
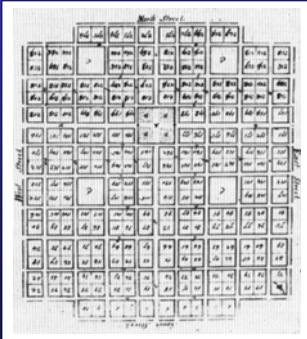


## Raleigh Fire Department History and Other Stuff

Presented by Mike Legeros



## 1792



One square mile  
699 residents  
Planned city



## First Century Milestones

- 1792 City of Raleigh created, first fire protection laws.
- 🔥 1816 First fire engine, fire company.
- 🔥 1852 Fire department organization created, first cisterns.
- 1870 First steam fire engine.
- 1887 First fire hydrants.
- 1888 First alarm boxes.
- 1912 Fully-paid fire department created.



## First Century Fires

- 1816 – 51 buildings, first two blocks Fayetteville St.
- 1832 – 30 buildings, starts east side Fayetteville St.
- 1832 – Several buildings, Fayetteville St.
- 1833 – Several buildings, east side Fayetteville St.
- 1851 – 17+ buildings, Fayetteville, Hargett, Wilmington St.



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## First Century Fires

- 1831 – State House at Union Square.
- 1839 – Methodist Church.
- 1848 – Raleigh & Gaston Railroad engine house.
- 1867 – Exchange Hotel.
- 1868 – City Market, two other buildings.
- 1883 – St. Augustine's Normal School buildings.
- 1890 – Raleigh & Gaston Railroad roundhouse.
- 1892 – Caraleigh Phosphate and Fertilizer Warehouse.
- 1900 – Fleming's Warehouse, two homes, stable.
- 1901 – Watagua Building at A&M College.
- 1903 – Infirmary at St. Mary's College.
- 1909 – St. Paul's A.M.E. Church.



## First Century Apparatus

**Hand Engines**

**Steam Engines**

**Chemical Engines**   **Hook & Ladder Trucks**

**Hose Reels**  
**Hose Wagons**

## First Century Apparatus

**Hand Engines**

**Steam Engines**

**Chemical Engines**   **Hook & Ladder Trucks**

**Hose Reels**  
**Hose Wagons**

## First Century Stations

Left to right, top to bottom:  
 Metropolitan Hall – 1870  
 Rescue Company – 1870  
 Capital Hose Company – 1887  
 Headquarters – 1896  
 Victor Company – 1898

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Left to right, top to bottom:  
 Metropolitan Hall – 1870  
 Rescue Company – 1870  
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## 1910

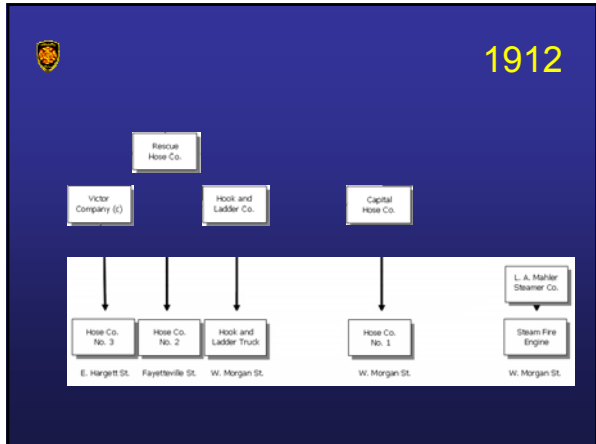
**Demographics**  
 4.0 square miles  
 19,218 residents  
 Three fire stations  
 Five fire companies  
 127 members

City Limits   **AN**

## 1912

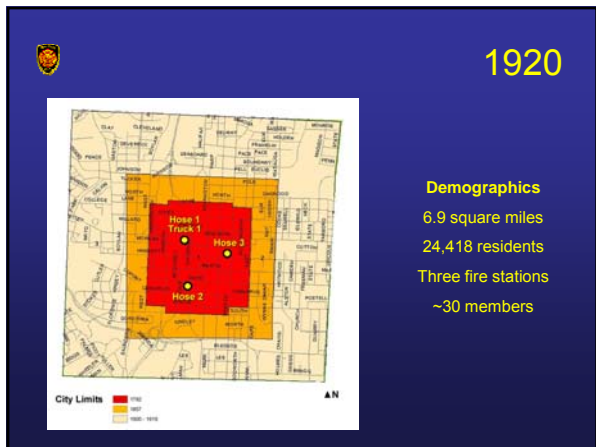
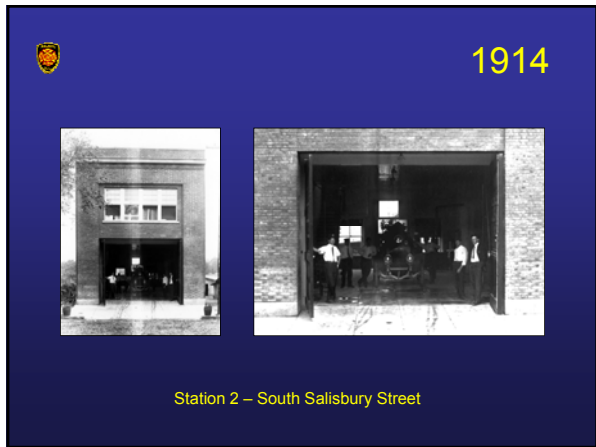
**RALEIGH WILL HAVE A PAID DEPARTMENT**  
 First Class Fire-Fighting Apparatus to Cost Less Than \$35,000 Will Be Installed By Capital City at Early Date

Fully-Paid Fire Department  
 Fire Chief Sherwood Brockwell  
 Three stations, 17 members  
 Hose 1, Hose 2 in service Dec 1912  
 Hose 3 in service Feb 1913  
 Volunteer companies disbanded



## 1912-1920

- 1912 – Sherwood Brockwell appointed Chief of Department.
- 1912 – Station 1 and Station 2 placed in service.
- 1913 – Station 3 placed in service.
- 1913 – First motor trucks delivered, hose/chemical cars.
- 1913 – Volunteer companies disbanded.
- 1914 – Charles D. Farmer appointed Chief of Department.
- 1914 – New Station 2 opens.
- 1914 – First motor pumper delivered.
- 1916 – First aerial ladder delivered.
- 1918 – Second motor pumper delivered.
- 1919 – Hubert H. Horton appointed Chief of Department.



## 1920-1949

- 1922 – Service truck delivered.
- 1924 – Two platoons created, split shifts.
- 1926 – Station 4, Station 5 open.
- 1932 – New Station 2 opens.
- 1938 – IAFF local chartered.
- 1939 – Tiller rebuilt, new tractor.
- 1941 – New Station 1 opens.
- 1942 – Auxiliary firemen trained.
- 1942 – Alarm house completed.
- 1943 – Station 6 opens.
- 1943 – Waterproof "globe suits" delivered.
- 1948 – Start of 24-hour shifts.
- 1949 – New Station 6 opens.
- 1949 – Fire prevention bureau formed

## 1920-1949

1920 – Fire Chief is Hubert Horton  
 1923 – Lewis Hicks appointed.  
 1926 – Ernest Holland appointed.  
 1939 – Ellis King appointed.  
 1941 – Ralph Butts appointed.  
 1947 – Alvin Lloyd appointed.

## 1949

1949 FWD Pumper  
 1950 Mack Pumper

## 1950

**Demographics**  
 10.88 square miles  
 65,679 residents  
 Six fire stations  
 67 members

## 1950s

New Station 1

American LaFrance Pumper

Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad

American LaFrance Aerial Ladder

## 1950s

Station 3  
Ladies Auxiliary

Training Tower  
Station 7

## March 10, 1956

Line of Duty Death – Lt. Vernon Smith

**1960-1979**

- 1960 – Tankers added to roster.
- 1961 – New service truck, new aerial ladder.
- 1963 – First black firefighter.
- 1964 – Smokehouse built.
- 1968 – Fireman's Club Inc. organized.
- 1969 – Residency requirement changed to Wake County.
- 1970 – First Mack pumpers delivered.
- 1970 – Third shift created.
- 1971 – Administration reorganized, District Chiefs created.
- 1972 – Fire department dispatching to ECC.
- 1973 – Alarm boxes retired.
- 1974 – New rescue truck delivered.
- 1978 – EMT starts.
- 1978 – Fire female firefighters hired.



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- 1963 – New Sta 4
- 1963 – New Sta 8
- 1963 – Station 9
- 1969 – New Sta 2
- 1970 – Station 10
- 1971 – Station 11
- 1974 – Station 12
- 1974 – Station 14
- 1974 – Station 15
- 1979 – Station 16

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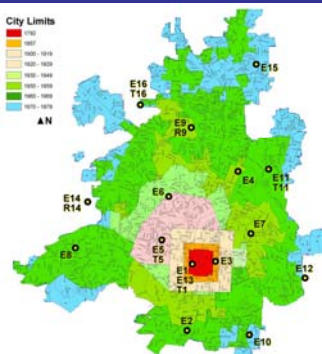
**1960-1979**

- 1960 – Fire Chief is Jack Keeter, appointed 1955.
- 1973 – Clarence Puryear appointed.
- 1974 – Rufus Keith appointed.



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- 1974 – Station 15
- 1979 – Station 16

**1980**



**City Limits**

- 1960
- 1967
- 1969-1970
- 1969-1980
- 1969-1980
- 1969-1980
- 1970-1979

**Demographics**

- 55.17 square miles
- 150,255 residents
- 15 fire stations
- 325 members

**1980s**



## 1980s

- 1980 – Part-time fire investigators added.
- 1982 – Keeter Training Center opens.
- 1984 – Thomas Kuster appointed Fire Chief.
- 1984 – Fiberglass helmets adopted.
- 1984 – Haz-Mat team placed in service.
- 1984 – Honor guard organized.
- 1985 – Explorer post started.
- 1986 – Sherman Pickard appointed Fire Chief.
- 1986 – Uniform patch adopted.
- 1987 – Services moves to Station 8 basement.
- 1988 – First air truck placed in service.
- 1989 – First closed-cab fire apparatus.



## 1990s



## 1990s

- 1990 – E8, T8, E20 become haz-mat companies.
- 1992 – First Division Chief.
- 1992 – Lieutenant rank adopted, from Firefighter II.
- 1992 – First Fire Protection Engineer.
- 1993 – Fire safety house delivered.
- 1993 – EMT-D program started.
- 1993 – Confined-space rescue training trained.
- 1995 – Jonny Sandy appointed Fire Chief.
- 1997 – Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) started.
- 1999 – Earl Fowler appointed Fire Chief.



## 2000s




2000 – 2001 – 2001 – 2003 – 2003 – 2007

## 2000s






New Ladders, Pumpers, Rescues, and Air Truck

## 2003



N.C. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force 8  
Raleigh – Cary – Chapel Hill – Durham

 **2005-2006**





 **2000s**

- 2000 – First permanent child seat fitting station in state.
- 2000 – Thermal imaging cameras.
- 2003 – Plain talk replaces radio codes.
- 2004 – Fourth battalion created.
- 2004 – New maintenance shop and services center.
- 2004 – N.C. Haz-Mat RRT 4 moves to Raleigh.
- 2006 – John McGrath appointed Fire Chief.
- 2006 – Field Communications Unit placed in service.
- 2007 – Full-time fire investigators.
- 2008 – High-rise procedures.
- 2008 – Historical society formed.**






 **History of History**


- 1936 – Six-page history by **WPA writers**.
- 1944 – Six-page historical sketch by **Sherwood Brockwell and others**.
- 1951 – **Ladies auxiliary** formed. Member create scrapbooks for many years.
- 1970 – City fire protection report, with five-page history by **Elizabeth Davis Reid**.
- 1973 – Newspaper clippings compiled by city for several years.
- 1984 – First year book, with history by **Captain B. T. Fowler and Elizabeth Reid Murray**.
- 2001 – Web pages created by **Mike Legeros**. Content seeded with 1984 history and newer history by **Captain Peter Brock**.
- 2002 – Second yearbook, reprints 1984 history plus Captain Brock history.
- 2003 – *Raleigh and Wake County Firefighting* by Legeros.
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 **Surviving Artifacts**

- 1870 alarm bell, at Keeter Training Center.
- 1880s (or later) hose reel, in basement at Station 8.
- 1887 hose house on W. Morgan Street, private owned.
- 1905 steam fire engine, at Station 28.
- 1920s or later alarm gong, hanging at Keeter Training Center.
- 1926 American LaFrance pumper, at Station 28.
- 1926 fire station on Jefferson Street, private owned.
- 1950 Mack pumper, at Station 28.
- 1950s rescue boats, at Station 28.
- etc.

 **Surviving Records**

- 1900s photographs, hanging in hallway at Fire Administration.
- 1917 panoramic photograph, hanging in day room at Station 1.
- 1910s personnel record book, on bookshelf in watch room at Station 1.
- 1920s alarm system bid documents, off-site through City Clerk's office.
- 1920s and later station log books, in utility closet upstairs at Station 1.
- 1920s and later fire report books, in utility closet upstairs at Station 1.
- 1920s and later photographs, stored at Keeter Training Center.
- 1920s or later alarm gong, hanging at Keeter Training Center.
- etc.



## Other Sources

Annual Reports, 1880s-1910s, City Auditor's Office  
 Annual Reports, 1950s-present, City Clerk's Office  
 City Directories, 1900-present, Local History Library  
 City Minutes, 1890s-present, City Clerk's Office / Local History Library  
 News & Observer / Raleigh Times photos, 1938 to 1990s, State Archives  
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1884-1914, 1950  
 State Archives photographic collections  
 State Library  
 Wake County Local History Library



## About the Historical Society



## Who, What, Why

- **Who?**  
Alan Walters, Mike Legeros, and everyone here.
- **What?**  
Historical society, a formal organization to preserve and present history.
- **Why?**  
Because it's needed. Though numerous individuals have helped with history, a formal organization is needed to take things to another level.

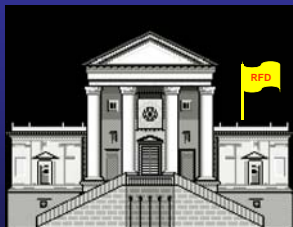


## What's Been Done Lately

- 1870 fire bell retrieval (McGrath, McLaurin, etc.)
- Apparatus restoration (Amato, Duke, Perry, etc.)
- Log book inventory (Legeros)
- Log book storage (Legeros, Walters)
- Oral history recordings (Legeros)
- Public Safety Center design liaison (Walters, Legeros)
- Smokehouse plaque (Walters, Legeros, McLaurin, etc.)
- Yearbook (Walters, Summers, Carter, Legeros, etc.)



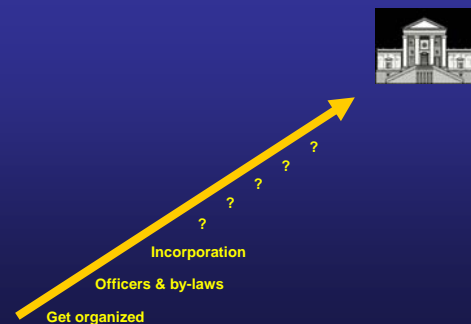
## Where We Want To Go



**Museum**



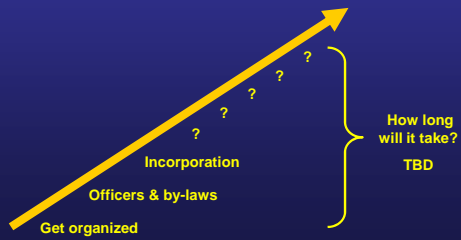
## How to Get There







## How to Get There



## What We Need From You

- Ideas now and later.
- Tell us your availability.
- Plan for a January meeting.
- Tell others what we're doing.