Head west on Market Street to Third and turn right on Third Street. Turn at Quarry Street and just east of Café Ole on the north side is the home of the Perseverance Hose Company, now a private residence/studio. According to the Sunday Dispatch of 1850 the Perseverance Hose purchased this building in 1830 and in 1832 added a two story kitchen addition to help pay off the mortgage. The company occupied the front of the building. In 1848 a large sugar refinery fire at the corner of Bread and Quarry resulted in the loss of the two of their members and several others were injured fighting the fire. Soon after they moved to new quarters on Race Street between 3rd & 4th. Notice the headstone on the building with the company’s original information.

Starting on the north side of Market Street between 2nd & 3rd you’ll see the blue and gold Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker for the Union Fire Company. The Union Fire Company, Philadelphia’s first volunteer fire company, stored its equipment – ladders and pikes- on Grindstone Alley. When formed in 1736, this was a critical area of the city with the Court House, market place, churches and meeting house all clustered nearby.

Head back out to Third Street, turn right and head north to Race Street. Turn left on Race Street and just past the Wireworks on the north was the home of Truck 2 later Ladder 2. This house was originally built by the Perseverance Hose Company and was one of the houses acquired by the city in 1871 when the Paid Fire Department went into service. At that time it housed Truck B. Truck 2 moved into the new station at 316-18 Florist Street on May 10, 1920. With the construction of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge on Florist Street, the door on Florist Street was closed and the apparatus door was installed on the Race Street side of the building. The department then began using the Race Street address for Truck 2. In 1952 the terminology changed and Truck 2 became Ladder 2.
Head east on Race Street to Columbus Boulevard and on the south west corner you’ll see the original High Pressure Pumping Station, built c. 1903 to meet the city’s increased needs for water and water pressure as the downtown areas grew taller and more dense. Today this is the home of Fringe Arts and Le Peg restaurant. Photos of fireboats charging the system and the bulkhead on Race can be seen on our website. See https://bit.ly/2KNHOHK

STOP BY
FIREMAN'S HALL MUSEUM

Retrace your steps on Race Street and turn south on Second Street. At the corner of Second and Quarry Streets you’ll see Fireman’s Hall Museum, originally built as a station for Engine 8, c. 1902. The museum during normal times is open to the public from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm.
In the meantime please visit our website:
www.firemanshallmuseum.org

YOUR FOURTH STOP

YOUR FINAL STOP

Head south on Second Street and turn right on Arch. At the corner of Fourth & Arch is the current station for Engine 8 and in the garden next door is a wonderful Mural Arts mural celebrating the history of the PFD.