

A History of the
Fire Department
From 1835 to 2013

All rights reserved.

No part of this material may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission, in writing, from the author, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages, in a review.

Although the author has exhaustively researched all sources, to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in this book, he assumes no responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions or any other inconsistency herein.

Jack E. Hauck



Wenham common, showing: 1) first engine house, built 1836; 2) second engine house, built 1849; 3) third fire station, built 1901; and 4) current fire station, built 1964. (Adapted from Bing Maps)

FIRE COMPANIES

Fighting fires, in Wenham, has come a long way from the early colonists and their leather bucket brigades and the shouted alarm, "Fire, fire, fire!"

To fight fires, towns had a wooden tub with a manually operated pump and a hose mounted on a wheeled cart. When responding to an alarm, volunteers hauled, by hand, the empty tub to the fire. Once there, volunteers formed two bucket lines for filling the tub: one line brought filled buckets to the tub from a well or some other source of water; the other line sent the empty buckets to be refilled. Two or three men on each side of the tub operated the pump, while others would direct the hose at the fire.⁸

By law, every household was supposed to have a fire bucket to take to fire scenes. Each bucket had a family name on it, so that each could be returned to the owner after the fire.



Fire company standing with Enon 1, 1897. Fire house was just to the right.
(Photo courtesy of Wenham Museum)

For all of the 1600s and 1700s, there were no fire departments. This, being near a source of water, a creek or pond, was very important fire insurance. important fire safety insurance.

Fire departments

It took a long time for Wenham to realize it needed a fire company, and even after establishing one, there were periods when there was no company. Apparently, it was felt that fires were infrequent, and when there was a fire, volunteer fire fighters would be sufficient.

The first provision for extinguishing fires was voted by the town, **in 1821**, "That the selectmen procure six ladders and three fire-hooks, for the use of the town, to be equally divided among the three separate districts."⁹

In 1835, the selectmen appointed four fire wards (*also referred as fire wardens*): John S. Bomer, William Bomer, Ezra Lummus and Smith Gallop.³¹ The fire wards were responsible for sounding an alarm.

State law required towns to appoint "prominent men" as Fire Wards, and give them a badge. They were responsible for the operation and maintenance of the equipment assigned to their ward. When a fire broke out, the fire wards were to direct efforts in putting it out.

Also in 1835, volunteers organized a fire company of twenty-five members. Franklin Hadley was the foreman and Rufus Dodge was the secretary and treasurer. Company member were given badges.²



Members of the Board of Fire Engineers, formed in 1908, stand with equipment in front of second fire station (*right*). (Photo, 1909 post card)

The selectmen also approved \$100 to build an engine house and purchase necessary apparatus. David Starrett and Jabez Richards were given responsibility for building the engine house and finding a suitable location for its erection.³¹

The company purchased an engine at a cost of \$200.²

With the formation of a fire company, more structures could be saved, providing they were near the fire house, and the fire was discovered early.²

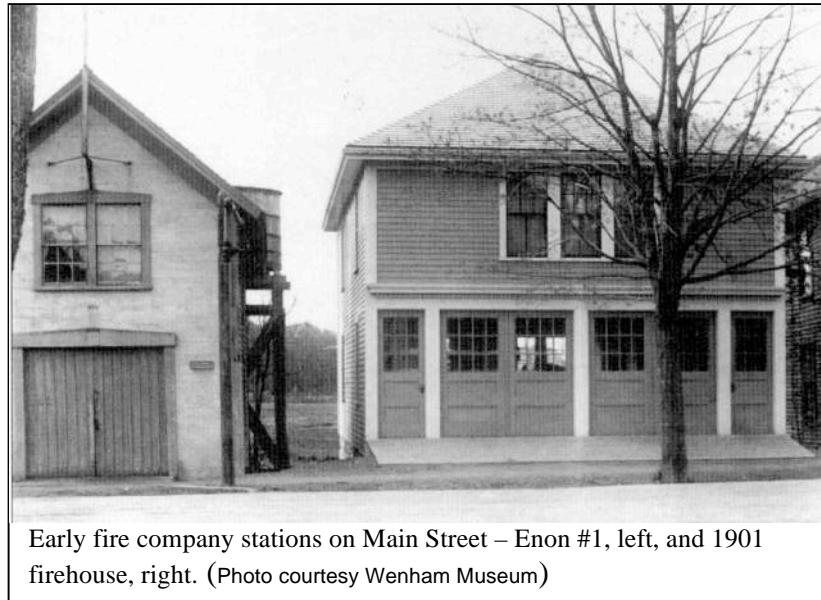
After fourteen years of operation, **in 1849**, the fire company disbanded and sold the pumper.

Another company was organized that year. It began, with forty-eight members, and was led by Benjamin C. Putnam (*foreman*) and John H. Felt (*treasurer and clerk*).²

Along with money from the sale of the old engine and \$900 from the town, the fire company purchased a new engine. The town built a new engine house on Main Street, and equipped it with necessary fire apparatus for use with the engine.² The town gave the company a silver trumpet, and a group of Wenham women gave the company a banner, on Sep. 25, 1850.²

In 1870, town considered removing the fire house, but later that year decided not to do so.³²

In 1887, Wenham started its third fire company. Otis Brewer was the foreman. Other enthusiastic members included Ivory Quimby, Frank Tarr, Horace Killam and Frank Sargent.^{3, 40}



Since then, there has been no interruption in the existence of Wenham's fire department.

In 1899, Wenham's annual budget for the fire company was \$108; and there were twenty-three members.¹⁵

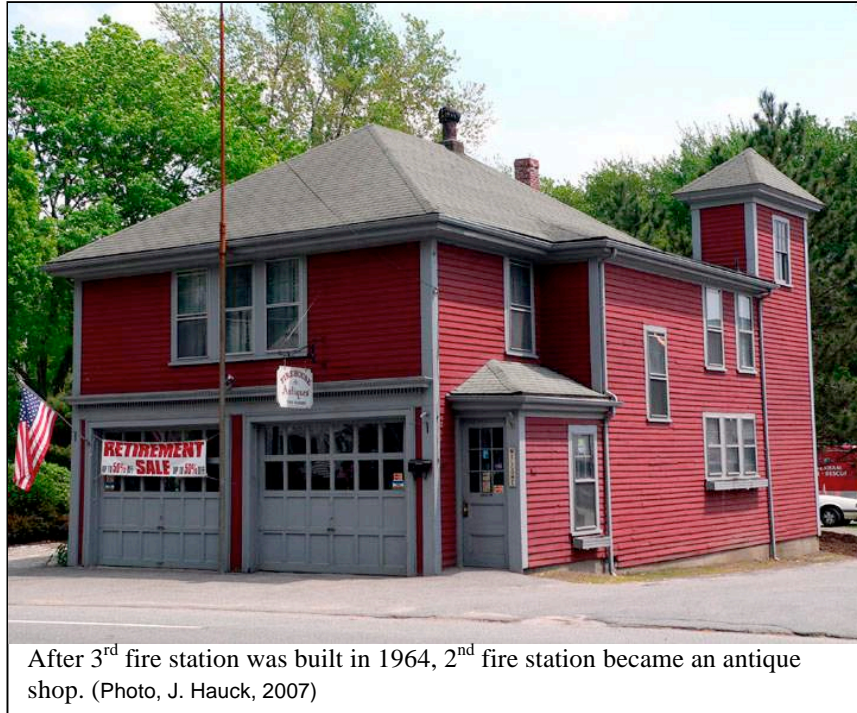
In 1908, a Board of Fire Engineers was established, in accordance with State requirements. Powers given by the state to the Fire Board included: the hiring, dismissal, promotion and discipline of fire department members.¹⁶ The town discontinued the Fire Board in 1999. The selectmen assumed the Board's authorities.

In 1910, at the Annual Town Meeting, voters approved the forming of a fire engine company, having thirty members. The company was organized and a code of by-laws adopted. The following year, 1911, the selectmen accepted the new fire company.³⁰

World War I, for the United States, began in 1917. The population of Wenham was about 1,050, of which about 350 were males between the age of 20 and 45. Of this small pool of eligible candidates, 79 men volunteered to fight.

And yet, with so many men away, the volunteer fire company continued to respond when fire alerts were sounded. Horace Durgin was the fire foreman.

In 1918, there were 65 fire calls, with most of these being grass fires. During that year, the fire company consisted mainly of substitutes.



World War II – During the war years, the fire department was forced to use many substitutes. Through the wise management of fire chief Frank Sargent, the department was able to provide excellent response to fire calls.²⁹

In 1955, the responsibilities for the Wenham Fire Department significantly increased. Gordon College moved to Wenham. A non-taxed entity, the college annually makes a payment in lieu of taxes.

In 1959, the department established auxiliary firemen. This position ended in 1967.

In 1976, the fire department had its first out-of-town volunteers.

In 1979, the first woman on the fire dept. was Dusty Perin. Previously, there were women on the auxiliary force.

In 1987, the Wenham Selectmen hired the first full-time fire department employee: Richard Brown was hired to be the Fire Prevention Officer.¹⁴

In 1998, the Wenham firefighters organized the Wenham Call Fire Fighters Association (union).²⁵ Over the opposition of the town, the Labor Relations Commission certified the union. The Commission formulated a ruling that all call firefighters who responded to 33% of all calls, in the preceding year, were entitled to collective bargaining rights under G. L. c. 150E, s. 3.²⁵

The fire department, in 1998, had 31 part-time volunteers and was managed by a board of fire engineers, appointed by the selectmen, pursuant to G. L. c. 48, s. 45, and was supervised by 4 officers: a chief, 2 assistant chiefs, and a captain.²⁵

In 1994, 14 of the 31 call firefighters responded to at least 33% of the calls. For the first half of 1995, 8 of the 31 call responded to at least 33% of the calls.²⁵

In 1999, the town abolished the Board of Fire Engineers, which had started in 1908. By this action, the Selectmen took control of the hiring and dismissal of fire fighters, upon recommendations made by the fire chief.¹⁰

1999- A part-time “weak chief” was appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Stevan Brown was appointed chief in July. A weak chief can only submit to the selectmen, for their approval, candidates to be hired, fired, and promoted.¹⁰

2013 - Bob Blanchard became the town's first full-time Fire Chief. Previously, his contract called for 30 hrs./wk.⁴¹

At the beginning of the 21st century, the Wenham Fire Department had thirty-six members, all of whom, except for the Fire Prevention Officer, are volunteers. Further, only one of the members is a town resident, with the others coming from surrounding towns. Up until 1976, it was a requirement for fire fighters to be residents of Wenham. The town no longer could enlist volunteers from its own confines.

For the fiscal year ending June, 2007, the operating budget for the Wenham Fire Department was about \$402,000.¹⁸ This covered providing assistance to residents, at over 1,300 residences, as well as Gordon College, for: weather related problems (*such as pumping water from basements*), rescue and emergency medical service, hazardous conditions, fires and response to false alarms and special events.

The 1849 fire company banner proclaimed, “We Will Endeavor.” To this day, the mission of the Wenham Fire Department says “*We will endeavor to be prepared, equipped and trained to respond to and mitigate any incident or potential hazard which may challenge our community.*”²¹

In July 2013, Wenham became the second town to switch to the Essex Regional Emergency Communications (*EREC*) to provide public safety dispatch services. The EREC, which will serve six towns (*Amesbury, Beverly, Essex, Middleton, Topsfield and Wenham*), includes combined enhanced 911-service, police, fire and



3rd fire station built in 1964. It also included the police station.
(Photo J. Hauck, 2011)

emergency medical dispatch. The EREC is centered at the Essex County Sheriff's Department, in Middleton. ³⁹

Fire houses

The town's first firehouse was more like a shed. In 1821, the town voted the purchase of six ladders and three fire-hooks. Each of the town's three districts (*West, Central and the Neck*) received a ladder house. Ladders, axes and shovels were stored, for use by volunteer fighters. In 1924, the last of these "firehouses" was removed. ³

In 1836, the town appropriated \$100 to build an engine house and necessary equipment, for the fire company that was organized the previous year. The firehouse was built next to the Hearse House on the Town Common. ²

In 1849, the fire company built a new engine house for Enon #1. The pump garage was a single bay, 2-story building. It remained in use until 1901. ²

From 1936 to 1945, the building was used by the American Legion, Ladies Auxiliary, and the Wenham Veterans Association. ²⁶ The Wenham Water Department was at the building, until it was sold to the Wenham Historical Society and Museum, in 1982, for \$1. The building, called the Enon Building, is now part of the Wenham Museum complex. ¹

As the 19th century closed, the Wenham Fire Department budget was \$108. The department had twenty-three members. ¹⁵

In 1901, Wenham built its third fire house, at 148 Main St. The new firehouse, erected next to the Enon Building, also was a 2-story structure, but it had two bays, at the street level. One bay for Enon #1, and one for a new steam-powered pump. A water tank was erected, next to the building, for providing water to fill the new steam engine.¹

In 1943, the firehouse was enlarged. Also, a meeting room, above the engine house, was added for the firemen.³

In 1964, the current fire station was built on the corner of Main Street and Friend Court. The location, in the mid 1800s, was site of William Bryant's Hotel, which burned on May 23, 1870.^{17, 42}

According to Town annual reports on Feb.14, 1963, \$170,000 was approved for the police, fire and library addition to town hall building project. On Jul. 17, 1963, \$45, 000 more was voted for the projects.

On the second floor of the station, there is a social and meeting room, which is named after long-time fire chief, Frank Sargent.

In 1980, the fire department began storing a reserve fire pump, at the Iron Rail garage. While not an official fire station, the Iron Rail unit can provide quick response to the Neck section of Wenham.

Fire chiefs

When the first fire company was formed in Wenham, it was headed by a foreman, not a chief.³ The title "foreman" was fairly common, until the turn of the century.

In 1835 Franklin Hadley, a wheelwright, was the fire foreman. He lived at 169 Main St. In 1841, he was the representative to the Great and General Court of Massachusetts.

In 1849, Benjamin C. Putnam, a store owner, was the fire foreman. His shop was on Cherry St. He was a member of the committee that developed plans for the town hall built in 1854.

In 1887, Otis Brewer, a shoemaker, was the fire foreman. He lived on Friend Ct. From 1902 to 1904, he was a selectman.

In 1906, Wolcott H. Johnson was the fire foreman. That year, fire destroyed the Charles H. Tilton house, which had been built in 1893. In 1886, fire also destroyed the Isaac B. Woodbury house at the same location across from Wenham Lake.³³

In 1912, the fire foreman was Horace Durgin. He operated a carriage and blacksmith shop at 105 Main St. He was a skilled blacksmith, a very important talent for repairing damaged fire equipment.¹

It was not until 1916, that the head of the Wenham fire company was called chief: he was Levi S. Lord.²² He lived on Cherry St.

The longest serving Fire Chief was Frank Sargent, who held this position from 1940 to 1962. His father was one of the original members of the 1887 fire company.

Quite often in the history of the Wenham fire department, fathers and, then, their sons have served. In one case, father and son have been chiefs: Horace Killam was chief from 1925 to 1940, and his son, Donald Killam, was chief from 1978 to 1996.³⁶

Donald Killam, the third firefighter in the Killam family to assume the position of chief, was with the Wenham firefighters for 48 years, 18 of them as chief.³⁶

Another father and son combination was Thomas Luxton, chief from 1922 to 1925, and his son, John Luxton, chief from 1962 to 1978. John was a member for 47 years.

Another father and son combination was Thomas Luxton, chief from 1922 to 1925, and his son, John Luxton, chief from 1962 to 1978. John was a member for 47 years.

Fire Foremen/Chiefs

1835	Franklin Hadley
1849	B. C. Putnam
1887	Otis Brewer
1906	Wolcott H. Johnson
1912	Horace Durgin
1913	Ivory Quimby
1916	Levi S. Lord
1918	James Kavanagh
1921	Frank Welch
1922	Thomas Luxton

1925	Horace A. Killam
1940	Frank Sargent
1962	John Luxton
1978	Donald Killam
1996	Peter Burnham
1996	Frank Eldridge
1999	Stevan Brown
2001	Calvin Perkins
2006	Bob Blanchard



In 1969, members of the Fire Department built a storage shed to store Enon 1.

Firefighting equipment

In the 1600s, settlers challenged fires with bucket lines. Men formed a line to convey water from the nearest source to the fire scene, while women and children formed a second line to pass empty buckets back to the water

source.

Colonial laws required houses to have a bucket of water on the front stoop, in case of fire. The first of the "bucket brigade" would throw the water at a fire, followed by others, with their buckets, as they arrived.³

Bucket brigades lasted in Wenham for a long time. Wenham's pumper came about 90 years after Boston acquired its first pumper.

Enon #1: Wenham's first water pumper, Enon #1, was purchased in 1835, from Edward Lesley in Newburyport, at the cost of \$200. It had a crew of men to manually operate the pump. Along with the pump, there was a reel of hose that was mounted on a two-wheel axle. Both pieces were pulled by the pumping crew, to the fire site. It was in use up to 1901.¹

In 1969, fire department members built a display structure for Enon 1. It allowed people to view the classic pump. On Oct. 24, 2006, the fire department moved the structure, to make room for a new police station. Temporarily, Enon #1 is stored, at the American Hand Fire Engine Society in Newbury.

It is believed that Enon #1 may be one of only three units, of its type, that still exist, and its condition is unrivaled.

Over the years, the fire department steadily increased the water pumping capacity of its equipment. The challenge being how many gallons per minute could be put on a fire.

In 1849, Wenham's first steam pump was purchased.

The horse-drawn steam pump allowed four or five men to effectively spray more water on a fire than hundreds of volunteers, using

hand pump. The new engine cost \$900, which was partially paid by the town. ³ (*In America, the first fire engine, in which steam was used, was that of John Braithwaite, in 1829.*) ¹⁹

In 1901, it is believed that Wenham first acquired its first horse-drawn fire equipment, a steam-powered pumper. It dramatically increased the amount of water that could be dispensed. The only problem was that it took time to build up enough steam to pump the water. ¹

In 1918, the horse-drawn fire truck came to an end. Wenham acquired its first motorized vehicle: a triple function (*pump, ladder and hose*) truck, built on a Ford Model T chassis. ³

That same year, 27 cisterns were built, in various parts of Wenham, for water storage. The town built additional cisterns in years following. In 2006, only a few of the cisterns remain: one is buried in the Barn Lot, on the corner of Main and Cedar. ³

In 1928, the town purchased a Stewart Chemical Tank. It contained bicarbonate of soda mixed with sulfuric acid to produce a gas to propel the mixture out the hose. ¹¹

In 1947, the town built the central water system of street hydrants. This reduced the dependence on the cisterns, although they continued to be used in fighting fires, for many years. ¹³

In 1956, a new fire truck, authorized at a special town meeting in 1955, arrived. It was proclaimed to be "one of the finest pieces of fire equipment owned by any city or town in Essex County." The old 1928 Stewart fire truck was sold for \$150. ²³

In 1967, a completely outfitted ambulance was given to the town as a gift Randolph and Mona Tucker and Charles and Helen Tersolo. ²⁴

In 1984, Wenham acquired its first aerial-ladder truck. It was an American LaFrance TDA and pump. The need for a ladder truck was brought on by changes in how the roofs of homes were being built.

In 2006, the fire company acquired a quint, which replaced the American LaFrance. The quint is a multi-purpose truck that has an aerial ladder, ground ladders, a pump, water tank, and hoses. The quint can dispense 1,500 gallons of water per minute. ²⁰

Fire alarm system

During the 1600s and 1700s, the call for help in fighting fires was simply done by neighbors running from house to house crying, Fire, Fire, Fire. If the fire was near the town center, the meeting house bell sounded a call.

While it is not known when it started, the next fire alarm system was the blasting of horns. Volunteers were summoned to the fire house by a series of horn blasts, the number indicating the area where the fire was located.

In 1921, the town allocated \$2,500 to install fire alarm whistle in the engine house.²⁸

Subsequently, the alarm system incorporated telephone calls. A dispatch system, located on Railroad Avenue, in South Hamilton, at the current site of Hamilton Dentistry, alerted the volunteer fire fighters by phone, as well as the blasting of the fire horns.

During the 1960s, when there was a fire, someone would call Bob Brown. He lived at 143 Main St., across from the fire station, His house served as alarm center for fire reports. Upon getting a call, Brown would activate the master fire alarm that was in his front hall, and which activated the fire horn at the fire station.³⁵

Also in 1959, Wenham and Hamilton joined in the development of the Hamilton-Wenham Emergency Center. The emergency center began providing 24/7 service for all police and fire emergencies in both towns.³⁴

In 1970, the Wenham Fire Department began using pagers to alert volunteer firemen of a fire at locations that do not have master-box alarm systems. The fire horn still blows for fires at all town buildings with master box alarm systems.

Since the late 1800s, Wenham has had an agreement with other Massachusetts towns to provide emergency fire fighting assistance, when a fire is deemed beyond its capabilities. Over the years, towns such as Beverly, Hamilton, Billerica, Topsfield and even as far away as West Newbury have come to aid Wenham in fighting fires. Wenham's fire department also has gone to other towns, when the alarm was sounded.

In 1973, those seeking emergency help began dialing "911." The former 4421 number was gradually eliminated. All calls went to the Hamilton-Wenham Emergency Center.⁴³

Notable fires in the past

Fires were very common in the 1600s and 1700s. Historic records are replete with accounts of homes being destroyed by fire. Neighbors would valiantly assist in fighting the blazes, but almost always to no avail.

Some notable Wenham fires were:

Apr. 19, 1849 – Kimball's barn: At near midnight, the barn belonging to Deacon. Nath'l Kimball burned, with twenty-four head of cattle and a horse. Cause was thought to be accidental.¹

September 1849 – Squire Thorn's barn: The fire was in the barn nearly opposite the engine house. This was the barn belonging to Squire Thorn's (*Dodge*) old tavern estate and standing just back of the town pump.

The engine was drawn to the nearest well, but on running off the hose, it was found that it was not long enough to reach the burning building. A person, that was near, on learning that the hose was not long enough to reach the distance gave information concerning a ditch that contained water, which he thought was nearer then the well. The engine was taken to the ditch, and the hose was again run off and it just reached the building.

The frame of the barn soon fell, and after this the fire was under control although it was not wholly extinguished for several days, owing to the large quantity of peat which was stored away in the barn, for future use.¹

Nov. 6, 1859 – Baptist Meeting House: The Baptist Meeting house burned about midnight, the school house near was scorched. Our engine and N. Beverly Engine were on hand.¹

Oct. 31, 1862 – Gould's Barn: The barn and shed belonging to Amos Gould was discovered to be on fire about 7 o'clock pm. Soldiers from the camp did good service, as well as townsmen, but it was entirely consumed and his boot manufacturing factory was badly scorched.¹

Apr. 18, 1869. Soon after midnight, the "**Green House**," a hotel owned by William H. Bryant, on the east end of the Common, and other buildings on the premises were burned.¹

Jul. 17, 1869. The **Franklin Hadley house**, shed, barn and wheelwright shop were burned about quarter past 5 pm, with considerable of the contents caused by grandson and another boy smoking in the barn. Three hogs were burned. North Beverly and our Enon present.¹

In the spring of 1870, part of the old **Friend house** on Arbor Street, which had been moved from Main Street (*now The Maples*) to make room for the Kemble mansion.

On May 23, 1870, the **post office** at John A. Putnam's store burned along with a barn and shed, a small dwelling-house, and the large barn and sheds standing nearby. Later, Sept. 19, 1870, the post office was relocated to the Hobbs harness shop.¹⁷

1873. The **Gage, Hittinger and Co. ice factory**, burned on Nov. 13, when the hay, in which the ice was packed, caught fire. All the buildings burned to the ground.¹

1877. A fire in the **town hall**, the evening of Jul. 20, happened when the chandelier lights, which the janitor was adjusting, fell to the floor and kerosene oil was ignited. Some young men quickly brought buckets of water and put the fire out.

A section of the floor was charred, a settee destroyed and others damaged, wall plastering damaged, and the ceiling and walls on the floor below damaged by seeping water and oil. Insurance covered all repair expenses except for the furniture and fixtures. WATR Aug. 20, 1877.²⁷

1878. Sometime, past eleven o'clock, on the night of January 10, 1878, a fire at the Abraham A. Fiske **shoe factory** was discovered, by Geo. E. Norris, the next neighbor. The fire, when discovered, was in the middle of the building.

A heavy rain storm, with a terrific wind from the northeast, was prevailing at the time, which carried the burning shingles and cinders directly on to the buildings on the other side of the road, a little further down, belonging to Geo. Dodge and John Meldram, and also across to the buildings on Larch Row, and to Henry Patches. While the wind scattered the fire, the rain fell in such torrents as to keep the buildings wet and, thus, prevented larger conflagration than occurred. Still the buildings in the direction of the flying cinders needed and received constant watching and attention.

The burning building set the house on fire, which was a story and half cottage, with windows in the roof, and an ell, which was entirely consumed, together with nearly all of the contents.

The house was built by John Meldram, former owner and occupant. The old barn was saved, a part of which was built of oak timbers and very old.¹

1889. The **Ober House** stood for over 200 years. Two and one half stories high, it stood at 140 Cherry St. A child lit a fire on the stone step at the front of the house. The fire company, a mile away

arrived too late. The house was gone in twenty minutes, only the chimney was standing.¹

1924. The **Massasoit House**, a hotel at end of Enon Street and overlooking Wenham Lake, completely burned.¹

1935. The **S. M. Hill ice factory houses** on the west shore of Wenham Lake, burned.³

May 1, 1937. A fire destroyed the **Putnam store**, and William (*Billy*) Porter's grocery store and post office, together with the barn and connecting shed, belonging to the store, and a small dwelling house, large barn and other small structures, on the John Porter property.¹

1937. Fire claimed the remaining **icehouses**: the huge Metropolitan and Wright plant. According to a former agreement with the State Water Board, that no new houses should ever replace those that might be destroyed, the ice industry of Wenham Lake passed into history.³

1963. A fire on the south side of the **Goldsmith-Trevett-Pickering-Reynolds House**, one of the oldest houses in Wenham.¹ The house later was restored and a porch added.¹

1968. A fire at the **Tersolo's estate**, on Main Street, destroyed the horse barn. The caretaker's cottage, next to the barn, was saved, however, five horses died in the barn fire. In a strange twist of events, the cottage would be burned to the ground, by the fire company, in 1989, as the land was cleared to make way for the building of the The Maples senior housing complex.

May 1957. The Manchester forest fire began with several small brush fires near Walker Road. However, on the afternoon of May 8, "all hell broke loose," according to a newspaper account. The brush fires became a massive blaze which consumed nearly 1,000 acres from the Beverly line on Brookwood Road to Pine Street. Hundreds of firefighters from nearly 40 communities, including Wenham, and some from southern New Hampshire, responded and the National Guard was mobilized, with most being on the scene for 7 days.³⁷

Oct. 29, 1980. A fire began in basement furnace of the **Ayer mansion**, on Walnut St., quickly spread throughout the stone building's interior. The building had recently become the home of the New England Board of Higher Education.³⁸

2007. Fire caused extensive smoke damage and some structural damage to the **Wenham Highway Garage**, at 91 Grapevine Rd. Firefighters from Hamilton, Beverly and Danvers assisted on the scene of the blaze. The Wenham Highway Garage houses all of the

town's public works equipment plus the highway and water departments.⁷

Nov. 2, 1987. A fire at the **Mullen Advertising Agency**, on the old Miller estate, was perhaps the biggest fire in town history: 10 alarms were sounded. Fire fighters fought the blaze for over 24 hours, and, then, some remained for another day to water the smoldering embers. A subsequent investigation by the ATF determined the cause of the fire was arson. Those responsible were never found.⁶

Not Just Fires

As shown by the annual reports of the fire department, the department responds to many more residents calling for assistance other than fire. For example, here are the calls to which the fire department responded in 2010:

324 Emergency Medical Service

129 Service calls, including the pumping out of basements after rain storms

129 False alarms

69 Good intent calls

46 Hazardous conditions

21 Fires

4 Other

Emergency Medical Service

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 111C governs the provision of emergency medical services throughout the Commonwealth and requires, among other things, that all cities and towns submit to the Department of Public Health a plan defining the local EMS resources and describe how the resources will be used and coordinated.

The State of Massachusetts, in 1974, required towns that provided ambulance services to have, at a minimum, emergency medical technicians (EMT's).

In 1976, a state sponsored and funded EMT course was offered to police and fire personnel.

In 1977, many of the EMT course attendants passed the state test.

EMS (*Emergency Medical Service*) became part of the Wenham Fire Company, **in 1980**. The Medical Aid Program was a volunteer effort to provide emergency medical assistance to Wenham residents. The first EMT was Capt. Richard Brown.

In 1977, the town started to contract private ambulances: Obrien ambulance, Peter Poor ambulance, and then Lyons.

In 1997, Wenham's first EMS truck, a Freightliner, was purchased.

Updated 06/22/2014

References

- 1 - Wenham in Pictures & Prose, Wenham Historical Association & Museum, Inc., 1992.
- 2 - Allen, Myron Oliver. The History of Wenham: Civil and Ecclesiastical. Boston, MA: Bazin Chandler. 1860.
- 3 - Cole, Adeline P. Notes on Wenham History: 1643-1943, Edited by Wenham Historical Association. Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss Co. 1943.
- 4 - Dodge, Louis A., Wenham, as it Used to Be. Wenham Historical Association and Museum, Wenham, MA, 1968.
- 5 - Municipal History of Essex County In Massachusetts, Tercentenary Edition, Benj. F. Arrington, Editor-in-Chief, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., New York, NY, 1922, Chap. XI, Town of Wenham
- 6 - Mullen ad firm hit by fire again, John Mooney, Gloucester Daily Times, 1987
- 7 - Fire damages town garage, Wendall Waters, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Feb. 16, 2007
- 8 - www.suite101.com/content/how-fires-were-fought-in-colonial-boston-a177919
- 9 - Wenham Annual Town Report, Mar. 6, 1821.
- 10 - Wenham Town Records, 1999
- 11 - Wenham Town Records, 1928
- 12 - Wenham Town Records, 1940
- 13 - Wenham Town Records, 1947
- 14 - Wenham Town Records, 1987
- 15 - Wenham Town Records, 1899
- 16 - Wenham Town Records, 1908
- 17 - History of Salem, Chap XI, Wenham, Sidney Perley, 1926.
- 18 - Wenham Town Records, 2007
- 19 - [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Braithwaite_\(engineer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Braithwaite_(engineer))
- 20 - Wenham Town Records, 2006
- 21 - www.wenhamfd.org/
- 22 - Wenham Town Records, 1916.
- 23 - Wenham Town Records, 1956.
- 24 - Wenham Town Records, 1967
- 25 - Town of Wenham vs. Labor Relations Commission. 44 Mass. App. Ct. 195, Nov. 6, 1997 - Jan. 23, 1998, Suffolk County.
- 26 - Wenham Town Records, Mar. 3, 1924.
- 27 - Wenham Town records, Aug. 20, 1877.
- 28 - Wenham Annual Town Records, Mar. 7, 1921.
- 29 - Wenham in WW2 , Wenham Museum and Historical Society, 1948
- 30 - Wenham Annual Town Report, 1911.
- 31 - Wenham Annual Town Report, Mar. 3, 1835.
- 32 - Wenham Town Report, Oct. 24, 1870.
- 33 - Rupert Lillie, notes about the history of Main St., 1971.
- 34 - Wenham Town Records, 1959.
- 35 - Richard Brown
- 36 - Fire fighting, 1600s-style to today, Wendall Waters, Sep 21, 2005.
- 37 - 50 years later, Manchester to recall 'Great Forest Fire,' Gloucester Times, Apr. 19, 2007.
- 38 - Wenham Annual Town Report, Selectmen's Report, 1980.
- 39 - Essex, Wenham first to switch to regional dispatch, Salem News, Jun. 22, 2013.
- 40 - Wenham Town Records, 1887.
- 41 - Town administrator, fire chief get new deals in Wenham, Salem News, May 23, 2013
- 42 - Joint Effort Gets Wenham New Fire-Station, Salem, News, Feb. 1, 1964.
- 43 - New emergency number goes in effect here May 7, HWC, Mar. 7, 1973.

Wenham Fire Company/Department Equipment

Year	Equipment
1821	Ladders, axes and fire hooks
1835	Pump, Enon #1
1849	Steam-powered pump
1918	Ford triple combination pump
1928	Stewart Chemical Tank
1930	Howe Piston Pump
1938	Cab Dodge with 150 gal tank
1947	Diamond T600 with 250 gal tank
1956	750 Ford with 500 gal tank
1965	International pumper
1967	Ambulance
1972	Ford 500 gal tank
1981	Mack pumper
1984	Ladder truck
1986	GMC brush truck
1989	Mack 500 gal tank
1997	Freightliner rescue truck
2000	KME 750 gal tank K.M.E. 1250 g.p.m. pump with 750 gallons of water and 50 gallons of foam
2006	Quint combination ladder pump