

Elizabeth City Former Fire Station

05/01/09 62 W, 1 I - + 13 - 16

Found this building in Elizabeth City, a former fire station at 305 E. Elizabeth Street. It's presently used by Parks & Recreation. [Tax records](#) say that the one-story brick building was built in 1960, and closed in ?. Prior ECFD locations are not known. Present ECFD locations are 902 Halstead Boulevard (Station 1) and 303 Harney Street (Station 2). [Correct?] [Click to enlarge:](#)



They moved out of this building because part of it was condemned. This was station 1 during all of its existence. And the station at 902 Halstead Blvd served as station 2. Looking at the front of the building, the right side used to extend all the way to the street. That portion of the building encompassed the buildings offices, common areas, and sleeping areas. The stayed in this station after a portion was condemned while the current station 2 was being built. Once station 2 was finished all personnel were shift to station 2 and the ladder was moved to what is now station 1. There is also a dire administration building almost directly behind this building that houses the fire administration, fire investigators offices, and fire prevention. There have been several talks about building a station out near the new Wal-Mart and near the airport. Currently Elizabeth City uses the Coast Guard fire department as a mutual aid agency.

From EC - 05/01/09 - 09:42

Great information! Do you mind answering a couple questions? What year was the Elizabeth Street station above closed? Where was Station 1 prior to that time? And what years? Is that building still standing?

Legeros - 05/01/09 - 18:56

Alas, I may have answered my own questions, with a bit of bed 'n' breakfast-based research.

From Google, surfacing memos from the City Manager in 2004 and 2005, and Virginian-Pilot excerpts, the living quarters of the old fire station were condemned in 1994. Engineers told the city that Station 1 was "unsafe for firefighters." By January 31, 1996, the paper notes, the station was vacant, and all firefighters were "crammed into a single station on Halstead." The city was reviewing locations for a new fire station at that time, the paper reported. A teen center opened in the old station in 1998. The condemned section of the old station were demolished after March 2005, to create an employee parking lot. The Project Voice Teen Center continued to occupy the remaining section of the old fire station.

Sanborn Maps reveal earlier fire station locations:

1902 – City Hall and hose house at northeast corner of E. Mathews Street (now E. Colonial Avenue) and N. Pool Street. Two-story building with bell tower. Second building at 46 Pool Street, stores hook & ladder truck. Two-story building. Volunteer fire department with 74 men, three partly paid. One steamer, two hose carts, one hook & ladder truck.

1908 – City Hall and hose house at Mathews and Pool. Hook & ladder house on Pool. Two fire companies, 40 men each. Two Silsby steam engines, two hose wagons, one hook & ladder truck. Gamewell alarm system with 14 boxes.

1914 – Fire department occupies first floor at Mathews and Pool. City offices second floor. Building footprint looks slightly different. Remodeled? Rebuilt? Hook & ladder house on Pool now numbered 106 N. Pool Street. Company No. 1., engine and hose, 14 members. Company No. 2, hook and ladder, 40 members (colored). Same apparatus as before, plus American LaFrance chemical/hose wagon ordered. 14 boxes.

1923 – Fire department occupies entire building at Mathews and Pool. Building expanded with one-story section in back. Two volunteer companies, part paid. One chief, fully paid. Asst. Chief, not paid. Three paid drivers, and 22 volunteers in Company No. 1. One paid driver and 12 volunteers in Company No. 2 (colored). Two American LaFrance triple combination pumpers, one American LaFrance chemical/hose truck, one Brockway service truck, one Silsby steam engine. 16 boxes.

1931 – Fire station at Colonial and Pool. Street name now changed from Mathews to Colonial. Big water tower now behind fire station. Volunteer chief, three full-time men, one part-time man, and 35 volunteers. Same apparatus. 18 boxes.

1948 – Fire station at Colonial and Pool. Fire department details not provided. Last Sanborn Map for city?

Legeros - 05/01/09 - 21:47

I have been visiting Elizabeth City, N.C. for approximately 64 years. My Grandparents George W. Brown and Lilian Brown lived on E. Cypress Street approximately 3 blocks from the fire department. My Dad would always take me to the old stations at Colonial and Pool Streets and Elizabeth Street. I saw the station built from ground up on Elizabeth Street in 1957. My brother and I had our pictures taken on Old Inez Steam pumper. If you should have any historic information on The Elizabeth City Fire Department would you post the info on your website. If you would have any information on the fire departments currently existing in Pasquotank and Camdem Counties, N.C. and any other fire departments in the vicinity of Elizabeth City. I have wonderful memories visiting the Fire department.

Thank you in advance,

Gary R. Fry

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Gary Fry ([Email](#)) - 10/09/10 - 14:32

I have performed additional research on The E.C.F.D. and would be happy to share the information.

Gary Fry ([Email](#)) - 07/24/11 - 16:26

Mike,

Thank you for your research information. The E.C.F.D. has recently posted a new website. The site is very good! I have also received historical information (including old photos) from the former Fire Chief William C. pritchard, Retired.

Gary

Gary Fry ([Email](#)) - 07/24/11 - 16:33

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E-mail: (optional)

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