **\$1,338,220.00**

0

Proposed supplemental staffing component for 2026/2027

Staffing							
	cost	hourly	weekly	monthly	year	qty	total
Square- Monthly				\$ 35.00	\$ 450.00		\$ 450.00
Square- per employee				\$ 6.00	\$ 72.00	x 20	\$ 1,500.00
PT staffing- docent		\$ 10.00	70 hours	\$2,800.00	\$ 33,600.00		\$ 33,600.00
PT staffing- greeter/host		\$ 10.00	35 hours	\$1,400.00	\$ 16,800.00		\$ 16,800.00
PT staffing -payroll		\$ 13.00	5 hours	\$ 260.00	\$ 3,120.00		\$ 3,120.00
PT staffing- admistrator		\$ 15.00	5 hours	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,600.00		\$ 3,600.00
PT staffing -marketing		\$ 15.00	5 hours	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,600.00		\$ 3,600.00
Janitorial staff- contractual		\$ 20.00	10 hours	\$ 800.00	\$ 9,600.00		\$ 9,600.00
						staffing total	\$ 72,270.00
Equipment/supplies							
250 banners/ flags	75					30	\$ 2,250.00
Rack Cards	1400					20K	\$ 1,400.00
Misc printing	750						\$ 750.00
Parking signage	800						\$ 800.00
Parking lot fee				\$1,000.00	\$ 12,000.00		\$ 12,000.00
						Equip/Supplies total	\$ 17,200.00
						total	\$ 89,470.00

The staffing component will supplement our volunteers to expand hours of operation to 5 days a week during the 2026/2027 year during the 250th celebration. To allow for increased visitors additional parking arrangements would need to be made with a neighboring property.

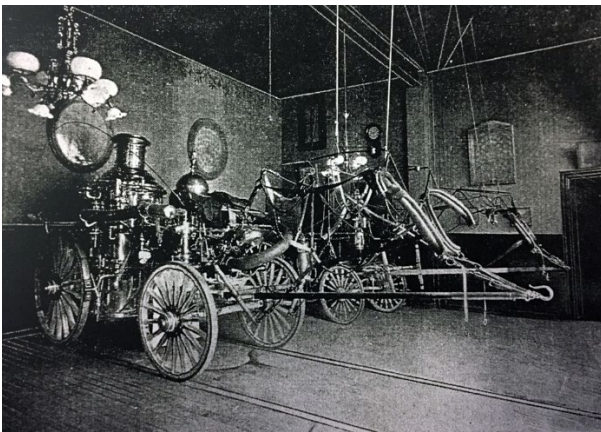
Interior Photos Then & Now



Men's Parlor Circa 1920



Men's Parlor as it appears today.



Apparatus Bays Circa 1890



Apparatus Bay as it appears today.

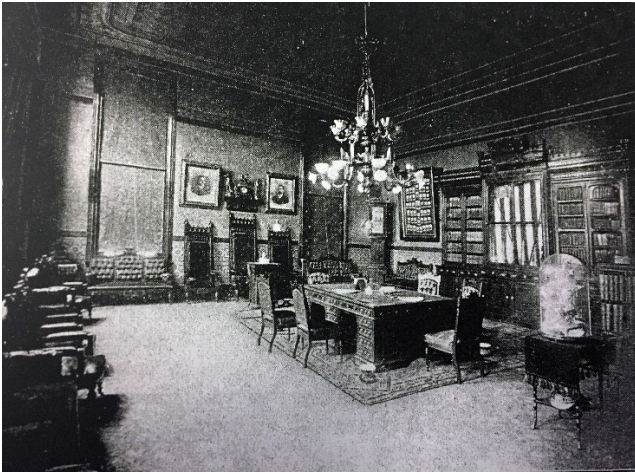


Ladies Parlor Circa 1890



Ladies Parlor AKA Wannamaker Room as it appears today

Interior Photos Then & Now



Meeting Room & Library Circa 1890



Meeting Room & Library as it appears today



Third Floor -looking east Circa 1900



Third Floor as it appears today



Third Floor - looking west Circa 1900



Third Floor as it appears today

Exhibits & Displays



The Liberty Fire Co. No. 5 made a trip to the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, with side trips to Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Cleveland Ohio, a feature of this trip was to an ostrich farm of which Daniel E. Pease, a former resident of Reading, was the superintendent. He presented to the Liberties an ostrich egg and several feathers. The egg was laid in the World's Fair grounds by an ostrich named Susan B Anthony, a white feather was from the prize bird named James G Blaine and the drab feathers were from the ostrich named Gail Hamilton which was the first ostrich hatched in America!



Exhibits & Displays



Colonial to mid 1800s fire tools



Rainbow Fire Co. display



Sterling Silver full size presentation helmet



Sterling Silver Sculpture of sailing ship



Ghost Story Night



Santa Meet and Greet

Educational Tours & Fire Safety Programs for School Groups



We have been featured on these media outlets

- 2011 - WFMZ Berks Time Train Episode
- Oct 2015 - WFMZ One Tank Trip Episode
- Aug. 2016 - BCTV - Reading Area Fire Museum tour- Part 1
- Nov. 2016 - BCTV - Reading Area Fire Museum tour- Part 2
- June 2022 - Berks County Living magazine
- Aug. 2022- Heroes Next Door Episode- Full Museum Tour



President W. Rehr (Front)
Vice President Terry Francis
Buildings & Ground Chair Richard Boyer
Curator John Trimble (Back)