

Greensboro Fire Department Timeline

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Introduction

This document compiles citations and information about the history of the Greensboro Fire Department from numerous sources, including:

- Legeros research
- Newspaper articles
- GFD history books from 1984, 1990, 2001
- Greensboro Fire Fighter Historical Society web-based timeline at gffhs.org/timeline

1808 to 1847

1808 - Town of Greensborough created as planned city, designed around a central courthouse square to succeed the Guilford Court House as county seat. (Wikipedia) There was no fire protection nor fire code. [GFFHS]

1828 - The North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that empowered city commissioners to collect taxes for fire protection. The legislation also required the annual collection of same. [MJL, <https://legeros.com/history/laws/docs/greensboro-1828.pdf>] City officials did not act upon the law until 1833. [GFFHS]

1830-03-10 – March 5, 1830 – City ordinances adopted with regulations for the “government of the patrol” and included the duty of the patrol “to notice the dangerous appearance of fire in any house or kitchen” and to alert the residents and, if in a kitchen, “to go in and have the fire put out if necessary.” [GP, 3/10/30]

1832-06-13 – June 13, 1832 – Newspaper story about a fire engine being sent to Fayetteville from Boston included editorial remarks that “Greensborough is provided with neither engine ladder nor bucket” and asked “will the citizens continue to sleep on, and never be aroused, until the awake by the kindling of flames to their pillows!” [GP, 6/13/32]

1833-02-13 – Newspaper reported that City Commissioners passed an ordinance that required each person owning or occupying a home to have two ladders that reached the top of their homes. The penalty for neglect was \$5.00 for each infraction. The deadline was the first day of March next. [GP, 2/13/33]

1834-02-22 – February 22, 1834 – Report of a fire. House and a stable on “Friday morning last.” [GP, 2/22/34]

1838-04-20 – Newspaper story about an arsonist’s attempt to set fire to a house. The fire was discovered and extinguished before “it had time to do any injury.” It included editorial remarks asking, if the house

had “been consumed, where would the fire have stopped.” And asked “have the citizens of our town determined -not- to procure a fire engine?” [GP, 4/20/38]

1847 – Citation for formation of first fire company in retrospectives in 1899, 1906, and 1908. No period citations yet found. [GP, 5/3/99, GDN, 7/8/06 NR, 9/20/08] Recounted the 1906 article, “the first real attempt at a fire brigade was made in 1847, when “Uncle” Bob Sloan, Jesse H. Lindsay, Lyndon Swaim, “Uncle” Frank Caldwell, Thomas Garrett, and others of the old-timers organized a hand pump parade. It was remembered that the engine “worked to perfect” when it was “fixed up” for parade and “gave an exhibition,” but “invariably refused to work” when there was a fire. [GDN, 7/8/06]

1848-02 – February 1848 – Fire at one of John Gilmer’s kitchens. [GP, 3/4/49]

1849

1849-01-02 Greensboro experienced its first major fire. It started between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. in the back room of the upper story of a “frame building on East Street.” The spread to three one-story buildings that were “contiguous” to each other. The three destroyed buildings were one used as a “grog shop,” a building “containing a remnant of goods,” and a shop. The buildings “were not costly” and the total loss did not exceed \$1,500, not including “damage done to surrounding houses” and furniture that was damaged “in the hurry and confusion of removal.” Other nearby buildings were saved “after almost incredible exertions in the application of water and wet blankets all over the walls and roofs.” Wind also carried sparks several hundred yards, and some of which started fires at a stable, but which were extinguished before any damage was done. [GP, 1/6/49]

1849-01-09 - Town meeting held to improve fire protection. Resolutions were adopted that included (a.) appointing a committee of three to solicit subscriptions based on assessed value of real estate for the purpose of buying a fire engine, (b.) the appropriation of monies from collected taxes in the past and present year for the purpose, (c.) appointing a second committee of three to correspond with “captains of fire companies and others” to collect information on organizing and operating a fire company. [GP/1/13/49]

1849-01-29 – Legislative act passed to incorporate the Greensborough Fire Company. Named citizens authorized to organize a fire engine company, that they work and train with the engine at least four times for year, that the members are exempt from regular military duty and from serving on juries, that the membership not exceed forty, etc. (<https://legeros.com/history/laws/docs/greensboro-1848-49.pdf>) [MJL]

1849-07-14 – First fire engine shipped by this time, local newspaper citing a notice in the Baltimore Clipper: “New suction engine by Mr. Simpson, Holliday Street, for a Company at Greensborough, North Carolina, was tried on Saturday afternoon in front of the Post Office. She is 5 ½ cylinder and brass mounted; the box and panels of a light and dark blue, the wheels of purple with gold, white, and blue, and the box is on springs. She is called the “Gen. Greene,” and threw a stream of 1970 feet. It is a handsome piece of apparatus and a fine specific of Baltimore mechanism.” [GP, 7/14/84]

1849-08 – August 1908 – First fire company organized, though the number of volunteers was “too limited” and the reporting Greensboro Record was disappointed in the level of participation. The legislative act allowed for 40 members, but only 29 had volunteered. Three were lawyers and two were physicians, who were “liable to be absent” when there was a fire. The editorial also noted the need for muscular/able-bodied citizens. [GP, 10/6/49] Alternate month of July 1849. William Cadwell elected as director, Lyndon Swaim as secretary. No record of membership was found by 1926. [GR, 9/19/26]

1849-09-29 – Newspaper announcement “the regular meeting of the Greensboro Fire Company will take place the first Monday in October.” [GP, 9/29/49]

1849-10-06 – First fire engine delivered by this time. Hand engine built by William Simpson in Baltimore. Cost \$600. Later named “General Greene,” later name of first steamer. Colored blue and purple and gold. Could throw a stream 170 feet or “over the vane at the courthouse.” They also received a “hose carriage” and 300 feet of new hose, and “all other apparatus” to complete a fire department. [GP, 10/6/49] [MJL] Recounted in 1926 retrospective as “end-brake, goose neck hand engine.” [GR, 9/19/26]

1849-10-06 – First engine house and “shed for the ladders” built by this time. The building(s) were erected on the “public lot” and at a “point of convenient access.” [citation?] From a 1908 retrospective, it was a “neat brick building on the public lot near the jail, where the present engine house now stands.” And built at a cost “not exceeding \$325.” [GDN, 9/20/08] Recounted in 1926 retrospective as [small one-and-a-half story building on the county jail lot on what is now West Gaston Street. Had (or later had) a “triangle on top” for sounding the fire alarm. [GR, 9/19/26]

1849-10-06 – Greensboro Patriot editorial recounted the formation of a fire company two months earlier, and the delivery of the fire engine and fire equipment but noted that both men and water were needed. They suggested that “capacious cisterns” be installed near each of the public wells. Also, a “moveable cistern” with wheels which help with fires “in more distant parts of town.” [GP, 10/6/49]

1849-11-03 – Details of the fire engine and fire house, from the bills. They cost \$1,053.59, including \$600 (suction engine), \$100 (hose carriage), \$9 (bells and mounting), \$182.59 (344 ¼ feet of copper-riveted hose), \$84 (one-dozen leather buckets), \$6 (engraving of company name on engine and reel), \$39 (freight from Wilmington to Fayetteville to Greensborough), \$1 (varnishing and painting engine and hose carriage), \$325 (maximum cost of erecting engine house). [GP, 11/3/49]

1849 – Town leaders were compelled to purchase a water-pumping engine that would be supplied by two different cisterns in the town, and also recruit volunteers, all white, to man the engine in the event of a fire. [90] [MJL]

1849-10 after – Two cisterns for firefighter water supply were constructed. [Still looking for citations.] From a 1908 retrospective, one was in the middle of Main Street, in front of the old Glenn Store, later known as Meyer’s department store. The other was in the rear of the old city market, later known as the Davie Street City School. [NR, 9/20/08] Were these installed in the 1850s? Or a later decade?

1850 to 1859

1851-05-03 – Notice in newspaper: “Do the settled residents of Greensboro intend to permit the Fire Company to go down after making such liberal outlay for the Engine and apparatus? A notice appears in this paper requesting them to meet with the Company (what there is of it) on next Monday evening, in order to effect a more efficient organization. [GP, 5/3/51]

1851-10-29 – October 29, 1851 – New Wash and Ironing House at the Greensboro Female College destroyed by fire. [TM, 10/30/51]

1852-02-14 – Town had a fire bell by this time. Both it and the courthouse bell were used to sound fire alarms. [GP, 2/14/52]

1852-08-14 – August 14, 1852 – Fire company re-organized, recounted Harper Elam in 1926 retrospective. [GR, 9/19/26]

1852-09-18 – Citation about fire company. Annual meeting held on September 14, 1852. New officers elected. Fire company has three groups: first/engine section, second/hose section, third/bucket section. [GP, 9/18/52]

1854-02-11 – Fire report. On the past Monday, the kitchen in a home on the southwest part of town caught fire and burned down. Wind direction prevented the fire from catching the rest of the dwelling on fire. The fire engine “was in complete order and did excellent service.” However, there was an “immense labor” to supply the engine with water. [GP, 2/11/54]

1856-05-30 – Fire report. Greensboro Patriot, May 30, 1856 - [MJL]

1856-11-28 – Fire report. “Negro houses” on “last Saturday night.” [GP, 11/28/56]

1859-03-26 – Notice in newspaper about the fire company needing more men. “At present it would be difficult to find ten” and “to have an effective company, it requires forty members.” [GT, 3/26/59]

1860 to 1869

1863-01-22 – Fire report. Building connected with the “Gas Works” caught fire, but the fire was extinguished by the “timely arrival of the engine” before serious damage was done. [GP, 1/22/63]

1863-03-21 – Fire report. Book bindery in Yates corner building caught fire, and destroyed the entire building. [GP, 3/21/63]

1863-08-13 – Fire report. The cooking department of Greensborough Female College. The building was destroyed in the fire on “Saturday night last.” [GP, 8/13/63]

1867-10-22 – October 22, 1867 – Fire company reorganized.[GP, 11/1/67]

1867-11-01 – Newspaper reference to the fire engine having been borrowed by the Richmond, Danville, and Piedmont Railroad during the war. The engine had been returned and was in “a very good condition” but needed other repairs to “fit it for a successful combat with the flames of burning houses.” The railroad had paid \$800 to repair and refit the engine. [GP, 11/01/67]

1870 to 1879

1870-11-17 - Editorial on fire protection, Greensboro Patriot, 11/17/1870 - [MJL]

1871 – Citation of first hook and ladder company organized in 1908 retrospective. [NR, 9/20/08] **[No period citation yet found. This likely refers to the February 1872 initiative.]**

1872-02-18 – February 18, 1872. Informal meeting of the young men in the city was held in the Register’s office in the Courthouse, for the purpose of organizing a “combined hook and ladder and bucket company.” A committee was appointed to “solicit the young men” of the city to join. [GP, 2/29/72]]

1872-03-07 - Creation of hook and ladder company, Greensboro Patriot, Mar 7, 1872 - [MJL]

1872-06-23 – Major fire destroyed the courthouse and other businesses. Started between 1:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. at Porter’s Drug Store. (In a 1908 retrospective, the time was cited as 1:30 a.m. The location was cited as “where the Mendenhall building now stands” and “just north of the present courthouse.”) [NR, 9/20/08] Originated in the cellar. After consuming the store, the fire spread to the courthouse.

Citizens were unable to save the courthouse building, but county records were moved and nearly all the contents of the building were saved. The building north of the courthouse, which housed law offices, was blown up to prevent the fire from spreading north. West of the drug store, the fire destroyed the Southern Hotel, Caldwell's Bank building, and a doctor's office. To the rear and north of the drug store, one or more offices/office buildings were destroyed. The entire loss was estimated at \$75,000. Noted the news story, the fire at the courthouse could have been extinguished "with a quart of water" using a fire engine and "throwing the smallest sort of stream." But the fire engine was not available (out of repair?). It also noted that if the drug store had been blown up, the fire would not have spread. Trees prevented the spread of fire, as they were wet from recent rain, though many were killed by the heat. Some cinders were carried two miles. [GNS, 6/27/72]

1872-06-23 – The impact of the major fire led to organizing a second regular company of volunteers. (GFD 1990, pg. 6) [MJL]

1872-10-22 – October 22, 1872 – Major fire destroyed the Edgeworth Female Seminary building, now occupied as a private residence. The fire was first observed as a chimney "burning out" and no danger was thought. Hours later, smoke was coming from under the roof. Citizens "en masse" rushed to the scene. They manned the fire engine, but fire had much too much progress. "Men, women, and children, white and black, vied with each other in the work" but all that could be done was to save the furniture. [GNS, 10/24/72]

1872-11-21 – Citation about fire engine. "The fire engine has been repaired and works admirably." [GNS, 11/21/72]

1872-11-28 – Effort underway to buy a new engine for the white fire company. The old one was repaired and given to the colored fire company. The plan for raising money is a contribution of ½ percent of property valuation. [GNS, 11/28/72]

1873-01-08 - Editorial about the need for more/better fire protection. Greensboro Patriot, Jan 8, 1873 - [MJL]

1874-04-29 – New cistern completed by this time. Newspaper report on testing the capacity. [NP, 4/29/74]

1874-12-11 – Fire report. "The alarm of fire was given Sunday morning, about three o'clock. The fire company was on hand, with their engine, and big hats and red shirts, but they couldn't get a job. It was only a chicken coop on fire!" [GNS, 12/11/74]

1875-06-16 – Newspaper report that city officials have adopted an ordinance about the fire alarm "attached to the courthouse bell." For fire alarms, the city was divided into four wards:

Ward No. 1 – Quarter of city where the courthouse stands.

Ward No. 2 – The Lindsay corner.

Ward No. 3 – The Caldwell corner.

Ward No. 4 – The Tate corner.

The bell would ring rapidly for a few seconds, then pause, and the number of strikes would indicate the ward where the fire was reported. Also, any person sounding a false alarm would be fined ten dollars. [GP, 6/16/75]

1880 to 1889

1880-10-12 – Chemical fire engine delivered by this time. [Beacon, 10/12/80]¹ Double-tank engine, likely/surely hand-drawn. Was ordered before July 1880, and reported ready for delivery within 60 days. Purchased from Louisville Chemical Fire Company² [Citation TBD].

1883 – Fire Chief was C. F. Thomas. [GDN, 7/8/06]

1884 - Struggles and Opportunities - By this year, interest in the new fire safety additions waned to the point that only five volunteers remained to handle the chemical engine. However, this year also saw the arrival of entrepreneur Harper J. Elam to Greensborough, who convinced the town to develop a more permanent volunteer fire department that could respond to fires much quicker and in a more organized fashion. [GFFHS]

1884 – Fire companies/fire department re-organized. Recounted a 1908 retrospective, it had “one engine and other equipments.” And, not counting the engine itself, did not amount to \$200 in value. The alarm bell was a [metal] triangle about three feet in size. For an alarm of fire, the triangle was struck with an iron rod by members of the fire company, and “all who had lungs strong enough would holler at the top of their voices.” [NR, 9/20/08]³ With some 74 or 75 men volunteering for service. [GDN, 7/8/06] The Chief of Department was C. F. Thomas. He was followed by C. D. Benbow, J. J. Stone, J. B. Fields, J. H. Phipps, and F. N. Taylor [GDN, 7/8/06]

1884 - However, this year also saw the arrival of entrepreneur Harper J. Elam to Greensborough, who convinced the town to develop a more permanent volunteer fire department that could respond to fires much quicker and in a more organized fashion. [MJL]

1884 – Fire company organized that was later named Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1. Recounted a 1899 retrospective the membership was “composed in part of businessmen and the more active members being taken from the ranks of the younger men of the city.” They were first “equipped with an old hand engine and later with a Holloway Chemical [engine], made in Baltimore, which in 1885 was replaced by a LaFrance steamer of the rotary pattern.” [GP, 5/3/99]

1885 - Sanborn Maps summary. No steam engine. One double chemical engine. One hand engine. Population 5,000. Wells for water. Two-story engine house at 707 Gaston. Well and “f pump” at corner of Gaston and Elm.

1886-10-07 – October 7, 1886 – New cistern being dug at the market house, reported a newspaper. Though the newspaper noted that for a few thousand dollars, a water works could be installed and reduce insurance rates by one-quarter. [GNS, 10/7/86]

1886-10-21 – Newspaper citation about fire company, listing newly elected officers. [GNS, 10/21/86]

1886-12-23 - First steam engine, 1886 LaFrance, third-size, serial number #117. Cost \$3,350. Equipped with two hose reels, 1000 feet of hose, and other equipment. Was in transit from Elmira, NY, by

¹ This was a “double chemical engine equipped with two 35-gallon chemical tanks,” this was likely/certainly hand-pulled. It was also “one-time use,” requiring refilling/recharging after each use. Chemical engines were designed for quickly extinguish small fires, before they grew into larger/bigger/spreading fires. [MJL]

² Full name of company appears to be Louisville Chemical Fire Engine Company, as found in The Baltimore Underwriter, A Monthly Publication Devoted to the Interests of Insurance · Volume 16, 1876, via Google.

³ Recounted a 1906 retrospective, sounding the alarm required someone to “climb to the top of the firehouse, a little sheet-iron shed, opposite the present site of the Bell Telephone Company, and strike the alarm on a triangle up there.” The 1905-1906 city directory lists the location of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company as “Market, SE corner of Greene.”

December 23, 1886. Named General Greene, because of a local campaign promise. [GFFHS] [Legeros web, <https://legeros.com/history/nc/steamers.shtml>] [MJL] [GNS, 12/23/86]

1887-01-06 – Steam engine in service. Reported the newspaper on January 6, 1887: The first step towards protection against fire has been taken. The engine arrived last week, and Mayor King had it out Monday and Tuesday for trial. The test was satisfactory, and in full compliance with terms of the contract. Coal is used, and steam can be made in five minutes. With 1000 feet of hose, which the department has, we are now in pretty good shape. [GP, 1/6/87]

1887-01-06 – Snapshot of GFD, from the newspaper. The Fire Department is organized as follows: Dr. J. W. Griffith, President; H. J. Elam, Sec'y; Carl Pretzfelder, Treasurer; Frank Thomas, Foreman; F. S. Eldridge, Ass't Foreman; J. B. Fields, Foreman Hose Company; J. T. Abbott, Engineer; Wm. Thomas, Ass't Eng.; T. A. Lyon, Fireman; Charley Carl, Ass't Fireman. The company has thirty members. The engine is called Gen. Greene. [GP, 1/6/87]

1887-04-15 – Fire report. One-story house on Gaston Street. Chemical engine prevented the houses on the opposite side of the street from catching fire. The steamer could not reach the fire due to “want of hose.” [MN, 4/16/87]

1887-11-24 – Newspaper account of city commissioners meeting: “The city commissioners met last Friday night. The following resolution in regard to colored fire company was adopted: Resolved, That it is the sense of the Board that as the city is not able to buy a steam fire engine for the want of funds [for the company], and do not feel that the chemical engine is either safe or efficient [for the company], that we recommend that the colored Fire Company organize for the present as a Hook and Ladder Company, and that the city furnish them with jackets and other articles necessary to accomplish this end, provided this action meets the approbation of the colored Fire Company. [GNS, 11/24/87]

1887 - Formation of the state firemen’s association originates at a meeting of minds in Greensboro that year. See <https://legeros.com/history/ncsfa/history.shtml> [MJL]

1888 - Sanborn Maps summary: Volunteer – Three paid men – 106 active volunteers – 24 juvenile men, 1 No. 3 LaFrance steam engine, 1 Ramsey [Rumsey] hook and ladder truck, 1 double-tank chemical engine, 1 four-wheel hose cart, 1 two-wheel hose carts, 1 two-wheel hose cart being constructed, 77 double hydrants, fire alarm system “under favorable advisement,” portions of same ordered, two-story engine house at 707 Gaston with “being built” noted, possibly a rear addition, population 8,000.

1888-05-24 – “Colored” Hook and Ladder Company had organized by this time. [GNS, 5/24/88) Later named Excelsior and by 1899 were operating as Excelsior Hose Company No. 2. Noted the news story, the company was “probably ten years old.” [GP, 5/3/99]

1888-06 – June 1888 – New municipal water works completed by this time. The system included 75 fire hydrants. Reported a newspaper on June 21, “every house in Greensboro is within easy reach of a hydrant.” On Monday, June 18, the system was tested, six hose streams were simultaneously flowed in different parts of the city and to the satisfaction of city officials. [GNS, 6/21/88]

1888-06 -18 – June 18, 1888 – City Commissioners discussed in their Friday meeting applications from organizations wanting to be part of the fire department. Two ladder companies, one white and one black, both applied, but a committee issued an opinion that there should not be two ladder companies of different races, and that the town’s “hooks and ladders” be “entrusted to Captain Waggoman and his company” that was making the application. They also received an application from a “hose and reel

company” with members including Daniel Jones and William Hyatt, and they recommended that the town’s hose reel “be entrusted” to them. [GDN, 6/18/88]

1888-07-19 – July 19, 1888 – Newspaper reported that city commissioners on Friday night granted permission to build an “enlarged engine house” on the jail lot, the same site of the current engine house. A committee was appointed to create plans and specifications. [GNS, 7/19/88]

1888-08-23 – August 23, 1888 – Newspaper reported from Friday night city commissioners meeting a report that a “Rumsey apparatus” that cost \$20 had been selected for the Hose and Reel Company. Also uniforms for “both white and colored” fire companies had been ordered. [GNS, 8/23/88]

1888-09-07 – September 7, 1888 – Newspaper advertisement for seal bids for constructing a fire engine house. [DEP, 9/7/88]

1888-10-01 – October 1, 1888 – New hook and ladder truck had been shipped from Charlottesville, VA, by this time. [DEP, 10/1/88]

1888-11-23 – November 22, 1888 – Cornerstone laid for new building for the steam fire engine. [GP, 11/23/88]

1889-01-03 – January 3, 1889 – Work on the new engine house was “progressing finely.” [GDW, 1/3/89]

1889-01-or-02 – January or February 1889 - Fire station constructed at 108 West Gaston Street for the Steam Fire Engine Co. 1. Called the first standing firehouse in city history. Construction was completed in late January or early February, with citations including “the new fire engine house is a beauty” (GDN, 1/24/89) and “the completion of the beautiful and substantial engine house is one of the pleasing events of the season. Its occupancy will begin and the firemen will enjoy it.” [GDW, 2/8/89]

1889-02-14 – Newspaper note – “Some reform is needed in giving the fire alarm at night. It takes too long to get to the fire bell. If it were not for the volunteer aid of the engineers, who blow vigorously when they see a fire, an ordinary house would burn down before the alarm could be sounded.” [GNS, 2/14/89]

1889-03-21 – March 21, 1889 – City commissioners on Friday adopted resolutions to employ a “keeper of the engine house” who works sundown to daylight, to repair the chemical engine, and place the chemical engine “under shelter.” Also, another resolution about allowing steamer company members to use certain cemetery lots, along with any other white member of a fire company. [GNS, 3/21/89]

1889-08-10 - Greensboro Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1 incorporated. [GNS, 9/19/89]

1889-10-11 – Fire report – Cabinet shop on Asheboro Street, total loss. Located outside the city limits. [GNS, 10/17/89]

1889-10-17 – Citation of “white and colored reels” that responded to a small fire at a stable. [GNS, 10/17/89]

1890 to 1899

1890 - 1894 - City and Department Growth - Multiple additional fire companies were created to compensate for considerable population growth in the city. Also, horses began to be introduced into the department. Greensborough was respelled Greensboro. [GFFHS]

1890-07-03 – Electric fire alarm system installed by this time. It was built by Gamewell. The components included a 1,500-pound fire bell. [GNS, 7/3/90] By 1891, it had ten alarm boxes. [Sanborn] The system

was discussed by city officials and referred to the firemen's committee as early as October 1889. [GDW, 10/29/89]

1890-04-28 – April 28, 1890 - Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 organized. [GDN, 7/8/06] Housed (or later housed) at 209 South Davie Street.

1890-05-28 - Mention of "fire engine horses", plural, in City Council meeting report. [GNS, 5/29/90]

1891- Sanborn Maps summary. Volunteer, 106 Active, 24 Juvenile Men, 3 Paid Men. Electric Fire Alarm, 10 Boxes well distributed. No. 3 La France Steam Fire Engine. 1 Ramsey Hook & Ladder Truck. 1 Double Tank Chemical Engine. 1-4 Wheel Hose Cart. 4-2 Wheel Hose Carts. 75 double hydrants. Fire station at 708-710 West Gaston. Population 8,000.

1891-05-18 – May 18, 1891 - Eagle Hose Company No. 7 organized. [GDN, 7/8/06] Members included President H. J. Elam. [GNS, 6/11/91] Housed in temporary buildings on Depot street, near the Southern Railway freight depot. [GP, 5/3/99]

1894 - Southside Hose Company No. 4 organized at Bragg and Asheboro Streets. [90] [01]

 1895-06-17 - Volunteer fireman Charlie Lewis died. During on "very stubborn fire" fought on an "unusually cold night", Charlie's clothing "was thoroughly soaked and frozen stiff" and so much so that his "overcoat stood erect by itself" after it was removed, with the help of other men. "So chilled was he" that he "took a deep cold," was confined to bed for several weeks from which he never fully recovered. [Legeros web, <https://www.legeros.com/history/fallen/database.pdf>] [MJL]

1895-11-27 – November 27, 1895 – "One of the new horses for the fire department has been procured. The Eagle Hose Company also has a new truck and horse." [GP, 11/27/95] The hose wagon was likely the same one mentioned in May 1896, as "the new hose wagon." It was built by Lewis & Huff in Greensboro. [GP, 5/13/96]

1896 – Sanborn Maps summary. – Volunteer. 3 paid men. 106 active members. 24 juvenile members. Gamewell fire alarm telegraph, 15 boxes. 1 No. 3 LaFrance steam engine, 1 Rumsey hook and ladder truck, 1 double-tank chemical engine, 2 hose carriages, 4 hose carts, engine house at 108 W. Gaston, population 10,000.

1896-11-18 – November 18, 1896 – West End Hose Company No. 5 operating by this time. Called "West Side hose company" in newspaper article, noting they reached the scene of an "old building" on South Mendenhall that had caught fire, and extinguished the fire before the other fire companies reached the scene. [GDN, 1/18/96] Until 1904, they operated a hand reel. Then they "secured" a two-horse hose wagon. [GDN, 7/8/06] Alternately called West End Hose Company No. 6 in newspaper listings of the fire companies.

1897 – New Southside Hose Company No. 4 quarters on Asheboro Street.⁴

1897 - Excelsior Hose Company No. 2 created at the corner of Gaston (now Friendly) and Elm Streets and was composed of only Black citizens. (GFD 1990, pg. 6) Was organized July 28, 1897. [GP, 7/28/97]

⁴ GDN retrospective 7/8/06 recounted that the Southside company "was organized and housed in a tin shed 10x14, just by J. H. Phipps' store. Its second home was in the basement below the Asheboro Street school, while it later moved to a shed on Bragg street, which still stands. Its present quarters are in a commodious stone building on Asheboro Street.

1897-09-06 – September 6, 1897 – By this time, a new West End Hose Company No. 5 hose house was being built at 549 S. Mendenhall Street. [GT, 9/6/97]

1897-09-06 – September 6, 1897 – Newspaper reported that a new “hose house” on Mendenhall Street was being built for the West End Hose Company. [GT, 9/6/87]

1897-11-12 – City commissioners authorized the Chief of Police to “rent the room across the street from the [city] market] for the Excelsior Hose Company, “if agreeable to the company.” [GT, 11/13/97]

1898-03-98 – March 8, 1898 – Newspaper report that the fire alarm gong which had been used at the Southern railway offices was moved today to the Southside firehouse on Bragg Street. [GT, 3/8/98]

1898-05-16 – Horse-drawn aerial ladder truck delivered. The horse/mule-drawn apparatus was 30 feet long had a hand-cranked aerial ladder that could reach 45 feet. Painted red with gold trimmings and heavily nicked metal parts. Delivered on May 16, 1898. [GT, 5/16/98] Built by Rumsey. [Sanborn]

1898-06-15 – June 15, 1898 – Engine house being remodeled by this time, and due to be completed in a few days. [GP, 6/15/98]⁵

1898-10-15 – By this time, the Excelsior Hose Company occupied Stall No. 6 at the city market. City officials ordered the construction of a “corrugated iron building” for the fire company, so the stall could be rented for market purposes. [GT, 10/15/98]

1898-06-03 – June 3, 1898 – Southside Hose Company now incorporated, they received their “letters of incorporation” yesterday. [GT, 6/3/98]

1899-01 – January 1899 - Quarters for Hook & Ladder Company created by this time, apparently using an existing building with improvements added. Located across the street from the engine house. (GT, 1/26/999) [MJL]

1899-05 – Snapshot from Greensboro Patriot on May 3, 1899.

FIRE PROTECTION.

A Brief Resume of the Various Companies, their Equipment and Development.

Greensboro is amply protected against the ravages of the fire fiend in the possession of one of the best and most efficient if not the largest fire department of the State.

The first volunteer fire company was organized here in 1847 when a number of the best citizens of the city formed the Greensboro Fire Company, most of whom have passed away and their places taken by a younger element.

The Greensboro Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1 was brought into existence in 1884 with a membership composed in part of business men and the more active members being taken from the ranks of the younger men of the city. This company was first equipped with an old hand engine and later with a Holloway Chemical, made in Baltimore, which in 1885 was replaced by a La France Steamer of the rotary pattern. This company first used a jumper and later a hose wagon of modern type, and has four horses. The average membership of the company is about twenty-five, who have handsome uniforms and thorough equipment of every kind. The new building of this company, which was erected in 1885 on a lot back of the county court-house, embraces meeting rooms, sleeping apartments, and all modern conveniences.

Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was organized about nine years ago, occupies a part of the same building with a Rumsey hand truck, which in 1898 gave way to an Aerial truck of the most approved pattern which cost over \$2,500. This company has twenty-five members all of whom are uniformed.

The Eagle Hose Company No. 7 was organized in 1891 and located in temporary buildings on Depot street, near the Southern Railway freight depot. This company like the others first used a hand jumper and after four years bought a modern one-horse hose wagon. The

⁵ Interpreting the newspaper stories of the time, “engine house” was a building that housed a hand or steam engine, and “hose house” was a building that housed a hose reel or hose wagon.

horse used by this company is said to be the finest fire horse in the State. By August 1st of the present year this company will doubtless occupy together with Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 the new \$6,000 building now about to be erected.

The South Side Hose Company No. 4 was organized in 1894 and the history of its development is almost a counterpart of the history of Eagle Company No. 7. Their building is located on Bragg street, near the Graded School. It has a goodly membership and regular attendance and has done excellent service.

The West End Hose Company No. 5 was organized about two years ago with a jumper and other primary equipments. It is located near the State Normal and Industrial College, has an active membership mostly of young men, and a bright future.

The Excelsior Hose Company No. 2 is composed entirely of colored members, and is located at the City Market. This company is probably ten years old. It is well equipped with jumper, uniforms and other equipments, and has always given good and satisfactory service, in conjunction with the other companies for the city's protection.

The Greensboro fire department has always been notable for its freedom from local jealousies and factional feelings among the various companies, which influence has so often disrupted the departments of other and larger cities.

Three years past the Gamewell Fire Alarm system was installed and the principal places of the city provided with fire alarm boxes.

The Greensboro department holds records that have been made at all State tournaments, and has numerous prizes and medals obtained at those gatherings. The Eagle Company holds the best dry running record in the South, having made a three hundred yard dash in 50 seconds. The State tournament and meeting of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association will be held in Greensboro August 1, 2, 3, and 4, and the event will be celebrated with industrial and county exhibits and trades display. It is intended to make this one of the most important events in the history of Greensboro.

The present officers are: W. R. Pleasants, acting chief; E. L. Clarke, secretary; Frank C. Boyd, treasurer.

1899-06-17 - Last major fire of the 19th century burnt down the 28-year-old Benbow House Hotel. The alarm was sounded at 12:20 p.m. The steamer "soon broke down," however, a train dispatcher, C.W. Lee, repaired a damaged part on the "Greene" that allowed it to stop the fire before it spread to other buildings. Winston was wired for help and Danville and other cities were "asked to hold assistance in readiness." Fire companies from Winston and Salem arrived around 2:00 p.m., rail cars carrying two steam engines and hose wagons. By that time, parts of the building were collapsing and forced "the abandonment" of the structure. The building was not insured. [Greensboro Telegram, 6/17/99] [GFFHS]

1900 to 1909

1900-06-08 – Excelsior Hose Reel Company No. 2 representative appeared before the city commissioners and asked that "they be allowed to use some of the apparatus which had been taken from them and that suitable quarters be provided near the colored graded school." The matter was referred to the "firemen's committee." [GT, 6/9/00]

1900-10-01 – October 1, 1900 – Newspaper report that the Hook & Ladder and Eagle Hose companies will resign from GFD effective December 1, citing "lack of suitable quarters and adequate accommodations." [GT, 10/1/00] The action was halted after city officials promised to get their quarters built. The fire committee had advertised for bids several weeks earlier, but problems presented. The site was the "present market house lot." [GT, 10/20/90]

1901 - Fire horse "Prince" recognized in the Raleigh Post, which said that the popular fire house was apparently given liquor after every fire call. [GFFHS]

1901- Eagle Hose Company #7 incorporated. [Legeros web, <https://legeros.com/history/laws/>] [MJL]

1901 – New City Hall / opera house / municipal building constructed at the corner of Gaston and Elm streets, and adjoining the fire station.

1901-05-08 – May 8, 1901 – By this time, new quarters for Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 and Eagle Hose Co. No. 7 at 207-209 S. Davie Street had opened. [GT, 5/8/01]

1901-05-15 – May 15, 1901 – Grand opening of new quarters of Eagle Hose Company and attended by a thousand people during the evening. The two-story building included upstairs “sleeping apartments” for four men, and a pole for sliding down. [GT, 5/16/01]

1902-01 – January 1902 – Sanborn Maps summary. Volunteer plus 5 paid drivers. 10 trained horses on constant duty, drop-harness to all apparatus. One engine company, 12 m3n. One hook and ladder company, 16 men. Three hose companies, 15 men each, drivers on constant duty. One 2-horse LaFrance steamer, one 2-horse aerial hook and ladder truck, three 2-horse hose wagons. City owns steamer and ladder truck, all apparatus and horses owned by respective companies. Gamewell fire alarm system, 17 break-glass boxes. All companies summoned to every alarm. Fire Company No. 1 at 108 W. Gaston (steamer, hose wagon, 4 horses, 1 driver, steamer driver lives nearby). Eagle Hose Co. No. 7 at 207 S. Davie (hose wagon, horse). Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 at 209 S. Davie (ladder truck, 2 horses). Southside Hose Co. No. 4 (hose wagon, 2 horses, driver). Alarm sounded at water works, also bell at residence of each volunteer member. 135 double hydrants. Population 12,000.

1903-12-22 – December 22, 1903 – Fire report. Kent Home, the girls’ dormitory at the black Bennett College. Building heavily damaged by the fire that started between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. The building was 600-feet from the nearest hydrant. [GP, 12/23/03]

1904-01-13 – January 13, 1904 – Major fire at the Bevill Building at the southeast corner of Elm and Gaston streets. Started by an overturned candle in a plumbing business in the four-story brick building. Destroyed were much of a printing office, a grocery store, the plumbing business, and a “window shade” factory. [GP, 1/20/04]

1904-01-24 – January 24, 1904 – Major fire at the main dormitory of the State Normal and Industrial College. Building burned to the ground along with two smaller buildings. Over 300 young women were asleep in the building and escaped the fire. The nearest alarm box was “over two squares distant” and the fire department could not save the burning building by the time that they arrived. [GP, 1/27/04]

1904-02-15 – February 19, 1904 – Major fire at Greensboro Female College. Discovered about 2:00 a.m. The building was destroyed. [GP, 2/24/04]

1904-09 - Second steam engine delivered. The 1904 LaFrance second-size, serial number 496. Delivered by September 7, 1904. Could pump 750 GPM. Upon delivery, the city planned (and presumably proceeded) to have the 1886 steamer sent to the factory to be overhauled. [Legeros web, <https://legeros.com/history/nc/steamers.shtml>] The new horse-drawn steamer had more horsepower and a quicker steaming time, three minutes, than the first steam engine, “General Greene.”

1905 – New Station 4 on Asheboro Street opened. [MJL-STA] Construction “notes” authorized for execution in October 1905. [GP, 10/18/05] Completed by December 13, 1905. [GP, 12/13/05]

1905 - Hook & Ladder Company #1 incorporated. [Legeros web, <https://legeros.com/history/laws/>] [MJL]

1907 - City installed an alarm system connecting fire stations and alarm boxes. [01]

1907-02 – February 1907 – Sanborn Map summary. Chief, assistant chief, and 8 men, fully paid. 63 volunteers. 9 trained horses. Automatic drop harnesses. Gamewell fire alarm system, 25 break-glass boxes. Two LaFrance steam engines (500 GPM), one 2-horse combination chemical/hose wagon, one aerial hook & ladder truck, one 1 horse and two 2 horse hose wagons. New stations since last map,

Southside Hose Co. No. 4 at 414 Asheboro, West End Hose Co. No. 5 on Mendenhall (hose wagon, 2 horses, 1 paid driver, 15 call men). 175 double hydrants. Population 21,000.

1908-09 – Snapshot. GFD had two steam engines, one chemical engine, four hose wagons, one hook and ladder wagon, twelve horses, and four fire stations. And fire alarm bells “in all parts of the city” connected by 15 miles of wire. The Fire Chief was F. M. Taylor. [NR, 9/20/08]

1910 to 1919

1910-12-24 – December 24, 1910 – Newspaper reported that a “tapper” (bell) was installed in the railroad watch tower that controlled the crossing on South Elm Street, so that if the fire alarm sounded, the crossing “gateman” to watch for “fire wagons” and prevent a train from blocking their response to a fire. [GT, 12/24/10]

1913 – Sanborn Maps summary. Chief, assistant chief, and 8 fully paid men. Five volunteer companies. 72 members. 12 trained horses. Automatic drop harnesses. Gamewell fire alarm system, 36 break-glass boxes. Two LaFrance steam engines (1200 GPM, 700 GPM), one 2-horse combination chemical/hose wagon, one aerial hook & ladder truck, three 2 horse hose wagons. One American LaFrance auto fire engine, 1200 GPM, purchased “for immediate delivery,” 225 double hydrants. Population 19,300.

1913 - Greensboro organized its first fire prevention bureau. [01] [Unable to find period citation.]

1914-01-07 – First motor fire engine delivered. 1914 American LaFrance Type 12 triple combination, reg #408, cost \$9,000, had a 100 hp six-cylinder motor, a 750 GPM pump, and a 90 gallon chemical tank. [News and Record, 1/8/14] Painted red. It was shipped December 16, 1913. [MJL] It was delivered on January 7, 1914. [GDR, 1/8/14] It was accepted on January 19, 1914, and was housed in the “engine room” at city hall. Three members of the “paid department” and three members of the “volunteer fire department” will sleep in the quarters at the city hall. [GR, 1/19/14]

1914-06-26 – June 26, 1914 – Fire at the Hotel Guilford. Reported at 4:00 a.m. from Box 15. Kitchen was destroyed. One person was killed, others were rescued. One fireman was injured, falling into a basement. [GR, 6/26/14]

1915-12-31 – December 31, 1915 – Annual report. Department answered 106 alarms, greatest number to date. With 51 bell alarms and 55 phone alarms. All of which were answered by the motor fire truck. [GR, 1/29/16]

1916-02-14 – February 11, 1916 - Second motor fire truck delivered. [GDN, 2/12/16] 1926 American LaFrance Type 12 triple combination. Shipped on February 5, 1916. [SPAAMFAA] “Installed” in the Eagle Hose Company station. [GDN, 2/14/16].

1916-02-16 – February 16, 1916 – Newspaper reports that the city had revised an ordinance governing fire truck speed limits. Changed from unlimited to no more than 25 MPH going to a fire and 15 MPH returning. [GR, 2/16/16]

1916-05-11 – May 11, 1916 – Major fire at McAdoo Hotel that also caught other buildings on fire. [GR, 5/12/16]

1916-09-19 – September 19, 1916 – Newspaper reports that dimmers have been installed on the fire trucks after complaints that the electric lights on the trucks are too bright, and have resulted in some accidents, which oncoming vehicles are forced to stop or “go into ditches.” [GDN, 9/19/16]

1916-12-31 – December 31, 1916 – Annual report of fire department. Answered 181 alarms, the largest number recorded in a single calendar year. With 94 of the 181 alarms from telephone. Equipment was two steamers, two hose wagons, two triple combination motor fire trucks, and one hook and ladder truck. Total fire loss was \$94,931.40. [GR, 1/27/17]

1917-05-01 – May 1, 1917 – New motor fire truck shipped. Third motor apparatus. American LaFrance Type 40 triple combination, reg #1506. [SPAAMFAA] Ordered November 8, 1916. [GDN, 11/9/16]

1918-05-10 – May 1918 – New pumper delivered. Fourth motor apparatus. [GDN, 5/11/18] Ordered November 17, 1917, after the fire chief recommended canceling an order for an American LaFrance fire truck. Built by White, the pumper cost about \$7,500, had a capacity of 500 GPM, and a 72-hp motor. The pumper would be delivered in the year. [GDN, 11/19/17] Accepted on/by May 23, 1918. Assigned to West End fire company. [GDN, 5/23/18]

1918-05 – May 1918 – Fire department now fully-motorized, correct, with delivery of 1918 White pumper?

1918-08-13 – August 13, 1918 – Fire at the Blandwood Hotel at 309 Blandwood Avenue. The fire was discovered in the roof “shortly after the breakfast hour.” The building was destroyed, but most of the furniture and personal effects of guest were saved. [GR, 8/13/18]

1918-12-17 – December 17, 1918 – Mutual aid to Burlington for a fire that destroyed more than half of a city block. The fire started at 8:30 a.m. Greensboro fire truck arrived by rail at 10:15 a.m. and helped bring the fire under control. [GR, 12/17/18]

1919 - Sanborn Map report - [MJL]

1919-05-03 – May 3, 1919 – Explosion and fire at the Texas Oil Company, a “huge distributing plant” located “on the main line of the Southern railway,” a mile west of the city. One person was killed and several were injured. Windows of nearby buildings were shattered. Burning oil flowed down Lithin Street. Rail traffic was halted for a period of time. [GDN, 5/4/19]

1919-10-09 - October 9, 1919 - New Station 5 at 442 S. Mendenhall Street opened. Cost about \$10,000. Designed to match the appearance of other buildings in the neighborhood. The site had an older house that was demolished. [GDR, 5/11/18, 10/10/19]

1919-12-10 – December 10, 1919 – Bids opened for an aerial ladder fire truck, from Seagrave for \$15,000 plus \$1,250 for trading their 65-foot horse-drawn aerial truck, and American LaFrance for \$13,500, plus \$700 for the old aerial. The bid was later awarded to American LaFrance. [GR, 12/10/19]

1920 to 1929

1920-03-02 – March 2, 1920 – Fire at McAdoo Building. Early afternoon fire damaged attic, but “no great damage to the building itself,” though it was difficult for men to extinguish. [GR, 3/2/20]

1920-08-20 – August 18, 1920 - First motorized aerial ladder delivered, 1920 American LaFrance Type 17-6 tractor-drawn ladder (tiller), with 75-foot ladder. Serial #2960. Accepted on August 30, 1920. [SPAAMFA, GDN, 8/19/20]

1924 - Greensboro expanded city limits and authorized approximately \$300,000 in fire department improvements, including new stations and apparatus. [90] [01]

1924 - Due to growing land and population size of Greensboro, the city government authorized \$300,000 for fire department improvements. These funds went toward the construction of multiple new stations, including a brand new "Central Fire Station" to be located at 318 North Greene Street. [90 book, pg. 7] [MJL]

1924-02-12 – February 12, 1914 – Apparatus accident – Eagle and Steamer engines collided at the corner of Market and Davie streets about 9:30 p.m. They were responding to Box 29 at Church and South Park Drive, for what was a false alarm. Two firemen with taken to the hospital, and one hospitalized with broken rigs. [GDN, 2/13/24]

1924-05-28 – May 28, 1924 - Two new pumpers delivered. [GDN, 5/29/24] Both were 1924 American LaFrance Type 75, 750 GPM, reg #4663 and #4664. [SPAAMFAA] Purchased January 30, 1924, for \$12,500. Needed to protect additional areas annexed by the city last year. [NR, 1/31/24]

1924-06-08 – June 8, 1924 – Memorial at Green Hill Cemetery unveiled to honor deceased members of GFD. [GDN, 6/8/24]

1924-06-15 – June 15, 1914 – Department enlarged with seven men. [GR, 6/24/24]

1924-06-23 – June 23, 1924 – Combination service ladder truck delivered. [GR, 6/24/24] 1924 American LaFrance Type 14-6, reg #4665. [MJL] Purchased January 30, 1924, for \$9,500. [NR, 1/31/24] Operated by Hook and Ladder Company No. 2. [GR, 10/21/24]

1924-10-21 – October 21, 1924 – Apparatus accident. Hook and Ladder Company No. 2, service truck, crashed into the front of Pender's Store on South Elm Street, after striking two cars that were blocking a street that the driver was turning onto. While answering an alarm to Lewis and Dillard streets. Occurred about 10:15 a.m. Five firemen were aboard. The front wheels of the truck came to rest 15 feet inside the front door. Only slight injuries to those aboard. [GR, 10/21/24]

1924-11 – November 1924 – Snapshot of department. Total 24 paid men, 55 volunteers. Four fire stations, at City Hall, Eagle station, West End station, Southside station. Six pumpers, service truck, aerial truck. Two horse-drawn steamers, no used any more. [NR, 11/16/24]

1925 - Sanborn Maps report published - [MJL]

1925-01-27 - January 27, 1925 - Station 7 opened at 800 Church Street. Cost \$14,000. [MJL, GDR, 11/12/25] Transferred to the new station from the Eagle Hose station on Davie Street was an ALF Type 75 pumper, 150/46 [really only 150 GPM?]. The new station had a telephone installed. Three firemen were assigned to the new station, with a fourth man expected to be added. [GDN, 1/27/25]

1925-06 – June 1925 - New pumper delivered, 1925 American LaFrance Type 75, 750 GPM, reg #5134. [SPAAMFAA] Assigned to the Southside station. [GDN, 6/27/25]

1925-11-12 – November 12, 1915 – Station 8 opened at 1735 W. Lee Street.

1926-03-29 - Old Fire Station 1 at 108 W. Gaston Street closed. [GR, 3/29/26]

1926-03-29 – March 29, 1926 – New Station 1 opened at 318 N. Greene Street. The new station housed:

- Fire Company No. 1
- Eagle Hose Company No. 7
- Service Ladder Truck Company
- Aerial Ladder Truck Company. [GR, 3/29/26]

1926-05-15 - 1926, May 15 - New Station 1 grand opening held. The public was invited during the event, which was from 2:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Members of city council also visited during the day. (NR 5/16/26]

1926-06-01 – New electric fire alarm system placed in service, replaced the fire bell at city hall. The new system had 123 alarm boxes, including 80 newly added, with ten circuits. [NR, 5/9/26]

1926-09 – September 1926 - Career department established with eight companies and 47 men total. Captain Frank Shaw was named the Chief of Department. [NR, 9/12/26]

1926-09-01 – September 1, 1926 – Captain Frank Shaw appointed first fully-time Chief of Department. [NR, 9/12/26]

1927 - Historic Departmental Accomplishment - This year, Greensboro incurred \$200,000 less in fire losses compared to the previous year, the largest drop among similarly sized cities in the U.S. [GFFHS]

1927-04-02 - April 2-3, 1936 - A massive tornado wrecked Greensboro, particularly along Lee Street, now Gate City Boulevard, causing several fires that stretched the GFD thin and led to 13 deaths, over 100 injuries, and 56 destroyed buildings. (02 book, pg. 7] [MJL]

1926-09-18 – September 18, 1926 – Newspaper story, old Eagle Hose Company engine house to be converted to a three-story mixed-use building. [GDN, 9/18/26]

1926-11-28 – November 28, 1926 – Fire alarm system back in operation at midnight, after disabled on Thursday night, to install new underground cables, as part of work to expand the system and install police call boxes. [GDN, 11/28/26]

1927 - The department's fire alarm radio signal system was expanded to 150 Fire Alarm Boxes on a 28 circuit Gamewell Fire Alarm System. [MJL]

1927 - This year, Greensboro incurred \$200,000 less in fire losses compared to the previous year, the largest drop among similarly sized cities in the U.S. [MJL]

1929-08-08 – August 14, 16, 1929 – GFD responded to Asheboro to assist with two fires at manufacturing plants. The first fire on Thursday night, August 15, destroyed the Asheboro Chari Company. Greensboro's Eagle Hose Company responded along with a fire company from High Point. The second fire was discovered about 1:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, August 17, destroyed the Home Building Inc. plant. Greensboro, High Point, and Siler City sent fire trucks. Both fires were believed to be intentionally set. [GR, 8/16/29, 8/17/29; Charlotte News, 8/17/29] Weeks later, Chief Shaw, firemen, and city officials were invited to Greensboro for a barbecue dinner at Lake Redding in Asheboro on August 30, 1929. [GR, 8/28/29]

1930 to 1929

1930-01-05 – January 5, 1930 – Mutual aid to Burlington. GFD arrived in 27 minutes to help BFD fight a fire in the Smith-Morrow business-apartment building. The fire displaced over 100 people. It was first reported about 5:30 a.m. [NR, 1/6/30]

1930-01-11 – January 11, 1930 – Major fire on South Elm Street. The blaze started at 11:00 p.m. at the Army and Navy stores, then spread to the top floor of an three-story office building at 321-325 S. Elm Street. The fire was controlled at 1:45 a.m. [NR, 1/12/30]

1930-01-19 – January 19, 1930 – GFD responded outside the city, to a fire at a two-story commercial building near Sedgewfield. The single GFD unit was unable to help, as the “flames had made such progress that they could not be checked.” [NR, 1/20/30]

1930-03-28 – Newspaper report that GFD have “laid considerable cable” for the fire alarm system, to change from overhead wires to underground wires. The project included removing old wire. GFD was also adding 30 additional alarm boxes, and those were planned for spring and summer. [NR, 3/28/30]

1931-10-07 – October 7, 1931 - New pumper delivered, 1931 American LaFrance Type 213, 750/80, reg #7380. With 114 hp motor. Cost \$10,5000. Shipped October 1. Will replace the older White pumper which had been serving at the West End station and was sold to Gibsonville and delivered there last week. [SPAAMFAA] [GR, 10/5/31]

1932-08 – Greensboro hosted the annual convention of the NCSFA.

1934 - Fire training school established. [01]

1935-01-14 – January 14, 1935 – First call for “Guilford No. 9,” a special truck at Central Fire Station designed for fighting grass fires. Built from the chassis of an old “Buick roadster” that Fire Chief Frank Shaw used for years. Equipped with “three small pumps, rakes, and other facilities.” It answered two calls on Monday. It was built as an “economy measure” instead of taking the “large hook and ladder truck” out to extinguish small grass fires. [GDN, 1/15/35]

1936-04-02 - April 2, 1936 - Destructive 1936 Tornado - A massive tornado wrecked Greensboro, particularly along Lee Street, now Gate City Boulevard, causing several fires that stretched the GFD thin and led to 13 deaths, over 100 injuries, and 56 destroyed buildings. [GFFHS]

1936-08-29 – August 29, 1936 – Fire report. Schiffman Jewelry Company at 225 South Elm Street. Discovered about 5:00 p.m. Extinguished shortly after 9:00 p.m. The fire was fought with lines both pumped from apparatus and connected directly to fire hydrants. The newspaper called it the worst fire in the city in a number of years. [GR, 8/29/36]

1937 - GFD Band - An official GFD band, lasting for only a few years, formed to play at special department functions. [GFFHS] The GFD band was active at least a decade earlier, and is pictured at state firemen’s event, such as the 1927 convention, held in Greensboro that year. [Legeros on FB, <https://www.facebook.com/LegerosFire/posts/3205608016134071>]

1937-04-21 – April 21, 1937 – Newspaper reported that GFD was current repainting 2,000 hydrants and 200 alarm boxes as part of a spring clean-up program. Several weeks was required to complete the tasks. They were receiving their “usual third year coat of paint” and in advance of the summer’s NCSFA convention. [GR, 4/21/37]

1937-08-09 - August 9-13, 1937 - The GFD hosted the Annual North Carolina State Firemen's Association for its fiftieth anniversary. (02 book, pg. 8) [MJL]

1940 to 1949

1940 – GFD had eight stations with 92 personnel. [01]

1940-03 – March 1940 – GFD members started converting a half-ton truck, formerly used in another city department, into a fire truck for fighting grass fires. The small truck would save the city money, since some days eight or ten grass fires were reported, and cost the city about \$15 per call, using the regular trucks. [GDN, 3/8/40] The truck was placed in service on March 28, adding a “Pan-American” pump that ran off the motor. The “small open truck” had a 100-gallon water tank, but could also be supplied by a “stream or well or fire hydrant.” It carried 300 feet of hose and “three Indian shoulder hand pumps.” [GDN, 3/29/40]

1941-01-15 - January 15, 1941 - With the hiring of 28 additional personnel, the department switched to a two-platoon system. This system enabled one platoon to work an 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. day shift and the other platoon to work 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. night shift. Each platoon would trade shifts every six days. This replaced the previous system where firefighters worked four full day on and one full day off. [GFFHS] [GR, 1/14/41]

1943 - Daring Rescue - Lieutenant M. E. Coe used a rope to pull a victim from a flooded car in cloudburst conditions, despite the danger. [GFFHS]

1944-01-14 - January 14, 1944 - **Gorrell Street Explosion** - Four houses were destroyed in the 1000 block of Gorrell Street when a gasoline tanker's axle broke, causing the trailer to drag and produce sparks that set off an explosion. The flames spread 300 feet, burning through GFD fire hose lines with heat so intense it could be felt two blocks away. [GDN, 1/15/44]

1944-10 – October 1944 - First rescue truck added by this time. The former Army Ford ambulance was purchased from Fort Bragg six months earlier and equipped with “civilian defense salvage funds.” Cost about \$1,400 to equipment. Housed at Station 1, operated by city FFs, and intended for use in Greensboro in immediate vicinity. [GR, 10/12/44]

1945-10 - GFD rescue squad received an Emerson resuscitator, inhaler, and aspirator, donated by the Greensboro Junior Chamber of Commerce. They were also equipped with an iron lung, donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars when the squad was organized. The iron lung was “light enough to be taken to the scene.” [Legeros blog, <https://legeros.com/blog/greensboro-rescue-history/>] [MJL]

1946 – Pumper purchased from government surplus, 1942 Chevy/_____, 500/250. Served as Engine 3. Moved to reserve by 1952. [MJL]

1946-08 - August 1946 - Radio Tower Accident - Two firefighters, Captain Roma Fortune and Charles Henderson, responded to an accident at a 360-foot WBIG radio tower where a painter became lodged in the tower's crossbars at 310-feet above ground. Fortunately, Fortune and Henderson were able to rescue the painter and both received the Coronet Award for their efforts. [GFFHS]

1946-08-?? – Fire Chief Frank Shaw died of natural causes.

1946-08-21 - August 21, 1946 - Captain Calvin Wyrick chosen as new Chief of Department, following the death of Chief Shaw. [GFFHS]

1947 - Red Cross Training - Chief Wyrick ordered all firefighters to undergo and pass Standard and Advanced Red Cross training. This successfully led to the department being 100% Red Cross trained and 18 Department members becoming Red Cross instructors. [GFFHS]

1947-01 – January or February 1947 - A survey of the Department that included administrative visits to fire departments in and out of state found the need for \$150,000 more in equipment and \$150,000 more for fire stations. [MJL]

1947-03 - Bond issue was approved that gave the GFD \$300,000 to build two new stations, two 1000 gallon and one 750 gallon per minute pumpers, an 85 - foot aerial ladder, and a service truck. [MJL]

1947-06-25 – June 25, 1947 - Greensboro Life Saving and First Aid Crew was incorporated, its charter issued by the secretary of state on June 24. [GDN, 6/25/47]

1947-09 - September 1947 - Firefighter's Near-Death Experience - Strong flood waters nearly killed rookie firefighter C.T. Culbreth of Engine Company No. 1 along with a victim he was rescuing, but both managed to be revived and saved. [GFFHS]

1947-11-04 - November 4, 1947 - IAFF Local 947 established and chartered. [90] [01]

1948 - WWII Plaque - Local 947 sponsored the placement of plaques at the quarters of Engine 4 and Engine 7 that honored the firefighters from those companies that lost their lives fighting for the U.S. during WWII. [GFFHS]

1948 - Sanborn Maps report published. [MJL]

1948 – Five pieces of American LaFrance 700 series apparatus delivered, two 1000 GPM pumpers, one 750 GPM pumper, new Engine 4 (delivered April 14, 1948) [GR, 4/15/48], one service truck, and one 85-foot mid-mount aerial ladder. [MJL]

1948-02 - February 1948 - IAFF - Members of the Department met and established the original Charter of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 947. [GFFHS]

1948-04 – April 1948 – Fire chief was awaiting delivery on a new “grass fire truck.” [GR, 4/14/48]

1948-12-17 - 1948, December 17 – Station 3 opened at Vine and 12th Streets. Later addressed as 2315 Yanceyville Street. New station cost \$50,000. In addition to Engine 3, the new facility was used for storing of three older trucks, currently stored at Central Fire Station. [GDN 12/17/48, MJL]

1949 – GFD had seven fire stations, 10 companies, and 98 personnel. [MJL]

1949-01-14? - Public demonstration of new GFD fire apparatus held at Central Fire Station. Fire Chief C. W. Wyrick and department members display two 1,000 gallon pumpers, one 750-gallon pumper, an 85-foot aerial truck, and a “city service truck.” The program also includes demonstrations of pump, ladder, hose, and rescue work. Part of the demonstration is held at the city pumping station on Battleground Avenue at Lake Drive. City hosted over 400 city officials and firefighters from three states (GR, 1/14/49) [MJL] [GFFHS]

1949-03-01 - 1949, March 1 - Station 6 opened at 1401 Westover Terrace. Opened at 8:00 a.m. with seven-man crew. Cost around \$44,000. Housed a 750 GPM pumper transferred from Engine 4, which received “one of the new pumpers.” [GR, 3/1/49]

1950 to 1959

1950 - Captain E. E. McDowell named the department's first Training Officer after attending New York City Fire College. [90] [01]

1950 - Fire Prevention Bureau - The Fire Prevention Bureau became a formal division of the Greensboro Fire Department on August 16. Captain Fred Trulove took command of four full-time inspectors including Captain and future Fire Chief G. C. "Buck" Wuchae. The Bureau cited and corrected 2,282 violations in its first year. [GFFHS]

1950 - Training Officer - Captain E.E. McDowell became the Department's first Training Officer and immediately spent three months training at New York City Fire College. He was the first GFD member to attend an out-of-state training program and used his knowledge on return to apply advanced techniques and standardized firefighting drill exercises to GFD firefighter training. [GFFHS]

1950-10-26 - October 26, 1950 - Fourteen auxiliary firefighters completed the department's first ten-week training program and became certified firefighters. [90] [01]

1951 - Two-way radios were installed in all GFD trucks with a transmitter located at the Jefferson Building downtown. The system cost \$7,500 to install. Central Station could contact any truck in the field, which ultimately cut operating costs by as much as 25-30%. (02 book, pg. 19) [MJL]

1951-02-15- **Three alarms at Lindley Junior High.** The early morning fire caused around \$260,000 worth of damage. Started about 5:15 a.m. Seven fire trucks arrived within minutes. Controlled in 90 minutes. [02 book] [GDN, 2/16/51]

1951-09-19 – Fire report. Southern Fixture Manufacturing Company at 1009 Valley Park Drive. Nearby Engine 8 was first-due. Controlled in a half-hour. Building heavily damaged. [GDN, 9/20/51]

1952 – Testing of 2.5 -inch hose to replace 1.5-inch hose as hand lines started. [MJL]

1952-02-22 - February 22, 1952 - Logbook Recording - Recording of all station activities on logbooks started. [GFFHS]

1952-08-01 – August 1, 1952 – New emergency power unit added to fleet by this time. The truck was the idea of Chief Wyrick and built to his specs over a two-month period. The enclosed body was mounted on a 1.5-ton truck. It cost about \$8,000 and included work done by fighters. It had four 500 watt mounted lights and ten 200-watt portable lights, plus cords, a generator, and numerous pieces of small equipment, such as saws, axes, and hand tools. [GP/8/1/52]

1952-08-04 - August 4, 1952 - August 7, 1952 – State Convention - The 65th Convention of the North Carolina State Firefighter's Association was held in Greensboro. Over 1500 firefighters from 242 cities were in attendance. Chief Wyrick was elected the President of the Association at the Convention and the Department's new Power Unit trucks were unveiled. [GFFHS]

1953-04 – April 1953 – New pumper delivered, 1953 Oren, 750/240. Cost \$19,250. Arrived first week of April. Engine 8. [MJL fleet]

1953 - **Two major fires contributed to the Department's first year of annual fire losses over \$500,000.** A fire at the Kenny Shoe Store on March 5 caused a loss of over \$142,000 and the Graino Mill fire on July 18 caused by an explosion required eight fire companies to bring it under control. (02 book, pg. 22-23) [MJL]

1954 - 14 auxiliary firefighters were hired and certified for the first time, requiring a ten-week training program and working at least one night a week. [MJL]

1954 - An overturned tanker truck caught fire at the corner of Spring Garden and Fairground Avenue, now South Chapman Street 8. [MJL]

1954 - Captain and Training Officer E.E. McDowell died from a heart attack while playing softball off-duty at 35 years of age. [MJL]

1954 - Plans were approved for and construction began on the new Training and Maintenance Center along Church Street. [MJL]

1954 - The first Captain's examination was given for members of the department with ten years of service. [MJL]

1955-02 – February 1955 – Salvage truck delivered. “Equipped to specifications” by a Charlotte company, carried tarps, portable pump, portable generator, suction fan, and other equipment. Cost about \$3,700. Chief Wyrick went to Charlotte on February 1, 1955, to pick it up. [GR, 2/1/55]

1955-03-30 – March 30, 1955 – New pumper delivered, 1955 Oren, 1500/240. Engine 1. Cost about \$25,000. Acceptance test conducted on April 5, 1955. Among the “new ideas” incorporated on the truck were “non-glare headlights, hose and pump covers, and fender compartments in a new-type [of] fender.” [MJL fleet, GR, 4/5/55]

1955-05-01 - Greensboro Speedway grandstand at fairgrounds burns. Fire department dispatched at 3:35 p.m. Four pumpers and a ladder truck were dispatched, but firemen “could do little” but protect exposures from the fast-moving fire. By 3:38 p.m., the structure had collapsed. [Legeros on FB, <https://www.facebook.com/LegerosFire/posts/3380878431940361>] [GDN, 5/2/55]

1956 - Reduction Of Firefighter Work Hours - Also, due to the new addition of recruits, the weekly work hours for firefighters were reduced from 84 to 72 hours a week. [GFFHS]

1956 – Renovation of the Central Fire Station - Due to the growth of the Department, the two-stall truck maintenance and training garage built in 1926 as part of Central Fire Station was converted into a new kitchen and classroom. Truck maintenance and training moved to the new Training and Maintenance Center and the old kitchen at Central Fire Station was converted into office space for the Fire Prevention Bureau that had expanded to eight inspectors and a secretary. [GFFHS]

1956 - By this year, GFD had 10 companies, 120 firefighters, and 25 vehicles. [MJL]

1956-05 - In May, two major fires occurred that accounted for over \$350,000 in losses. One was a fire at the Starmount Forrest Country Club on May 14 that burned down the clubhouse, and the other was a fire at the Greensboro Motor Company truck repair garage. The latter fire was hampered by inadequate water supplies. [MJL]

1956 - The lone GFD mechanic, Assistant Chief H.G. Ballinger was finally given two assistants. [MJL]

1956-10 - October 1956 - Opening of Training and Maintenance Center - The new \$200,000 Training and Maintenance and Training Center opened for the training of 18 recruits under Training Officer R.L. Powell Jr. The Center consisted of a smoke lab and a then state of the art control and training tower. This allowed the Training Division better ways to simulate various fire and rescue scenarios. [GFFHS]

1957 - City Expansion - Because of the annexation of 28 additional square miles by the City of Greensboro, Station No. 7 relocated from Bessemer Avenue and Church Street to Gatewood Avenue and Wendover Avenue. [GFFHS]

1957 – First tanker delivered. 1957 Ford/Oren, 500/1500. Serial #500-B-1570. Tanker 1. Contract awarded February 18, 1957, for \$7,575. [MJL fleet]

1957-03 – New pumper delivered. 1957 Ward LaFrance, 1500/__. Engine 2. Cost \$22,988. Delivered by March 25, 1957. [GR, 3/25/57]

1957-05-21 – May 21, 1957 – Newspaper reports six new men were employed to staff the new “pumper-tanker truck” by the time of the June 30 annexation. The truck would be used in annexed areas until water mains and hydrants could be installed. [GR, 5/21/57]

1958-07-01 - 1958, July 1 - Station 10 opened at 4208 High Point Road, later renamed Gate City Boulevard. Both Station 9 and Station 10 cost \$80,000 to construct and were architecturally designed to fit within the residential character of their respective areas of the city. [MJL-STA] [GDN, 7/1/58]

1958-07-01 - 1958, July 1 – Station 9 opened at 4302 West Friendly Avenue; it was renamed Station 49 in 2006. [MJL-STA] [GDN, 7/1/58]

1958-08-08 - 1958, August 8 – Old Station 7 at 800 Church Street closed.

1958-08-08 – New Station 7 at 1064 Gatewood Avenue opened. [BL]

1959-06-28 - June 28, 1959 - Major fire at New Home Building Supply on South Mendenhall Street. The destroyed two lumber yards and threatened a row of houses for over three hours. Eighteen people were taken to hospitals, sixteen of them firemen, with smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion. The other two were volunteers. Some 40 firefighters total were injured, with five doctors manning a first aid station at the fire. The outside temperatures were as high as 96 degrees. Winston-Salem, Burlington, and High Point sent units, along with volunteer departments from Alamance, Forsyth, and Guilford Counties. [GDN, 6/29/59] Early on this Sunday morning, a twelve-year-old boy was playing with matches near the New Home Building Supply lumber yards along South Mendenhall Street and accidentally started one of the largest and most dangerous fires of the decade. 150 GFD firefighters and 50 volunteers responded to the fire and had to battle it all day in 96-degree weather until it was finally extinguished around 5:00 in the evening. Over 40 firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion or smoke inhalation while fighting the blaze and 18 of these required further medical attention at a hospital. [GFFHS]

1959 – Late decade apparatus deliveries: 1958 ALF pumper x 2 (March 1959), 1958 Ford/Howe tanker, 1959 ALF pumpers x 2 (March 1959), 1959 ALF aerial ladder. [MJL fleet]

1960 to 1969

1960 - By this year, the Department had 10 fire stations, 193 firefighters, and 37 vehicles. A new station, Station No. 11, opened along South Elm Street, now South Elm-Eugene Street. [GFFHS]

1960 - Greensboro Daily News on January 26, 1960, reports that a “special equipped rescue wagon” was in service with GFD, operating as a “joint venture of the city and county.” The county furnished the vehicle and the city provided the equipment and personnel. it would be used “in addition to the present truck” and was equipped for all emergencies “except extremely heavy rescue work.” The chief of the GFD rescue squad was Captain D. C. Costner. [MJL]

1960 - Greensboro Record on August 10, 1960, reports that the “Greensboro-Guilford County Rescue Squad” had recently received a new truck. Pictured is a panel van that replaced “one that was several years old and was top heavy.” The squad is comprised of GFD members and is housed at a fire station. [MJL]

1960-11-29 – November 29, 1960 - Station 11 opened at 2606 S. Elm-Eugene Street. [MJL]

1961 - Partial Integration - For the first time since the professionalization of the Department in 1926, the GFD hired and trained 28 African American recruits. This was the largest training class the GFD had ever undertaken. All 28 recruits were assigned to the relocated Station No. 4 along Gorrell Street, which housed the new Truck Company 4 and Engine Company 4. Only these 28 new African American firefighters ran the new Station No. 4, keeping them separated from the rest of the Department. Also, despite these new firefighters quickly proving they were a skilled group just as qualified as the rest of the Department, if a company from another station arrived at a scene after firefighters at Station 4 had already started work, the outside company would often take control, and the African American firefighters from Station 4 would be sent back to their station for upkeep. [GFFHS]

1961 – Two battalions were created to improve operational efficient. Fire stations west of Elm Street reported to Battalion 1, while those east Elm Street reported to Battalion 2. The only exception was Central Fire Station, which had its own district and did not report to either battalion. [MJL]

1961-12-15 – December 15, 1962 – Old Station 4 on Asheboro Street closed.

1961-12-15 – New Station 4 opened at 401 Gorrell Street. [MJL-STA] (NR, 12/15/61)

1961-12-15 – Truck 4 activated at new Station 4. (NR, 12/15/61)

1962 - Greensboro Rescue Squad organized. [MJL-RH]

1962-10/11 - October/November 1962 - GFD received an International/Boyertown Civil Defense heavy rescue truck lettered for Greensboro Guilford County Civil Defense Agency. Purchase of the truck was likely approved on March 15, 1962, for \$11,241, from the Greensboro Record on March 15, 1962. Greensboro Daily News on November 13, 1962, reported that a brief ceremony was planned on that date, for the truck to be turned over to the city-county civil defense department. It would be manned by GFD members. [MJL]

1962-02-04 – 1969, February 4 - Air Force C-47 crashed during take-off at the airport. GFD responded along with county units. Insufficient on-site fire protection led to the creation of the county fire department housed at the airport. [MJL-PTI]

1962-02-04 - Air Force C-47 crashes during take-off at airport. All seven board are killed. GFD Engine 9 responds, arrives eight minutes later. Guilford County fire units also respond, as do the two airport fire trucks. Crash is worst in airport’s history, also first fatal incident. Spurs upgrade of airport fire equipment and eventual creation of county FD to operate. [Legeros web, <https://legeros.com/history/stories/pti-airport/>] [MJL]

1962-03-29 - During the morning hours, a main gas line ruptured outside the city limits, leading the mayor to declare a state of emergency. Soon after, an explosion at the Pomona Terra Cotta Company on old Winston Road demolished one of its buildings. Firefighters arriving on the scene discovered that four people had died under piles of debris while 15 received severe injuries and several others sustained only minor injuries. Two of the dead were recovered immediately, but the others could not be recovered until a

badly damaged smokestack near the debris was torn down. Overall, damages were valued at around \$800,000. (02 book, pg. 36-37) [MJL]

1962-06 - June 1962 - Notable Emergency Medical Rescue - Two GFD members, Frank Howell and Jack Rumley of the Rescue Squad, were awarded the American National Red Cross Certificate of Recognition for rescuing an elderly man overcome by fumes inside a tank at the top of the Jefferson Building.

1964 - Assistant Chief Powell named a member of the Training Committee of the National Fire Protection Association on September 3. [MJL]

1964 - Chief Wyrick was named Fireman of the Year for both North and South Carolina. [MJL]

1964-02 - Greensboro Daily News on February 6, 1964, reported that a third rescue truck is being added at GFD. The two-ton panel truck is again lettered for "Greensboro-Guilford County Rescue Squad" and replaced an older station wagon. GDN on August 9, 1964, included a picture of Station 5, where one of the two panel vans was housed, along with Engine 5 and Truck 1. The unit is named Rescue 1 and was moved from Central Fire Station. It's cross-staffed by Station 5 personnel, but serves "in more or less a reserve capacity." If needed while engine and truck are out, men from Central Station would be sent. Rescue 2 remained at Central Station and would "continue to answer the majority of calls for assistance." The heavy-duty rescue truck, Rescue 3, was moved to Station 4. [MJL]

1964-05-08 – New aerial ladder delivered, 1964 ALF 900 Series, 100-foot. Truck 5. [MJL fleet]

1964-05-22 – New ladder company placed in service, Truck 5, with a new 100-foot aerial ladder. (Greensboro Record, 5/21/64) [MJL]

1964-05-22 – Old Station 5 at 442 S. Mendenhall Street closed. It was listed for sale prior to the closure. [GDN, 5/19/64] [MJL-STA]

1964-05-22 – New Station 5 opened at 1816 W. Friendly Avenue. It was originally addressed as Madison Avenue and Radiance Drive. It was accepted by the city on May 18, 1964. [GDN, 5/19/64]

1964-10-21 - October 21, 1964 - Lowering of Central Fire Station Tower - The tower at Central Fire Station was lowered due to the structure being unsafe. [GFFHS]

1964-12-08 - December 8 - The Greensboro Heart Association taught all GFD firefighters a course on the application of closed-chest heart massage, the precursor to Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, or CPR. [MJL]

1964-12-14 - December 14 - Firefighters used the closed-chest heart massage technique for the first time on a woman who suffered a heart attack and sank beneath water in her own tub. The responding GFD members, Larry Bradley and Jerry Wheeler from Rescue Squad, were able to save her life as a result. [MJL]

1964-12-14 - December 14, 1964 - First GFD Use Of CPR Forerunner - Firefighters used the closed-chest heart massage technique for the first time on a woman who suffered a heart attack and sank beneath water in her own tub. The responding GFD members, Larry Bradley and Jerry Wheeler from Rescue Squad, were able to save her life as a result. [GFFHS]

1965 - Class 3 Fire Rating - The GFD received a new Class 3 fire insurance rating based on a 10 class scale. The lower the class, the better the fire department protects property from fire. [GFFHS]

1965-09-09 - September 9, 1965 - Consolidation of City Fire and Police Communications - The Fire Communications system was consolidated with the Greensboro Police Department's into the city's new Communications Operations, located in the City Finance building at 208 North Greene Street. This allowed fire stations to receive notification of alarms through various mediums including telephone, public address, radio, and box alarms. [GFFHS]

1965-10-27 - October 27, 1965 - Retirement of Fred Truelove - Assistant Chief and head of the Fire Prevention Bureau, Fred Truelove, retired. He had been with the GFD since September 1926. [GFFHS]

1965-08-15 - August 15 - The Cedar St. Grill at 1008 South Cedar Street caught fire. [MJL]

1965-10-18 - October 18 - J.E. McCarter was voted Fireman of the Year by the Greensboro Jaycees. [MJL]

1965-03 - March - Overhead wires throughout the city were determined to be a hazard during fire control operations. [MJL]

1965-10-27 - October 27 - Assistant Chief and head of the Fire Prevention Bureau, Fred Truelove, retires. He had been with the GFD since September 1926. [MJL]

1966-02-28 - February 28 - Daniel Lumber Company on Stanley Road caught fire. [MJL]

1966-02-28 - February 28 - Greensboro's Human Relations Commission looks into integrating all fire stations. By this point, only Station 4 had black firefighters. [MJL]

1966-03-28 - March 28 - Captain D.C. Costner (AKA Mr. Rescue) presents the idea of a specialized rescue task force to the Armed Services committee. This task force included a heavy-duty rescue truck, a specialized ambulance, and an additional third vehicle. [MJL]

1966-03-28 - March 28, 1966 - Specialized Rescue Task Force - Captain D.C. Costner (a.k.a Mr. Rescue) presents the idea of a specialized rescue task force to the Armed Services committee. This task force included a heavy-duty rescue truck, a specialized ambulance, and an additional third vehicle. [GFFHS]

1966-03-31 - March 31 - Carter Electric Company at 2420 High Point Road and Dunning Industry at 217-219 Lewis Street both caught fire. [MJL]

1966-04-12 - April 12 - The Human Relations Commission presented its integration plan to the city council. [MJL]

1966-06-21 - June 21 - R.L. Powell was promoted from Assistant Chief of Fire Training to the new position of Deputy Chief of Operations. [MJL]

1966-06-23 - June 23 - R.W. McCollum Company at 107 West Meadowview Road experienced an explosion. [MJL]

1966-07-07 - July 7 - An 18-year-old worker performing an excavation to examine Duke Power underground cables at West Gaston Street, now Friendly Avenue, survived a trench collapse that left him buried under three feet of earth and a bolder for 20 minutes. [MJL]

1966-07-07 - July 7, 1966 - Duke Power Accident - An 18-year-old worker performing an excavation to examine Duke Power underground cables at West Gaston Street, now Friendly Avenue, survived a trench collapse that left him buried under three feet of earth and a bolder for 20 minutes. [GFFHS]

1966-08-13 - August 13 - Bonitz Insulation Company at 411 Prescott Street caught fire. [MJL]

1966-08-20 - August 20, 1966 - International Association Of Fire Chiefs - Chief Wyrick was elected the 1st Vice President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. [GFFHS]

1966-09-03 - September 3 - City Manager George Aull announced a 5% pay increase Fire and Police employees. [MJL]

1966-09-03 - September 3, 1966 - Pay Raise - City Manager George Aull announced a 5% pay increase for Fire and Police employees. [GFFHS]

1966-10-22 - October 22 - Hemingway Transport Inc. at 3037 High Point Road caught fire. [MJL]

1966-11-02 - November 2 - James “Jaye” Wilbur Lewis was voted Fireman of the Year. [MJL]

1966-12-05 - December 5 - A study was conducted to evaluate the city’s fire alarm system. [MJL]

1967 - Full Departmental Integration - The Department finally implemented full integration per the Human Relations Commission's proposal to the Greensboro City Council by transferring all but four of the black firefighters at Station 4 to other previously all-white stations. [GFFHS]

1967 - New “Firefighter II” classification was developed. All firefighters with at least five years of experience were eligible for the examination process that qualified them for the new classification. The exam had three parts - a written exam, an oral interview, and a performance evaluation. [MJL]

1967 - The firefighter work week was shortened from 72 to 66 hours per week. [MJL]

1967-05-20 - May 20, 1967 - Worth Chemical Company Fire - One of the most dangerous fires in Greensboro history occurred in the early morning hours at the Worth Chemical Company warehouse at 503 South Spring Street. The central portion of the warehouse was engulfed in flames after several dangerous chemicals exploded. GFD firefighters particularly struggled to combat the blaze due to water reactive hydrosulfite stored inside the building. [GFFHS] [GDN, 5/20/67]

1967-06-27 - June 27 - GFD firefighters squabbled with the City Manager, asking for a higher tax rate. This would provide GFD members with shorter hours, higher pay, and more personnel. The City of Greensboro budget, however, stayed put. [GR, 6/27/67]

1967-06-27 - June 27, 1967 - "Magnificent Seven" - 10 firefighters were dismissed when they failed the qualifications of the Department’s Rookie School. The seven firefighters who remained in the class are sometimes referred to as the “magnificent seven.” [GFFHS, GR, 6/27/67]

1967-08-01 - August 1 – GFD determined the need to build and/or relocate six new fire stations before the end of the decade to maintain adequate city fire protection. [MJL]

1967-08-04 - August 4 - Firefighters demanded a grievance meeting with the City Council to request a 56-hour work week, 10% increase in salary, city-provided group hospital and life insurance, job classification with more rank and pay scales, information on comp coverage, and a meeting with the City Manager, press invited. [MJL]

1967-08-04 - August 4, 1967 - Firefighters' Grievance Meeting Demands - Firefighters demanded a grievance meeting with the City Council to request a 56-hour work week, 10% increase in salary, city-provided group hospital and life insurance, job classification with more rank and pay scales, information on comp coverage, and a meeting with the City Manager, press invited. [GFFHS]

1967-08-08 - August 8, 1967 - "Slowdown Strike" - A firefighter representative involved in the dispute with the City proposed a semi-strike, or "Slowdown" that would halt firefighters' work on aspects such as painting and grounds care. Also, three veteran firefighters were ordered to repeat basic training, including a representative in the city dispute. Chief Wyrick said this order was not a punishment. [GFFHS]

1967-08-16 - August 16, 1967 - Uniform Change - Starting in the summer of 1968, firefighters were allowed to wear short sleeve uniform shirts. [GFFHS]

1967-08-19 - August 19 - Firefighters began threatening stronger measures and a possible walkout if their concerns with the city were not evaluated. Some even hand in two-week resignation notices. [MJL]

1967-08-24 - August 24 - City Manager conceded and agreed to negotiation with the firefighters. [MJL]

1967-08-26 - August 26, 1967 - Resolution of Inner-GFD Conflict - After firefighters threatened tougher action and a possible walkout, the City Manager conceded to negotiating terms. The agreement that resulted included the reduction in hours of firefighters from 72 to 66 hours a week and a new Firefighter II classification. All firefighters with at least five years of experience were eligible for the examination process that qualified them for the new classification. The exam had three parts - a written exam, an oral interview, and a performance evaluation. [GFFHS]

1969 - Brush truck added, 1969 Dodge/Reading with Hale pump. [Legeros on FB, <https://www.facebook.com/LegerosFire/posts/3698032953558239>] [MJL]

1969-07-01 - July 1, 1969 - Chief C. W. Wyrick retired after 47 years of service.

1969-07-01 - July 1, 1969 - Fire Chief Wuchae - G.C. "Buck" Wuchae appointed Chief of Department. He had served the GFD since 1939. By this time, Wuchae had already introduced or suggested new policies such as the removal of neckties while on the job, enclosed cabs for all new trucks, new helmets with plexiglass shields, and a 56-hour work week for firefighters. These all subsequently became a firm reality under his tutelage as Chief. [GFFHS]

1969-10-23 - October 23, 1969 - Automobile Rescue Techniques - GFD trained in automobile rescue techniques with instructor Jim Finnison, Director of Guilford County EMS. He taught that it was best to take the car away from the injured person or persons in order to minimize injuries. [GFFHS]

1969-12-02 - December 2 – Three alarms at George C. Brown Lumber Company on West Lee Street, now Gate City Boulevard. [MJL]

1969-12-31 - December 31, 1969 - Firefighter II Jesse C. Gray became the department's first line-of-duty death. He was 26 and was struck by a pumper after he had stepped off the tailboard. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at Mose Cone Hospital. [90] [01]

1970 to 1979

1970 - [1971 – Last newspaper reference to "Greensboro Rescue Squad." Did the city/county unit cease operation around this time? Was it still operated by GFD?] [MJL]

1970-01-22 - January 22 - Fire at Textile Metals and Plastics at 128 Edwardia Drive. [GDN, 1/22/70]

1970-02-07 - February 7 – Fire at Dockery Lumber and Hardware Company at 3011 East Market Street. [GDN, 2/7/70]

1970-02-10 - February 10, 1970 - Three-Platoon System - The three-platoon shift was enacted. This split firefighters into A, B, and C shifts and reduced work hours per week from 66 to 56. [GFFHS]

1970-02-08 - February 8 – New Station 8 at 2201 Chapman Street opened, later named Coliseum Boulevard. The new station included a memorial to the late firefighter Jesse Gray. [Check for alt. date of February 20.] [MJL]

1970-02-08 - February 8, 1970 – Old Station 8 on Lee Street was closed.

1970-02-22 - February 22, 1970 - A new Fire Science Technology Degree was created [at the local college?]. [GFFHS]

1970-04-23 - April 23, 1970 - GFD Pay Raise - Firefighters again asked for a raise from the city budget that would give them pay scales on parity with the Greensboro Police Department, GPD. “Slowdown” tactics were used again and while a 5% pay increase was given to the GFD, pay was still not on par with that of the GPD. [GFFHS]

1970-06-19 - June 19 – Fire at Essa’s Supermarket at the intersection of Gorrell and High Streets. [GDN, 6/20/70]

1970-10-12 - October 12 – Fire at White Cross Pharmacy at 218 South Elm Street downtown took firefighters until the daylight hours of October 15 to finally extinguish the blaze. [GDN, 10/12/70]

1970-10-14 - October 14, 1970 - The Nightmare Day of October 14 - This was a chaotic day and night for the Greensboro Fire Department. The GFD responded to 37 calls just overnight and 22 fires over the course of the entire day. One fire was particularly brutal. After a lit cigarette was negligently left on a bale of cotton at the Greensboro Bonded Warehouse, a huge conflagration developed that required the collective response of all on and off duty GFD firefighters. The fire completely totaled the brick and wood warehouse structure, and it took firefighters until the daylight hours of the 15th to finally extinguish the blaze. [GFFHS]

1970-12-12 - December 12, 1970 - White To Blue Uniform Change – Dress uniforms of a white shirt and dress slacks was replaced by navy blue shirts and slacks, worn while they were on duty and during routine work. [GFFHS]

1971 - Station 15 on West Cone Boulevard opened. [MJL-FFH]

1972-04-15 – New aerial apparatus delivered around this time, 1972 ALF 100 Series Aerochief articulating platform, 80-foot. Serial #13-1-2785. Cost \$85,000. Placed in service May 9, 1972, as Snorkel 1. [MJL fleet]

1972-10-13 - October 13 - Two men were buried in a trench cave-in at a construction site at 4800 Lawndale Drive. A new apartment complex named Meadow Oaks was under construction and no shoring was used. [MJL]

1972-10-15 - October 15, 1972 - Car Wash Destroyed - An explosion and fire destroyed Bob’s Car Wash No. 4 at 1703 Battleground Avenue. [GFFHS]

1972-10-21 - October 21, 1972 - Station Expansion Plan - A plan was drafted by the Department that called for four additional fire stations by 1980. [GFFHS]

1972, circa – Light truck body remounted on newer chassis, onto a 1972 International Harvester. [MJL fleet]

1973 – Starting this year, all new fire apparatus were painted yellow, following a trend at the time around the country, where yellow colors were purported to be more visible at night than red colors and therefore safer. [MJL]

1973 - Three-Battalion Department – With the opening of Station 12 and Station 14, the department added a third battalion. [GFFHS]

1973 – First Hahn pumpers delivered. Five were delivered between 1973 and 1975. [MJL fleet]

1973-01-17 - January 17, 1973 - First Female Radio Operator - A woman, 21-year-old Deborah Voornis, was employed as a radio operator for the combined fire and police city communications for the first time. [GFFHS]

1973-02-12 - February 12 – Fire at a school building owned by Guilford College and located at the intersection of Spring and Washington Streets. [MJL]

1973-02-25 - February 25, 1973 - Large Fire Near Downtown - The offices of seven dentists and one chiropractor caught fire at 1011 Friendly Avenue. From one view at the resulting smoke cloud, it looked as if the entirety of downtown was on fire. [GFFHS]

1973-03-14 - February 14 - Fire at Three Fountains North Complex along McKnight Mill Road. [MJL]

1973-07-03 - July 3, 1973 – First Black Fire Captain - Howard Snipes of Station 14 became the first black firefighter promoted to the rank of Captain. [GFFHS]

1973-07-17 - 1973, July 17 - Station 12 opened at 1805 Pisgah Church Road by this date. It was later renumbered Station 40. [MJL-STA]

1973-07-17 – July 17, 1973 - Station 14 opened at 3633 Summit Avenue by this date. [MJL]

1973-08 - August - The Greensboro Fire Fighters' Association started raising money to help fund a new Burn Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. [MJL]

1973-09-03 - September 3 – Fire at US Agri-Chemicals Company along Broome Street. [MJL]

1973-10-08 - October 8 – Two alarms at Morisette Paper Company at 1311 South Eugene Street. [MJL]

1973-10-09 - October 9 - Danny Shumate named “Rookie Fireman of the Year.” [MJL]

1973-11-07 - November 7 – Three alarms at N.C. Savings & Loan League at 1024 Homeland Avenue and another fire occurred at the Modern Café and a nearby warehouse along the 200 block of South Davie Street. [MJL]

1973-12-28 - December 28, 1973 - Country Club Fire - Starmount Forrest Country Club suffered its second clubhouse fire in less than 20 years after the prior structure was destroyed in a 1956 fire. [GFFHS]

1974 – Three ALF aerial ladders delivered in 1974 and 1975: Series 1000, Pacemaker, Century. All were rear-mounts. [MJL fleet]

1974 - Hazardous materials response capability organized. [01]

1974-02-01 - February 1 - A fire occurred at Lane's Rexall Drug Store at the corner of Elm Street and Friendly Avenue. [MJL]

1974-02-11 - February 11, 1974 - Summit Shopping Center Fire – The shopping center was destroyed. [GFFHS]

1975 - Station 15 opened at 1400 Vandalia Road. It was renamed Station 48 in 2006. [MJL-STA] The construction bids were awarded on June 3, 1974. [NR, 6/4/74]

1976-01-15 - January 15, 1976 - O' Henry Hotel – One worker died in the fire at the famous downtown home, which was centered in/near Room 501. The fire did not spread and some 30 people in the hotel were rescued by the GFD in time. However, the fire was the final nail in the declining hotel and helped precipitate its tearing down by the end of the decade. [GFFHS]

1977 – Squad program started. Two squads were in service by August 1, 1977. Each were assigned maxi-pumpers built on commercial two-door chassis by E-One. (GR, 8/1/77]

1977-07-01 – July 1, 1977 - Fire Chief George C. “Buck” Wuchae retired by this time.

1977-07-01 - July 1, 1977 - R. L. Powell was named new Chief of Department. He immediately set plans in place for the Department to anticipate major target hazards, begin a Signal 3 invalid identification program, improve city wide fire coverage, and implement a Quick Response Vehicle for emergency 911 calls. [GFFHS]

1977-11 - November 1977 - Class 2 Fire Rating - The GFD received an upgraded Class 2 fire insurance rating from the National Insurance Services Office, ISO. Greensboro’s fire department is the first in North Carolina to receive the rating. [GFFHS]

1977-07-01 - July 1 - Fire Chief George C. “Buck” Wuchae retired and was superseded as Fire Chief by R. L. Powell. He immediately set plans in place for the Department to anticipate major target hazards, begin a Signal 3 invalid identification program, improve city wide fire coverage, and implement a Quick Response Vehicle for emergency 911 calls. [MJL]

1977-04 - April - This year’s recruit class was the first certified as North Carolina Emergency Medical Technicians. [MJL]

1977-08 – August – Bids were awarded to E-One for three maxi-pumpers for use as squad units. The city budgeted \$105,000 for the three. They replaced 1962 and 1963 panel vans used as rescue trucks. Delivery was expected within 90 to 120 days. (GR, 7/29/77]

1977-12-07– December 7, 1977 – QRV/squad program started with three units activated at Stations 5, 7, and 11. Assigned two firefighters who were also EMTs. Operated E-One maxi-pumpers. Carried Hurst tools for extrication. Each carried 300 gallons of water and 20 gallons of foam. Would respond to vehicle fires, car accidents, and other “rescue alarms.” (GR, 7/29/77]

1978 - 1980 - Fire Education Programs - GPD fire education programs grew to a total of 13 by 1980, at which point they served every quadrant of the city. [GFFHS]

1978-07-01 - July 1, 1978 - First Female Firefighters - GFD hired its first two female firefighters. [GFFHS]

1978-07-21 – July 21, 1978 – Squad _ overturned on West Florida Street near Luray Drive at 1:55 a.m. while responding to a call. The 1977 GMC/E-One maxi-pumper, 250/300, was responding to a call "with a team of emergency medical technicians" when it attempted to pass an automobile. As the Squad passed and pulled to the left of the second vehicle, the car made a sudden left turn. The apparatus operator

swerved to avoid a collision and the Squad overturned. The two firefighters aboard suffered minor injuries and were treated and released at the hospital. The driver of the second vehicle was charged with "failure to heed the lights and siren of an emergency vehicle." (____, 7/21/78]

1979 - First Patch - Firefighters began wearing a patch on all uniforms for the first time. [GFFHS]

1979-07-19 - July 19, 1979 – New Station 16 on High Point Road opened. As a result, from this date, 95% of the city was within a four-minute response time. It was renamed Station 52 in 2006. [GFFHS]

1980 to 1989

1980-07-22 – July 22, 1980 - New Station 1 opened at 1514 N. Church Street. [MJL-STa]

1980-07-22 – July 22, 1980 - Old Station 1 at 318 N. Greene Street closed after 54 years. Engine 2 was relocated to Station 2. The other units were relocated to new Station 1. The building was later sold to a private owner and later became part of a new hotel. [MJL-STa]

1980-07-22 – July 22, 1980 - Old Station 3 at 2315 Yanceyville Street closed. Engine 3 was moved to new Station 1 on North Church Street. No new Station 3 was opened. The old station was sold to a private owner who played to convert the building to a daycare center. City council approved the sale for \$40,850 on October 6, 1980. [NR, 10/7/80] [MJL-STa]

1981-03-02 - March 2, 1981 - Firefighter's Electrocution – Firefighter Glenn R. Johnson was electrocuted through his aerial ladder when it struck a still-live, thought to have been shut down, high voltage wire while he was on the job. Other firefighters quickly performed CPR at the scene and saved his life. He returned to work in just two weeks. [GFFHS, GDN, 3/4/81]

1981-07-01 - July 1, 1981 - Carolina Theater Fire - A fire occurred at the 54-year-old Carolina Theater in downtown Greensboro. [GDN, 7/2/81]

1982 – The hazardous materials team was created and housed at Station 8. It was equipped with an engine with a limited amount of equipment and resources to ensure quicker response. [MJL]

1984-11-12 – November 12, 1984 – Station 17 opened on Lake Brandt Road. Temporary facility, based at a house bought by the city. No attached garage. Engine 17 is staffed by personnel from Engine 1, now out of service. [NR, 11/13/84]

1984-11-12 – November 12, 1984 – Station 18 opened at New Garden and Ballinger road. Temporary facility, based at a house bought by the city. Had a small attached garage and the engine did not fit completely. A metal apparatus bay was later added. [NR, 11/13/84]

1984 - The First GFD Commemorative Book was published this year [GFFHS]

1984-01-30 - January 30, 1984 - Roadway Emergency Landing – Cessna private plane attempted an emergency landing on Cone Boulevard after running out of fuel. Though it avoided striking any property and most utilities along the road, it collided with a car and a single utility pole. The impact with the car killed the pilot and one of the passengers of the plane while two other passengers suffered only minor injuries. [GDN, 1/31/84]

1985-04-13 - April 13, 1985 - Davie Street Fire - The largest fire in the city's history, involving several buildings on both sides of the 300 block of South Davie Street. Likely started due to a discarded cigarette. First reported just before 11:00 p.m. Contained by 2:36 a.m. the next morning. Crews remained on site for

11 days to fully extinguish smoldering debris. At its height, the conflagration enveloped seven or eight buildings on both sides of Davie Street, threatened nearby Elm Street, and led to the deployment of 96 firefighters. Only the efforts of GFD and a change in wind direction prevented the fire from spreading further. The heat was so intense at one point that it melted a fire hose right off a hydrant. Several firefighters suffered injuries battling the blaze. One person was killed, a 35-year-old homeless man, Rozelle Bryant. The fire severely damaged or destroyed eight buildings, left an economic toll in the millions, and became a national news story. [GFFHS]

1986 - 1987 - City Mission Statement - Greensboro City Manager Bill Castarphen lead the drafting of a city-wide mission statement that provided a template for city government actions and decisions. It resulted in various GFD committees and employees assessing current operations against the statement's own goals and objectives. [GFFHS]

1986 - Fifth Grade School Program - By this point, the Fifth Grade School Program, which taught local elementary students about CPR, smoke detector placement, industrial fire drills, evacuation plans, and fire extinguisher classes, was highly successful and reached about 40,000 students each year. A large part of its success around this time was the addition of a talking fire hydrant character named Hosee, developed by Captain Kerry Hensley and built by Firefighter Bill Brown. Hosee traveled across the state, performing for children and adults alike. [GFFHS]

1986-07-11 - July 11 - Retired Fire Chief Calvin Weatherly "Moon" Wyrick died. [MJL]

1986-01-01 - January 1, 1986 - Retirement Annuity – The city set aside funds for a matching annuity for GFD firefighter retirement. This contribution amounted to 3% of a firefighter's salary. It was later raised to 5% in January 1989. [GFFHS]

1986-03 - March 1986 - Incident Command System - The Training Division began a six-month training program on the Incident Command System, ICS, developed recently as a fireground management system. This was one outcome of the Davie Street Fire in 1985, where deficiencies were identified in fireground communication and the overall response during the firefighting. [GFFHS]

1987 – New Station 18 opened at 5903 Ballinger Road. [MJL-FFH]

1987-02-15 - February 15, 1987 – Commercial structure fire at A-1 Rentals at 510 North Elm Street nearly caused the death of multiple firefighters, after they were trapped in the intensifying blaze. One of these firefighters, Captain Lonnie "Chuck" Smith, ran out of oxygen and suffered severe burns to the back of his neck, ears, and hands. The fire was successfully contained and extinguished before it spread any further. The Department was highly praised for its actions at the fire in the local newspaper. [GFFHS] [GDN, 2/16/87]

1987-06 - June 1987 - Departmental Mission Statement plan presented following an eight-month committee process. [90] [01]

1987-06-14 - June 14 1987 - Captain Raymond J. Cockman, 49, and brother of Captain Larry Cockman, died of a heart attack while leading a training exercise. [MJL]

1987-07-31 - July 31, 1987 - Enhanced 9-11 started operation. It allowed a 9-1-1 caller to immediately reach an emergency call taker who could then direct a call to the proper emergency service agency. In addition, if a caller were unable to communicate, a dispatcher could identify the address of the caller's location. [GDN, 8/1/87]

1987-08 – August, 1987 - Captain Larry Cockman named North Carolina State Fireman of the Year [MJL]

1987-09-30 - September 30 – R. L. Powell, the fourth Chief of Department, retired with 41 years of service. [MJL]

1987-10-01 - October 1, 1987 - Training Supervisor Walter Frank Jones appointed as Fire Chief, to succeed Chief Powell, who retired a day earlier [GFFHS]

1987-10-30 - October 30, 1987 - Train Crash – Two alarms were struck after a Norfolk Southern freight train with 57 cars and carrying 2,000 gallons of gasoline collided with an 8,000-gallon tanker truck at Chimney Rock Road and West Market Street crossing. The spilled flammable petroleum caused a huge fireball that spread quickly. Between the GFD foam engine and nearby Guilford College FD, the fire was under control in 25 minutes and declared extinguished over an hour after it started. [GFFHS]

1987-11-09 – November 9, 1987 – New Station 17 opened at 4504 Lake Brandt Road. This followed the annexation of new areas outside the city. It was later renumbered Station 41. [GFFHS]

1987-12-14 – December 14, 1987 – Station 19 opened at 6900 Downwind Road. This followed the annexation of new areas outside the city. [GFFHS]

1988 - Battalion And Management Restructuring – The first major structural reorganization of the in 12 years added a fourth battalion and four new management divisions that sectioned off job roles within GFD. These included Administrative Services, Emergency Services, Prevention Services, and Resource Management. [GFFHS]

1988 - Return To Red Fire Trucks - Due to a strong response from GFD and the public—as well as industry changes—GFD reversed apparatus colors from yellow back to red. The national public acceptance of red as the standard fire truck outweighed other benefits. Truck 5 was the first vehicle changed back to red. [GFFHS]

1988 - By this year, the GFD had 346 members with 16 stations, 18 engine companies, 5 ladder companies, and 4 squads. [GFFHS]

1988 - Summer - The Greensboro Firefighters Association gathered to discuss and address issues with GFD management's adherence to the Fair Labor Standards Act. [MJL]

1988-02 - February – First GFD management retreat was held to define organizational philosophy and goals, and help determine its direction moving forward and what/how department directives should be carried out. [MJL]

1988-03 - March 1988 - GFD Emergency Calls Committee - A committee was formed to address manpower allocation for GFD emergency calls. It evaluated each aspect of the Department's structure and how it either supports or inhibits proper and efficient manpower allocation. [GFFHS]

1988-03-21 - March 21, 1988 - L. Richardson Pryor Federal Courthouse Fire - A midday downtown fire occurred at the L. Richardson Pryor Federal Courthouse. Due to the time and place of the fire, hundreds in the downtown area came out to watch firefighters battle it. Although an earlier water main break caused concerns about available water, the fire was controlled in under an hour. [GFFHS]

1988-04-28 - April 28, 1988 - Fire Code Fines - The Greensboro City Council authorized fire inspectors to write citations for code violations at a fee of \$25 per violation. [GFFHS]

1988-05 - May - An arson program was created with Police and the Fire Prevention Bureau. The program assigned a police detective to provide for joint action and proper enforcement. [MJL]

1988-06 - Opticom traffic signal control system started development. The technology allowed firefighters to change a red light to a green light while approaching an intersection, while responding on emergency calls. [MJL]

1988-06 - June 1988 - Fair Labor Standards Act - The Greensboro Firefighters Association gathered to discuss and address issues with GFD management's adherence to the Fair Labor Standards Act. [GFFHS]

1988-06-30 - June 30, 1988 - Greensboro Firefighters Association rechartered as IAFF Local 947. [90] [01]

1988-09-15 - September 15, 1988 – Station 6 on Westover Terrace closed after 41 years of service. [GFFHS]

1988-10-15 - October 15, 1988 - First Departmental Awards Ceremony - The first ever awards ceremony was held. Commendations and a Medical Life Saving Award were presented at the ceremony. Employees voted on selections and Chief Frank Jones was selected as Employee of the Year. [GFFHS]

1989 - Company Fire Inspection Program - The Company Fire Inspection Program was deemed a success as 20 fire companies conducted 3,313 inspections of stores and offices. The number of fires in these properties decreased by 53%. [GFFHS]

1989 - Expansion Of Fire Service Funding - The City Council adopted additional revenue for fire service activities including plan review, building re-inspections, hazardous material response, and fire reports. [GFFHS]

1989 - Firefighter III Classification - A Firefighter III classification and certification was established. [GFFHS]

1989 - Sara Compliance - To comply with the federal act, SARA, and a growing number of hazmat incidents, the GFD expanded its hazardous material response with additional hazmat training, additional hazmat equipment, and the relocation of the Hazardous Materials Team to Station No. 16. [GFFHS]

1989 - Special Recruitment Team - A special recruitment team was created in order to actively pursue applicants for fire positions. [GFFHS]

1989 - Supplemental pay started for Medical/Rescue Technicians (squad persons) [MJL]

1989 - Technical Rope Response Team was created and established at Station 5 in order to anticipate the possibility of a high angle rescue. [GFFHS]

1989 - The Opticom traffic system was targeted for 33 major city intersections. [MJL]

1989-05-06 - May 6, 1989 – Day of Intense Storms - Major storms across the city led to 83 storm-related calls, ten fires and 49 calls for downed powerlines on this day. [GFFHS]

1989-09-00 - September 1989 - Departure of James Baugh - Former Deputy City Manager James Baugh left the position and Greensboro for a job as city manager in Longview, TX. He served in the role for 10 years and was instrumental in navigating the fire and police departments through turbulent periods of growth and transition. [GFFHS]

1989-09-05 - September 5, 1989 – Station 20 opened at 8404 West Market Street. This was the first fire station where GFD personnel became involved in the overall planning of the building. [GFFHS]

1989-09-21 - September 21 - A three-alarm industrial fire at LaRoche Industries, Inc. at 500 Broome Road occurred as Hurricane Hugo approached Greensboro. It caused \$4,000,000 in damages. [MJL]

1989-09-21 - September 21, 1989 - Hurricane Hugo Response - Hurricane Hugo hit Greensboro with 50 mph winds. GFD responded to over 100 storm-related calls. [GFFHS]

1989-12-12 - December 12, 1989 - Jones Brothers Bakery Building Fire – Fire destroyed most of the historic Jones Brothers Bakery Building. Since demolished, the building was built in 1928 and was one of Greensboro's most historically significant buildings for its architecture. [GFFHS]

1990 - 10,000 Calls - GFD responded to over 10,000 calls for the first time this year. [GFFHS]

1990 - By the end of the year, there were 361 GFD personnel among 23 fire companies. [MJL]

1990 - Fire Station Satellite Programming - Satellite programming came to all fire stations with the addition of the Fire and Emergency Television Network, FETN. [GFFHS]

1990 - Firefighter III Certification - All GFD firefighters became certified to the Firefighter III classification level according to the standards given by the North Carolina Fire & Rescue Commission. [GFFHS]

1990 – Snapshot: GFD has 20 stations and more than 300 personnel. [01]

1990 - Second Commemorative Book chronicling the history of the GFD was published. [MJL]

1990 - Training Division introduced new Interspiro High Pressure Breathing Apparatus, which replaced the Scott SCBA. [MJL]

1990 - High-Level Rescue Team activated at Station 5. [MJL]

1990 - Minimum Company Standards Program started. [MJL]

1990 - Fire Hydrant Inspection Program started. [MJL]

1990 - Truck 5 was replaced with a 1990 Sutphen Aerial Tower. It was later relocated to Station 10 as Truck 10. [MJL]

1990 - The Hazardous Materials Team received a new P-Series Van. [MJL]

1990-01-12 - January 12, 1990 - Bennett College Dorm Fire – Fire at Merner Hall at Bennet College damaged a dormitory room and an adjacent second floor hallway. The cause of the blaze was an overloaded electrical extension cord [GFFHS]

1990-08-29 - August 29, 1990 - Second New Home Building Supply Company Fire – Three alarms were struck at New Home Building Supply Company at 507 Houston Street. Three firefighters on the scene were treated for heat exhaustion. The blaze caused another, smaller fire to flair on a nearby passing train, but it was quickly extinguished. [GFFHS]

1990 to 1999

1991 - Greensboro Rescue Squad disbanded. [MJL-RH]

1991 - The Supply Division also issued [the first?] positive pressure ventilation fans to all truck companies as well as new, improved fire helmets that complied with new National Fire Protection Association guidelines. [MJL]

1991 - The Supply Division purchased and issued Nomex hoods. These hoods covered and protect portions of a firefighter's head from intense heat that are not covered by the helmet and face mask. [MJL]

1992 - New Station 5 opened at 1401 Westover Terrace. [MJL-STAJ]

1992 - Old Station 5 at 1816 W. Friendly Avenue closed. [MJL-STAJ]

1992-08 - August - GFD Captain Dennis Pinnix named the "North Carolina State Fireman of the Year." [MJL]

1992-02-01 - February 1, 1992 - Class I Insurance Rating – GFD was awarded the prestigious Class 1 insurance rating by the Insurance Services Organization. It was the first fire department in North Carolina to receive the rating and was one of only a handful of departments nationwide to hold the rating at the time of its elevation. [GFFHS]

1993 - Fire Chief Frank Jones retired. [MJL]

1993 - First Black Fire Chief – Deputy Fire Chief Ray K. Flowers was promoted to Chief of Department. He became the first black Fire Chief. He was one of the first black firefighters hired in 1961 and steadily rose through the ranks after GFD fully integrated in 1967. [GFFHS]

1993 - International Fire Department Accreditation Project Test Site - Greensboro applied to the International Association of Fire Chiefs to serve as a Beta Test Site for the Fire Department Accreditation Project. The application was ultimately accepted, and Greensboro was selected as a site with the Planning & Research Officer being named as the Project Coordinator. [GFFHS]

1993 - Level I Inspector Certifications - Thirteen 40-hour classes were held on the North Carolina State Building Code to certify all captains and firefighters as Level I inspectors. [GFFHS]

1993 - Technical rescue program implemented. [01]

1993 - The 41st Recruit Class graduated on March 19th with 27 new firefighters followed by the graduation of the 42nd Recruit Class on December 23rd with 15 new firefighters. [MJL]

1993 - Refurbished Engine - Old Engine 6, a 1924 American LaFrance was refurbished for three years by the Fire Garage at a cost of \$9,000. It had been rusting away since around 1960. It was unveiled as "Engine 1" at a Christmas Parade on December 11, 1993. [GFFHS]

1993-05-10 - May 10, 1993 - Piedmont Hardwood Dry Kiln Company Accident - An accident at the Piedmont Hardwood Dry Kiln Company left a man bleeding internally after falling in a silo and becoming trapped. He was rescued in just 35 minutes and quickly transported to the hospital. Doctors later said that had he arrived at the hospital even 12 minutes later, he likely would have died. [GFFHS]

1994 - Fire Prevention Bureau Improvements - For the first time since its inception in 1950, the Fire Prevention Bureau conducted over 10,000 inspections. Major improvements to the line safety program by this year resulted in a 600% increase in the number of persons reached and a 41% increase in the number of programs delivered. These improvements were attributed to the reassignment of the Schools Inspector to the Public Fire Education Coordinator. [GFFHS]

1994-05-24 - May 24, 1994 - Construction Worker Fall - Firefighters and EMS personnel rescued a construction worker after he fell four stories down an empty elevator shaft on the NC A&T campus. [GFFHS]

1994-06-05 - June 2-5 - GFD co-hosted the 66th Annual North Carolina Fire College. [MJL]

1994-08 - August - GFD Captain Skip Nix named the North Carolina State Fireman of the Year. [MJL]

1994-10-18 - October 18, 1994 - New Garden Academy Carbon Monoxide - GFD firefighters evacuated young children at the New Garden Academy in Greensboro after carbon monoxide fumes were reported at the preschool. [GFFHS]

1995 - Urban search and rescue capability established. [01]

1995 - Methods of Instruction Course delivered to all GFD company officers. The certification training required 56 hours of instruction, three oral presentations and the completion of the North Carolina state exam. Every GFD officer completed it by May and increased the number of instructors in GFD to almost 160. [MJL]

1995-11-17 - November 17, 1995 - The 43rd Recruit Class graduated with 24 new firefighters. This was also the first class to complete the course of instruction before graduation. [GFFHS]

1996-02-02 - February 2, 1996 - Ireland House Fire - A fire at the historic Ireland House, completed in 1904, destroyed its interior. The house was built by a wealthy Greensboro family who exerted great influence in the community during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. [GFFHS]

1997 - The 44th Recruit Class graduated with 24 new firefighters on February 14 and the 45th Recruit Class graduated with 17 new firefighters on October 2. [MJL]

1997 - The Supply Division started an initiative to replace turnout gear every five years. All newly ordered PPE was equipped with blood borne pathogen protection, and no firefighter forward would wear PPE that was older than five years. [MJL]

1997-06-12 - June 12-15, 1997 - GFD co-hosted the 69th Annual North Carolina Fire College. [MJL]

1997-08-25 - August 25, 1997 - International Accreditation - GFD received international accreditation and its accreditation manual later became a “national model” for fire departments across the country. [GFFHS]

1998 - Growing Training Hours - For the first time in GFD history, total training hours topped 100,000. [GFFHS]

1998 - Hazardous materials operations and regional response responsibilities expanded. [01]

1998 - Success of the Line Company Fire Inspection Program - Success continued for the Line Company Fire Inspection Program. Since its inception in 1993, fire loss within business properties in Greensboro had decreased by around 33%. [GFFHS]

1998 - State Fire Officer Certification Program develop. GFD was the Alpha Test Site for the program, and the Training Division played a key role in its implementation. The outcome of many months of data collecting and testing allowed nine GFD members to receive the Fire Officer I Certification. [GFFHS]

1999-01? - Deputy Fire Chief Johnny W. Teeters appointed Chief of Department. One of immediate actions was implementing a Vision-Centered Leadership Process that reorganized the Leadership Team,

Planning & Research Division, and the Fire Prevention Bureau to better accomplish the new Department Vision. He also adopted the Community Involvement & Communications Plan in order to focus on the needs of the Greensboro community, implemented a plan for the merger of GFD with Guilford College FD, and adopted the Cooperative Strategic Plan for Colfax, Greensboro, Guilford College, High Point, and Pinecroft-Sedgefield fire departments. [MJL]

1999-01-01 - January 1 - Fire Chief Ray Flowers retired. He was superseded by Deputy Chief Johnny W. Teeters after an extensive job search that included applicants from outside GFD.

1999-03-09 - March 9 – Major fire at the Regency Apartments complex on Pisgah Place. No one was injured and damages were estimated at about \$475,000. [MJL]

1999-09-17 - September 17, 1999 - Hurricane Floyd Disaster Relief Team - A GFD disaster relief team was sent to communities in Eastern North Carolina to assist in the wake of damage and high-water floods caused by Hurricane Floyd. [GFFHS]

1999-10-26 - October 26 – One person and two pets died in a townhome fire in the western part of the city in Hamilton Woods along Tower Road. [MJL]

2000 to 2009

2000 - New Station 17 opened at 6405 Old Oak Ridge Road. [MJL-STa]

2000 - New Station 18 opened at 5903 Ballinger Road. [MJL-STa]

2000 - New Uniform Patch Design - Designed by Chris Bowman, a new uniform patch was adopted for all newly issued clothing. [GFFHS]

2000-01-01 - January 1, 2000 – Fire Investigators at Station 1 - Fire investigators began working 24-hour shifts out at Station 1 [and were dispatched to] all working structural fires. [GFFHS]

2000-01-26 - January 26 - Three people died in an early morning fire at 2804 Azalea Drive. [MJL]

2000-01-30 - January 30, 2000 - Ice Storm - A major ice storm caused power outages and building collapses throughout Greensboro. [GFFHS]

2000-03 - March - Recruit Class 47 graduated. [MJL]

2000-03-23 - March 23, 2000 - Funds Increase Request - GFD sought funds for additional staffing and request \$2.2 million budget increase to hire additional firefighters and comply with new federal safety regulations. [GFFHS]

2000-03-30 - March 30, 2000 - Holland Chemical Acid Spill - A 6,000-gallon hydrochloric acid spill occurred at Holland Chemical, 2 Segal Boulevard. [GFFHS]

2000-04-01 - April 1, 2000 - Charity Flag Football - GFD's flag football team "The Heat," played the Greensboro Police Department's "Enforcers" in the First Annual Charity Flag Football Game. Over \$2,500 were raised for the benefit of flood victims in the Outer Banks region of North Carolina. [GFFHS]

2000-04-17 - April 17, 2000 - Quints - All Truck Companies equipped with pumps were designated "Quints" to better describe their functions. This designation continued until [goes here]. [GFFHS]

2000-05-25 - May 25 – Violent storm(s) struck Greensboro, Guilford, and Alamance Counties with 82-mph winds and one-inch hail. [MJL]

2000-07-14 - July 14, 2000 - **Burtner's Appliances Fire** – Three alarms were struck at Burtner's Appliances at 310 South Elm Street. With 92 firefighters from 25 companies, who fought the fire through early-morning hours.[GFFHS]

2000-08 - August - GFD Captain Chuck Whitworth named the North Carolina State Fireman of the Year. [MJL]

2000-08-24 - August 24, 2000 - "Remembering When" Program - GFD became the first department to be trained in teaching senior citizens home safety measures. Insurance Commissioner Jim Long announced the kickoff of the "Remembering When" program at the GFD Training Center. The Program included 16 messages that focused on fire and fall injury prevention. [GFFHS]

2000-09-09 - September 9, 2000 - Flight 913 Incident – The DC-9-30 bound for Atlanta, GA, returned to PTI airport after reported of smoke in the cockpit. City and county and airport fire units responded. [GFFHS]

2000-10-26 - October 26, 2000 - Factory Solvent Spill - A solvent spill caused a blaze that destroyed 45,000 square feet of South/WIN Ltd. factory space. There were no injuries, and 20 people were evacuated from the building at 2410 Binford Street. Flames reached some 50 feet at the height of the fire. [GFFHS]

2000-11-00 - November 2000 - Company Reductions - Engine and Quint companies were reduced to four personnel each. Overtime was used to fill vacant positions. [GFFHS]

2001 – GFD operated 25 stations serving more than 220,000 residents. [01]

2001-03-19 - March 19, 2001 - GFD hosted a CSX Transportation North Carolina Table-Top Exercise. Over 80 people representing police, fire, and EMS from across North Carolina gathered for the exercise involving a simulated train derailment. [GFFHS]

2001-04-16 - April 16, 2001 – GFD Guilford College FD Merger – The merger with Guilford College FD took effect on this date. The city obtained personnel, apparatus, and the fire station on Old Oak Ridge Road. [GFFHS]

2001-06-22 - June 22, 2001 - Media College - The First Annual Media College was held at the Training Center. [GFFHS]

2002 - Greensboro Fire Department 75th Anniversary Commemorative Book – This was published and documented the history of the fire department from 1926-2001 as well as pictures and information about the department in 2001. [GFFHS]

2002-04-10 - Captain William J. "Jackie" Beard, 56, died of a heart attack while leading a live burn for recruits at a house on Church Street. [Legeros web, <https://www.legeros.com/history/fallen/database.pdf>] [MJL]

2003 - Station 43 at 4854 Lake Jeanette Road renamed from Station 3. It was later renamed Station 46 in 2006. [MJL-STA]

2005 - Fire District 14 Fire Department merged with GFD, with career members, apparatus, and their station transferred to the city. Their station on Franklin Boulevard became GFD Station 56. [Legeros on FB, <https://www.facebook.com/LegerosFire/posts/4231689620192567>] [MJL]

2005 - Station 56 opened at 820 Franklin Boulevard as a GFD facility. It was formerly operated by Fire District 14 FD. [MJL-STA]

2005 - New Station 11 opened at 2602 South Elm-Eugene Street. The fire companies were relocated from old Station 11, located across the street. [MJL-STA]

2005-05-02 - May 2, 2005 - Wrapped Bus Initiative - A special, “Wrapped,” Greensboro Transit Authority bus designed in collaboration with GFD was unveiled. It had safety messages and fire prevention information. (Firehouse magazine, May 3, 2005, <https://www.firehouse.com/photo-story/article/10545874/wrapped-gta-bus-educates-residents-on-fire-safety-and-prevention-in-greensboro-nc>. [GFFHS])

2006 – New Station 21 opened at 2870 Horse Pen Creek Road. [MJL-STA]

2006 - Station 48 at 1400 Vandalia Road renamed from Station 15. [MJL-STA]

2006 - Station 49 at 4302 West Friendly Avenue renamed from Station 9. [MJL-STA]

2006 - Station 52 at 1000 Meadowood Road renamed from Station 16. [MJL-STA]

2008 - Centennial anniversary of Greensboro’s motorized fire department observed. [MJL-FFH]

2008-07-01 - July 1, 2008 - Station 57 opened at 1539 Mt. Hope Church Road. [GFFHS]

2008-12-15 - December 15, 2008 - Fire Chief Johnny Teeters Retired - Chief Teeters retired from the GFD with 44 years of service as a firefighter, captain, battalion chief, assistant chief, deputy chief, and fire chief. [GFFHS]

2009 –Station 53 opened at 2013 Willow Road. [MJL-STA]

2009-04 - April 2009 - Greg Grayson hired as new Chief of Department. He was previously the Fire Chief in Asheville for nine years. [GFFHS]

2010 to 2019

2010-06-13 - June 13, 2010 - Colonial Pipeline Gas Tank Farm Fire – Major fire at the Colonial Pipeline tank farm. Caused by a lightning strike, the fire was aided by a problem with the gas tank farm’s electrical grounding system. It was extinguished in record time, in just five-and-a-half hours. [WXII News, June 13, 2010, <https://www.firehouse.com/operations-training/news/10466176/blaze-hits-nc-gas-tank-farm>] [GFFHS]

2011-07-01 - July 1, 2011 –Station 61 opened at 105 Vandalia Road.[GFFHS]

2011-10-09 - October 9 - Captain Will Caviness, 35, died off-duty while running the 2011 Chicago Marathon. He was on pace to eventually qualify for the Boston Marathon. (NC State AFL/CIO, October 11, 2011, <https://aflcionc.org/tragic-death-of-greensboro-firefighter-during-chicago-marathon/>) [GFFHS]

2014-01-30 - January 30, 2014 – Four firefighters injured on Elm Street - A fire at an auto repair shop on Elm Street in downtown Greensboro led to the hospitalization of four firefighters. The building collapsed as the firefighters were inside battling the blaze. Each firefighter sustained only minor or non-life threatening injuries. [Greensboro News & Record, January 30, 2014, https://greensboro.com/news/videos-building-collapsed-moments-after-firefighters-entered/article_acbf9084-89d8-11e3-9f07-0017a43b2370.html] [GFFHS]

2014-02-28 - February 28, 2014 - Major fire at the Carriage Village Condos on Friendly Avenue. Six units were destroyed. No injuries or deaths were reported. [FOX8 News Greensboro, February 27, 2014, <https://myfox8.com/news/crews-battle-apartment-fire-in-greensboro>] [GFFHS]

2014-09-08 - September 8, 2014 –Station 59 opened at 3803 Reedy Fork Parkway. [GFFHS]

2015-06-29 - June 29, 2015 –Station 63 opened at 4306 Burlington Road. [GFFHS]

2015-06-30 - June 30, 2015 - Fire Chief Greg Grayson Retirement – Chief of Department Greg Grayson retired to take a position with the Office of the State Fire Marshal. (Greensboro-nc.gov, May 25, 2015, <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/Home/Components/News/News/6893/>) [MJL]

2015-11-01 - November 1, 2015 - Ray Warren Homes Apartment Fire - An apartment fire at Ray Warren Homes along East Gate City Boulevard hospitalized a mother and three children who were trapped inside their burning apartment. They were rescued by neighbors and arriving firefighters. [FOX8 News Greensboro, November 2, 2015, <https://myfox8.com/news/neighbors-try-to-rescue-family-during-greensboro-apartment-fire/>] [GFFHS]

2015-12-00 - December 2015 - Rank Advancements - 10 firefighters advanced in rank; one to division chief, one to battalion chief, one to captain, three to lieutenant, and four to engineer. [Greensboro News & Record, by Staff Reports, December 14, 2015, https://greensboro.com/townnews/work/greensboro-fire-department-promotes-10/article_5e628d1d-304f-575f-98b8-37cfee55e4e.html] [GFFHS]

2016-02-00 - February 2016 - Permanent Fire Chief Named - Interim Fire Chief Bob Nugent was named as the permanent Chief of Department. [WXII News Greensboro, February 26, 2016, <https://www.wxii12.com/article/bobby-nugent-named-greensboro-fire-chief/2062645>] [GFFHS]

2016-03-22 - March 22, 2016 - Biltmore Hotel Explosions - Two explosions at the Biltmore Hotel destroyed 46 windows and caused other minor damage. The cause was a problem with underground electrical wiring. [Greensboro News & Record, March 22, 2016, https://greensboro.com/news/local_news/biltmore-hotel-repairs-damage-from-sunday-explosions-remains-open/article_f790dfd1-0f46-5741-9b3e-1fb913f85571.html] [GFFHS]

2017-05-27 - May 27 – City council proposed a 7.5 percent salary increase for police and fire department personnel to improve stalling recruitment numbers. This budget proposal was later approved in a 6-3 vote on June 20. [Greensboro News & Record, June 20, 2017, https://greensboro.com/news/state/greensboro-council-approves-budget-with-raises-for-police-officers-firefighters/article_6a299f60-5da7-59f8-a741-02ff7ea5d5.html] [GFFHS]

2017-08-27 - August 27, 2017 - Hurricane Harvey Response - 20 members of the Swift Water Rescue Team were deployed to Louisiana in order to assist in swift water rescues. This deployment worked in tandem with the Charlotte Fire Department, which provided the urban search and rescue component. [Greensboro News & Record, August 31, 2017] [GFFHS]

2018-01-05 - January 5, 2018 - Rapid Calls Increase During Cold Weather - Over a three-day period, GFD saw a 50% increase in daily service calls due to unusually cold weather caused by a “Bomb Cyclone.” (Firehouse Magazine, January 5, 2018, <https://www.firehouse.com/community-risk/news/12389534/greensboro-nc-increase-in-fire-calls-cold-frigid-bomb-cyclone-firefighter-news> [GFFHS])

2018-05-12 - May 12, 2018 - **Summit Avenue Apartment Fire** – Five children were killed after an accidental fire at a low-income, refugee family’s apartment at 3100 Summit Avenue led. The fire sparked criticisms of the apartment complex’s management and lack of attention to repairs, leading the city to condemn the complex on housing violations. However, GFD investigators determined the cause as unattended food left on the stove. [Greensboro News & Record, by Jennifer Fernandez, May 18, 2018, https://greensboro.com/news/local_news/unattended-cooking-led-to-fire-that-killed-5-children-in-greensboro-fire-department-says/article_39fa5507-8448-5915-87ef-c553c79a9010.html [GFFHS]]

2018-05-30 - May 30, 2018 - Western North Carolina Flooding Response - 23 firefighters from the Swift Water Rescue Team deployed to Western North Carolina to anticipate possible flood rescues. [WXII News Greensboro, by Steve King, May 30, 2018, <https://www.wxii12.com/article/greensboro-firefighters-sent-to-western-nc-amid-flooding/20969428> [GFFHS]]

2018-07-31 - July 31, 2018 - Dixie Building Flood Scare - The historic Dixie Building in downtown Greensboro suffered a flooding scare when water was reported to be pouring into the basement. The building was evacuated as a precaution, but it was declared safe later that day. [Greensboro News & Record, by Richard M. Barron and Carl Wilson, August 1, 2018, https://greensboro.com/news/local_news/greensboros-dixie-building-reopens-after-flooding-scare/article_9cb37c0e-4cf7-5b85-a6e0-acec58aefe42.html [GFFHS]]

2018-08-31 - August 31, 2018 - Puppy Rescue – GFD and GCEMS members revived a puppy after it stopped breathing in a house fire. (WFMY News 2 Greensboro, August 31, 2018, <https://www.wfmynews2.com/article/life/heartwarming/puppy-rescued-revived-in-greensboro-house-fire/83-589838921> [GFFHS])

2018-10-09 - October 9, 2018 - Sulfur Stench Around Downtown Greensboro - A rotten sulfur stench permeated throughout downtown Greensboro and surround areas. The cause was determined as caused by a crew digging up and transporting organic, “sludge,” material from where the old, abandoned section of White Oak Mill was located near the corner of 16th and Fairview Streets. [CBS 17 News Greensboro, October 9, 2018, <https://www.cbs17.com/news/it-smells-like-poop-greensboro-fire-department-investigates-citywide-stench/>] [GFFHS]

2019-01-15 - January 15, 2019 - **Bessemer Elementary School Fire** – Fire in an occupied mobile classroom at Bessemer Elementary School during a physical education class. The teacher and students were all evacuated safely, and the fire was extinguished quickly. [Greensboro News & Record, by Jessie Pounds, January 15, 2019, https://greensboro.com/news/local_news/mobile-classroom-at-bessemer-elementary-catches-fire-no-students-injured/article_608a33a1-dcee-5ca5-bf5c-3c01c7c2120c.html [GFFHS]]

2019-01-23 - January 23, 2019 - Firefighter Training at Lincoln Financial Building – During renovations at the downtown Lincoln Financial Building high-rise, GFD had the rare opportunity to conduct realistic high-rise training simulations. [Greensboro News & Record, by Danielle Battaglia, January 23, 2019, https://greensboro.com/greensboro-firefighters-get-rare-chance-to-train-inside-the-lincoln-financial-building/article_c571a816-ea59-5c89-b1d7-ffb91a797884.html [GFFHS]]

2019-03-15 - March 15, 2019 - First Married Couple Firefighters Training Together - For the first time, a married GFD couple trained together. The husband worked at Station 5 and the wife worked at Station 63. [FOX8 News Greensboro, March 15, 2019, <https://myfox8.com/news/greensboro-firefighter-couple-trains-together-for-the-first-time>] [GFFHS]

2019-06-26 - June 26 - City Council approved two construction designs for two new fire stations to rebuild Stations 7 and 56. This allowed demolition and reconstruction to start, which moved the companies at both stations to temporary facilities. [FOX8 News Greensboro, by Tess Bargebuhr, June 26, 2019, <https://myfox8.com/news/greensboro-fire-department-approved-to-demolish-rebuild-2-fire-stations/>] [MJL]

2019-06-26 - June 26, 2019 – Designs Approved for Two New Stations - The Greensboro City Council approved two construction designs for two new fire stations to rebuild Stations 7 and 56. This allowed demolition and reconstruction to start, which moved the companies at both stations to temporary facilities. [FOX8 News Greensboro, by Tess Bargebuhr, June 26, 2019 <https://myfox8.com/news/greensboro-fire-department-approved-to-demolish-rebuild-2-fire-stations>] [MJL]

2019-07-07 - July 7 - Flash flooding at the Pinecroft Place Apartments led to flooding of doorsteps and nearby roads. [WFMY News 2 Greensboro, by Laura Brache, July 8, 2019 <https://www.wfmynews2.com/article/news/local/a-lot-of-people-are-taking-a-major-loss-tenants-demand-solutions-at-pinecroft-place-apartments-after-more-flooding-from-storms/83-7dcd3243-8481-461f-8af2-76ae1a98dd10>] [MJL]

2019-09-00 - September 2019 - History Book Committee - Retired Battalion Chief Larry Cockman, active and other retired firefighters as well as private citizens formed the Greensboro Firefighters History Book Committee to record both written and audiovisual documentation of the history of the GFD. [GFFHS]

2019-09-03 - September 3, 2019 - Hurricane Dorian Response - 42 members of GFD deployed to Kinston in eastern North Carolina to anticipate possible flood rescues as a result of Hurricane Dorian. [WFMY News 2 Greensboro] [GFFHS]

2019-09-11 - September 11, 2019 - Eighth Annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb - Around 400 people climbed up and down the stairs at the Bellemeade Parking Deck nine times at the Eighth Annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb in order to equal the highest number of flights of stairs NYFD firefighters climbed in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. [Greensboro News & Record, 9/14/19] [GFFHS]

2020-Present

2020-01-08 - January 8, 2020 - Moses Cone Hospital Car Fires - Seven cars caught fire at the Moses Cone Hospital parking deck after one car's engine accidentally sparked. That car, along with another, was destroyed. The other cars suffered damage, but no one was injured. [WXII News Greensboro, <https://www.wxii12.com/article/7-cars-catch-fire-in-parking-deck-at-moses-cone-hospital/30441326>] [GFFHS]

2020-01-16 - January 16, 2020 – EMS Base/Fire Station 7 - The Guilford County Board of Commissioners approved its \$1.7 million portion of the new, combined EMS Base/Fire Station 7. [Greensboro News & Record, January 16, 2020] [GFFHS]

2020-02 - February 2020 – Retiree Interviews - Retired Battalion Chief Larry Cockman and others started/were conducting interviews with retired GFD firefighters to add to the historical record of the Greensboro Fire Department and to give them the opportunity to tell their stories as part of the Greensboro Firefighters History Book Committee. [FOX8 News Greensboro, by Natalie Wilson, January 30, 2020, <https://myfox8.com/news/greensboro-firefighters-stories-being-preserved-in-history-book/>] [GFFHS]

2020-04-03 - April 3, 2020 - COVID Safety Measures – To limit the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, GFD implemented a number of safety measures including having only two firefighters leave a vehicle to respond to a call, having firefighters use protective gear if a patient has the coronavirus, and decreasing call response by 30-35% to focus on life-threatening situations. [GFFHS]

2020-04-15 - April 15, 2020 - First COVID Infection- The first Greensboro firefighter tested positive for COVID-19. [Greensboro News & Record, April 15, 2020] [GFFHS]

2025-05-21 – May 21, 2020 – Station 7 at 1064 Gatewood Avenue closed.

2025-05-21 – May 21, 2020 – New Station 7 opened in temporary quarters at 715 Elwell Avenue. Engine 7 was relocated to the site, a modular building with a metal garage. Ladder 7 was relocated to temporary quarters at Station ___. [MJL]

2020-06? – June? 2020 – Demolition started at Old Station 7 at 1064 Gatewood Avenue. [MJL]

2020-06-17 - June 17, 2020 - GFD Personnel Group Infection - Eight GFD members tested positive for the coronavirus. It was later reported that these positive tests were traced to an annual, non-work-related golf trip. [WXII News Greensboro, June 17, 2020, <https://www.wxii12.com/article/greensboro-north-carolina-coronavirus-firefighters-positive/32894034>] [GFFHS]

2020-07 - July 2020 - Hose Down Events – During the pandemic, GFD and Parks and Recreation held community “hose down” events for socially-distanced residents to bring and cool people outdoors during the hot summer. Most pools were closed during the pandemic. [WXII News Greensboro, July 21, 2020] [GFFHS]

2020-08-27 - August 27, 2020 - New drill tower was used for the first time. The new structure was erected on the site of the 1956 drill tower, which was demolished. [Spectrum News1 News Greensboro, by Kaitlin Miller, August 24] [GFFHS]

2020-09-02 - September 2 – Fire Chief Bob Nugent announced his retirement, effective January 31, 2021. (Rhino Times, by John Hammer, September 3, 2020) [MJL]

2021-01-31 - January 31, 2021 – Deputy Fire Chief Graham "Jim" Robinson III started serving as new Chief of Department. He was selected on December 23, 2020, to replace retiring Fire Chief Bob Nugent. [GFFHS]

2021-11-15 – November 15, 2021 – New Station 7 opened at 1064 Gatewood Avenue. [MJL]

2021-12-20 – December 20, 2021 – New Station 7 at 1064 Gatewood Avenue dedicated. The \$8 million combination fire and EMS station was built on the site of the old station. [MJL]

2020 – Station 56 at 820 Franklin Boulevard closed.

2020 – New Station 56 opened in temporary quarters on Cole Street. [MJL]

2022-05-25 – May 25, 2022 – New Station 56 opened at 820 Franklin Boulevard by this date.

Dedicated on May 25, 2022. Engine 56 relocated from temporary quarters behind the site, in a prefabricated building facing Cole Street. The replacement station was built beside the former fire station, which originally housed Fire District 14 Fire Department. The old station was demolished. [MJL]