High Pressure Pumping Station

The station was built in 1902 to meet the city’s increased needs for water and water pressure as the downtown areas grew taller and more dense by pumping untreated river water throughout the high pressure water system mains. Before the construction was completed in 1903, fireboats charged the high pressure system via a bulkhead connection at the foot of Race Street. The bulkhead was left in case the pumping system broke down. The station is now the home of Fringe Arts and Le Peg restaurant.

Fireman’s Hall Museum

The museum was originally built as a fire station for Engine 8, in 1902. The museum houses apparatus used by the Philadelphia Fire Department including the Canon Wagon designed to work with the new high pressure system. A horse trough in front of the museum recalls the days when horses pulled engines and is today used by horses pulling carriages and neighborhood dogs. In front of the museum are inset bronze plaques memorializing the 8 firefighters who died in the Gulf Refinery fire of 1975. Wonder what the Canon Wagon looks like in the museum?

Philadelphia Fire Department

This is the current station for Engine 8 and Ladder 2 and in the garden next door is a wonderful Mural Arts mural depicting the history of the Philadelphia Fire Department.
**Union Fire Company Marker**

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.

**Ladder companies carry ladders to the fires.**

**Engine companies provide tools and hose and pump water at fires.**

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**Old Building of Perseverance Hose Company**

According to the Sunday Dispatch of 1850 the Perseverance Hose purchased this house in 1830, occupying the front of the building. Around 1850, they moved to new quarters on Race Street between 3rd & 4th.

**House for Truck 2**

This house was originally built by the Perseverance Hose Company and was one of the houses acquired by the city in 1871. In 1920, Truck 2 was moved into this station. With the construction of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge on Florist Street in 1925, they moved the apparatus door to the Race Street side. The department then began using the Race Street address for Truck 2. In 1952 the terminology changed and Truck 2 became Ladder 2.