

Old Heights Fire Station



Needham had organized a force of “fire engineers” in the early 1800s to respond to fires in town, but for the most part this response was haphazard. Fires were fought with buckets of water, and the primary task was to rescue people and valuables from the burning building, since there was little chance of actually putting out a large fire.

In 1885, Needham organized a systematic fire response, building two fire houses – Company #1 in Needham Center, and Company #2 in the Heights. A town wide alarm system and a hydrant system were installed a few years later. In August 1885, the Needham Chronicle reported: “The new tower on Engine House 2 is completed and is strong and stable... evidently built for use and not for show.”

This fire station is also where Officer Frank Haddock was killed by the fleeing thieves after the Needham Trust Co. robbery in 1934. Haddock was on patrol and had stopped to speak with fire-fighter Timothy Coughlin (wounded in the attack). The robbers shot them as they drove by, thinking that the men were responding to the alarm. The station was in use until 1948, when a new Heights Station was built on the corner of Highland Ave. and Webster Street.