

The Fire Museum of Maryland
1301 York Road
Lutherville, MD 21093

Fire Museum News

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November 2006

Cast Iron

In the late 1880s, Baltimore counted among its major industries one of the largest foundries in the northeast that produced architectural ironwork. Cast iron was cheap to use, could be molded and repaired easily. Buildings made from cast iron could be erected quickly and quality of design remained very high. It was thought that cast iron would be fire resistant. But cast iron cracked and crumbled when cold water was used to extinguish fire. Many of Baltimore's cast-iron buildings were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1904. Most of the remaining buildings were gradually torn down to make way for new downtown development. Of the approximately 80 cast iron buildings that graced Baltimore prior to the Great Fire, only 9 are still in existence.

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Volunteers Rescue Fire House!

On a cold and blustery day in January 2006, an intrepid band of volunteers set forth from Lutherville on a rescue mission into the City.

Their job? To save a cast iron Fire House façade from extinction.

Erected in 1872 for Engine Co. No.8, the fire house was abandoned by the fire department in 1912 as it was far too small for modern apparatus. Having sat empty for a number of years it was now facing the wrecking ball.



Thanks to the efforts of Phil Hildebrand who acted to save the façade; and to the work of volunteers and staff members who transported the pieces to the Museum; an important part of Maryland's fire service history was rescued and will be preserved for future generations.



WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE SURVIVOR?

The façade is the only known example of a cast iron fire house façade ever erected in Baltimore City and we believe the only one of its kind in Maryland. It is a unique portrayal of the cast iron construction methods so the preservation and exhibition of this façade will enable us to interpret Maryland history from a totally different perspective.

The Fire Museum plans to restore and place on exhibit the remains of the only cast iron fire house façade used in Baltimore. The goal is to clean, paint and erect the pieces onto a steel frame that will be attached to the main west wall. Large photo murals will be used to fill in the images of the doors, horse harnesses and brick portions. This exhibit will be the focal point for interpreting the lives of the fire fighters and machines of the last quarter of the 19th century.

TJI! We have
been awarded a
\$4,000 grant
from Preservation Maryland
towards this restoration



Annual Museum Events



Lantern Night
Last Saturday in October
October 27, 2007



Founder's Day Motor Muster
2nd Saturday in September
September 8, 2007

*"Save the dates
for 2007"*



Steam Show & Muster
2nd Saturday in June
June 9, 2007

PLEASE HELP

Annual Fund
The Fire Museum of Maryland is a non-profit organization; we rely on memberships, grants, and donations from members and friends for our operations.

I would like to help the Fire Museum with its preservation and education programs. Enclosed is my contribution to the Annual Fund of:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 other \$ _____ (please circle amount)

Enclosed is my check for: \$ _____

Please charge my Visa/MC account: # _____ exp: ___ / ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

e-mail: _____ Tel: _____

The Fire Museum of Maryland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and as such all contribution are fully deductible in accordance with current IRS regulations.
A copy of the audited financials may be obtained by writing to FMM at 1301 York Rd, Lutherville, MD 21093.
Additional information is on file with the Maryland Secretary of State

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Museum on the Road



Each year vehicles from the Museum's collection take part in a number of parades and events. 2006 saw us at:

Preakness Parade * COP Rally * Towson 4th of July Parade * Harborplace Thanksgiving Parade * Mayor's Christmas Parade

To keep a museum open requires money, time, people, and also gifts in kind – goods & services that companies donate.

We sincerely appreciate ALL donations and would like to single out the following for their special gifts:

F.M. Stevenson & Co. who made and installed an awning for the side entrance;

Steve Waters of Fireline Corporation for increasing by 50% their donation to the Annual fund;

Brooks-Huff-Goodyear, who completed a 3-year pledge to give 6 new tires for the floodlight wagon;

Heidler Roofing for repairing cracks in the Museum roof.

Museum on the Rails

A favorite holiday activity for visitors is coming to the Museums Train Garden . We would like to thank volunteers, Curt Elie, John LaCosta, Jim Derreth and 'Brownie' Brown for keeping the trains running on schedule.



The familiar figure of Board Member and long time volunteer, Bob Bichmann will be missing from the Train Garden crew this year. Bob died in September while on vacation with his family; he will be sorely missed.

Work on the Collections

Every Tuesday volunteers give of their time to work on the wonderful apparatus in the collection.

In 2006, volunteers Lee Smith, Merlin Hanson, Len Brown, Jim Derreth, 'Brownie' Brown, Mark Hannon, David Weldon as well as Isabel, Tom, Melissa and Steve Heaver worked on restoration and maintenance. The following are just some of their accomplishments this year:

- Installed unique (one of a kind) hood and front fenders on the **1916 Mack High pressure engine**.

- Sanded and refurbished **1901 swing doors** from Truck 11 (donated in 2005 by the Maryland Institute).
- Cleaned & painted the engine block, installed water pump and new radiator core and also replaced brake tubing on the **1947 Floodlight Wagon**.
- Repaired rear fender and steering, finished rebuilding the raising cylinders on the **1898 Hale water tower**.

On March 11th we held our annual Cleaning Day.

35 volunteers helped spruce up the collection, polishing and cleaning prior to the summer opening day In September, a great group of people from Fireman's

Fund Insurance spent the day working on the apparatus and in the archives when they volunteered their time to the Museum



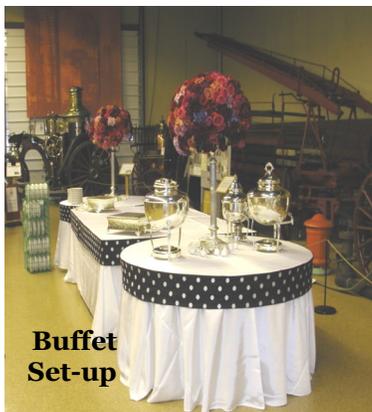
Thank you all very much!



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*Preserving the Past,
Protecting the Future*

Why not hold your next party or meeting at the Museum?



Buffet Set-up

The Fire Museum of Maryland provides a unique and colorful setting for your event, where guests can be entertained among steam pumping engines, giant hook-and-ladder trucks, and elaborate ceremonial parade vehicles used by early volunteer fire companies. It is possible to rent the whole museum or one or more rooms in the museum depending upon the event.

- **F**ormal or seated dinners, lunches and wedding receptions.
Rehearsal dinners, receptions and cocktail parties.
Meetings and Seminars.
Breakfast meetings and tours.
- **T**he Museum can accommodate different numbers of guests for different types of functions: 15—360 people.
- **C**ontact us at 410-321-7500 for more information.

The HOTTEST Birthday Parties are NOW at the COOLEST place!

Turn up the heat and get ready to plan your child's next birthday party at the neatest place in town

A private, temperature-controlled party room for you and your guests for 2 hours. Unlimited use of our fantastic children's Discovery Room where party-goers can dress up as fire fighters and sit behind the wheel of a 1938 Mack fire engine!

Party guests receive free admission to the Museum the day of the party, fire safety and prevention materials and an opportunity to join our ever-growing membership program at a discounted price.



Call: 410-321-7500 to schedule a party.