

Downtown Cary Fire Stations

By Mike Legeros, October 2002

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Cary Fire Department

In 1923, the first Cary fire station was erected, a metal building in a location described in 1935 as “more remote” than the “main part of town.”

(1) In 1935, the fire station building was moved behind the Masonic Lodge at the corner of Chatham and Academy streets, the present site of Ashworth’s Drug Store. The tin shed also housed the town road grader. The building was removed in 1952.

(2) In 1952, a new fire station opened in a small building adjoining the Town Hall at 100 W. Chatham Street.

(3) In 1954, a second fire department building was erected on East Cedar Street, originally named Railroad Street. The tin shed housed additional apparatus and was named Station 2. The building is still standing.

(4) By 1964, the Public Utilities building located behind the fire station temporarily housed the fire department’s service ladder truck.

(5) In 1965, Station 1 relocated to 100 N. Academy Street. The one-story building had three apparatus bays, plus two basement bays facing Cedar Street. In 1992, Station 1 relocated to 1501 N. Harrison Avenue and the old fire station was converted to fire department administrative offices.

Yrac Fire Department

(A) In 1960, the Cary Fire Department was split into two entities: one run by the town and a private group, to protect areas outside of town. Named the Yrac Fire Department, their first fire station was a rented garage behind Cricket’s Service Station on Ward Street. It was used from 1961 to 1966.

(B) In 1966, a permanent Yrac fire station was opened at 325 E. Durham Road. The building is still standing.