



PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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One of California's oldest Fire Houses is on the move again!

The Menlo Park Fire District's 1899 Fire House is on the move again. The 119 year old "Carriage House" is one of the oldest Fire Houses in the State and this will be its third and hopefully final move to the District's new Fire Station 6, located at 700 Oak Grove Avenue in downtown Menlo Park.

Pictured below – The 119 Fire House was being disassembled Wednesday at its soon to be former location at the Fire District's Headquarters Fire Station 1 located at 300 Middlefield Road where it was moved to in 1955, or 63 years ago - **Credit Menlo Fire**



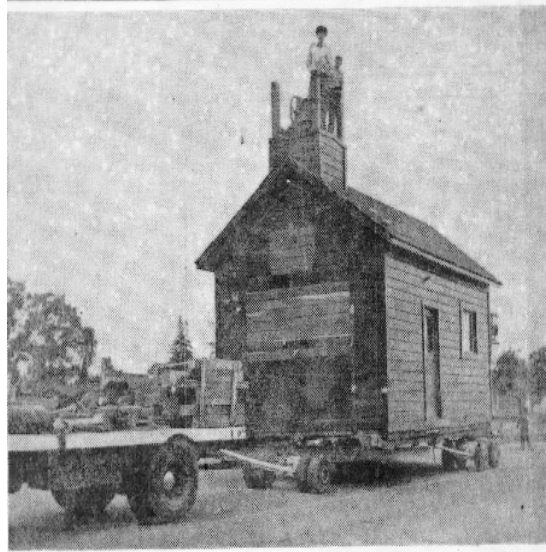
The little Fire House was built in 1889 by the Volunteer Firefighters in preparation for a Bell and horse drawn Hose Wagon, both acquired in 1900. Its original location was along the Southern Pacific Rail Line on Merrill Street.

Its first relocation occurred in 1918 when it was moved across and down Merrill Street to make room for the expansion of the Menlo Rail Station during World War I and the building of the Army's Camp Fremont in Menlo Park.

Pictured below – The 1899 Carriage House can be seen during the annual community ‘Fire Prevention Show and Night Drill’ held sometime in the late 1940’s and attended by thousands of Menlo Park residents at the Headquarters Fire Station located on Merrill Street – **Credit Menlo Fire**



The Fire Districts first multi-bay Headquarters Fire Station needed for larger motorized fire apparatus was built in 1919 and located at 1077 Merrill Street. The Headquarters Station was moved to 300 Middlefield Road in 1955 and the old building was demolished in the 1980's to make way for Menlo Center, home to Kepler's Books and Café Borrone but the Carriage House was preserved and moved in its entirety to the new Station in 1955 as **shown in the newspaper article below.**



RETIRED FIREHOUSE—Menlo Park's original firehouse takes a ride from old fire headquarters at 1077 Merrill St. to the new headquarters station at Middlefield Road and Santa Monica Avenue. The district's first fire station, built before the turn of the century, will be used as a museum at the rear of the new headquarters to display a horse-drawn fire wagon and other firefighting relics. Originally located on Merrill Street between Santa Cruz and Oak Grove avenues, the old frame station later was moved to 1077 Merrill St. where it was used for storage. Its second move was completed yesterday and this morning. As a museum it will stand in sharp contrast to Menlo Park Fire District's new \$140,000 structure.

The 1899 Carriage House is one of eighteen remaining Menlo Park buildings built in the 1800's. The Bell and horse drawn Hose Wagon will follow when the building is moved, reassembled, upgraded with a new sprinkler system and repainted.

Pictured Below – The Fire District's 1900 horse drawn Larkin Hose Wagon built in San Francisco is one of the oldest and well preserved pieces of early original horse drawn fire equipment in the State – **Credit Menlo Fire**



Fire Chief Schapelhouman said “We’ve been planning on relocating the Carriage House and this Historical Gem for over 10 years.. By moving it back to the West side of Railroad Tracks and very close to where it was once originally located in 1899 and soon to be at our new and more accessible Fire Station 6 complex located at 700 Oak Grove Avenue will be an important move forward in not only preserving an important part of the communities disappearing history but also co-locating it in the much more traveled and populated down town Menlo Park corridor, so more people can come to see and enjoy it”.



Pictured above – The new Fire Station 6 opened earlier this year and the entire complex is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year- **Credit Peter Mootz Fire Photographer**

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