

The Olden Days

A Summary of Rochester History

Rochester, New Hampshire 1722 – 1936

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The long-awaited Fire Station was ready for occupancy and opened to the public for inspection on February 6, 1905. The building committee was proud of this fine new building, especially since they had kept well within the building fund.

There was even a balance left over of \$1,486.61. Part of this was to be used for two new sets of double harness.

The building, set well back from the street on the city lot, was of brick with granite trim. The inside was of hard pine sheathing. The main room was large with room for a hook and ladder truck, a hose wagon and a steamer.

At the front were large double doors. At the back were doors opening into the horse stalls. A door at the rear was large enough to admit the hook and ladder truck, which could go through a passage to the main room. On each side of the passage were four horse stalls. Hay and grain could be brought down for the horses through tubes from the room above. There were also ventilating shafts. The manure could be swept into a vault below.

As well as hay and a grain room on the second floor were quarters for the firemen. There was a separate room for each of the fire companies. For quick descent, in case of an alarm, poles ran from these rooms to the floor below. A long row of lockers held uniforms and boots.

The long needed building seemed satisfactory in every respect and promised to make fire service more adequate.

On Thursday of the opening week the Fire Station was to be dedicated, entertainment was planned as well as a supper and dancing.