





The ancestry of today's Trenton Fire Department dates to the February, 1747, formation of the Union Fire Company.

A second pre-Revolutionary group, the Hand-in-Hand Company, was organized on April 2, 1772, but suspended operations from December, 1776 to February 11, 1779.

Volunteer firefighting brigades were added early in the 19th century,

beginning with Resolution in 1804.

Delaware, Eagle, Trenton Hose, Good Will and Harmony were all in place by 1850.

Protection Hook and Ladder was formed by Germans, and Hand-in-Hand spun off America Hose in 1859.

South Trenton was serviced by the Ossenberg Company starting in 1873, the same year Washington Hook and Ladder started.

Liberty Engine followed and Mutual was the last volunteer company formed, in 1886.

By 1892, it was clear that a heavily industrialized city needed fulltime firefighters.

The disbanding of the volunteers was accomplished in a day and night of civic celebration.

April 2, 1892 was unseasonably warm, as throngs of Trenton's residents lined the streets to watch the remaining 12 fire companies parade with all their equipment and all their men in uniform, behind brass bands.

One thousand volunteers marched and there were 650 diners at that night's Turner Hall banquet.
At midnight, fireworks and tolling bells rang out the era of the volunteer companies.

By October 1, 1918, the Trenton Fire Department was fully mechanized, with 27 pieces of apparatus.

It now consists of seven engine companies, three ladder companies and a rescue company.

Founded to deal with fires only, today it provides hazardous material, extrication, high-angle rescue, water rescue, trench rescue, and numerous other services.

The preservation of this history was the reason The Fire Museum of Trenton was founded in 1959 by Fire Captain (now retired) Edward Gore. In 1974, it was renamed for its co-founder and first curator, Meredith Havens.

The Museum has accumulated a collection of firefighting artifacts and memorabilia, enhanced by the acquisition of the Walter F. Smith collection of local and national firefighting objects. Some 4,000 items and 680 historic photographs now make up the collection.





















Please join

The Preservation Committee of
The Trenton Historical Society
to celebrate Trenton history
and support Restore Trenton! Grants at

Stop the Wrecking Ball an elegant evening in a historic space

Saturday, November 22, 2014 from six until nine o'clock

Trenton Fire Museum Trenton Fire Headquarters

244 Perry Street, Trenton, New Jersey

Hors d'oeuvres, open bar L live music Silent auction of items related to Trenton history Firefighting then L now on view Black tie encouraged

## Trenton Historical Society Trustee Board

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## Stop The Wrecking Ball Committee

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We actively promote preservation of Trenton's architectural heritage Since its founding in 1919, the Trenton Historical Society has celebrated and defended the rich heritage of New Jersey's capital city. through advocacy and our Restore Trenton! grant program, acquire and preserve artifacts of Trenton's past, and provide educational programs to the public.

expertise are needed to fulfill Trenton's promise of a modern city that hasn't forgotten its illustrious past. Please take a moment to fill out Join us as we use the past to build the future. Your dollars, time and this form and mail it and your check to:

Trenton Historical Society
P.O. Box 1112
Trenton, NJ 086606
Email: society@trentonhistory.org
(609) 390-4478

		\$20	\$35	\$100	\$250
Enclosed are my dues:	Student	Individual	Family	Business	Patron

## www.trentonhistory.org

Stop the Wrecking Ball	THS Member \$75 (paid by November 17th)  Non-member \$85 □ Patron \$150  Ticket & Membership \$105		I/We are unable to attend, but wish to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$	Payment can be made online with PayPal or by check mailed to Trenton Historical Society, P.O. Box 1112, Trenton, N.J. 08606
Stop the 1	☐ THS Member \$75 (paid by November ☐ Non-member \$85 ☐ Patron \$150 ☐ Ticket & Membership \$105	I/We're attending! We need	I/We are unable to attend, but contribution of \$	Payment can be n or by ch Trenton Historical Society, P

Name:	
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preserving and enhancing the character of Trenton's historic buildings. Ampie iree parking located behind fire HQ, within Allen Street lot. to repair or replace exterior architectural details and features, which enables owners of historic residential properties and the Restore Trenton! Grant Program, the Trenton Historical Society Proceeds benefit