Southwark & Queen Village

AN HOUR SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR BY PHILADELPHIA NEIGHBORHOOD

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Engine 11 moved here in 1976 and remains at this location up until today. The history of the company and segregation is reflected in the beautiful mural art on the side of the building depicting African-American firefighters.

Francis Johnson (1792-1844) was an African-American bandleader, musician, and composer. He directed military bands and society dance orchestras, taught music, and introduced the promenade concert style to America.

Francis Johnson also wrote music for several of the city’s volunteer fire companies.

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In 1804, Joseph Wetherill, a wealthy merchant and master builder, encouraged the City of Philadelphia to erect the Head House at the north end of New Market. The Head House is a Georgian-style brick firehouse which was occupied by the Hope Hose Company. The building’s cupola once housed a fire bell. This firehouse is now used as a community center.

How it looked like in 1898, before the replica was built?

Engine 3

Look for the firefighter statue in front of the building. This station was built for Engine 3 in 1898 at 115-17 Queen St. The company would remain here until June 29, 1960 when they moved to their present station at Moyamensing and Washington Avenues. This property was bought by a private citizen who also bought the building next door, and replaced it with a smaller replica of the original building.

Prior to this location, Engine 3 was located right next door at the Weccacoe Fire Company’s house at 117-19 Queen St. from 1871.

Marion Hose Company

This hose house was built about late 1833 to 1834, and remained in active service until the paid fire department commenced service on March 15, 1871. The hose house previously had a steeple which was the tallest in the Southwark area of Philadelphia County until St. Peter’s Church built its steeple in 1842.

Hope Fire Company

This was the quarters of the Hope Fire Company of Philadelphia and was built in 1852. The company was instituted on November 11, 1796 and remained in active service until March 15, 1871 at this address when the paid department commenced service.

What did the New Market look like, when it was all the way to South Street?