

APTOS FIREHOUSE

ITS MANY LIVES AND LOCATIONS...

The Santa Cruz Evening News proclaimed that on January 11, 1908 the four residents were told that the new Aptos Fire House and several outbuildings were constructing near building. The land for the firehouse was donated by Joseph Adams, owner of the big time hotel.

On December 24, 1908, the town voted to approve the Aptos Fire District and to tax themselves for the purpose of establishing a fire department. Ralph Williams became the first fire chief, a position he held for 28 years.



A tower was erected on a hill next to the firehouse in 1908. During World War II the tower was used as part of an observation post to set out the local militia and to announce attacks. In 1942, a major observation tower was built by Ralph Williams next to the building. It was manned 24 hours a day by two-person teams on two-hour shifts. The fire Department building was a central stopping point for the military Coast Guard which covered the maritime area up to Pigeon Point.

In 1911 the San Jose Public Improvement Commission, in its plan of 1911 the building was moved from the hillside to the corner where it stands today. Southern Pacific Railroad where it was converted to the site of a new addition, large enough to house two fire engines. The original building was used for storage and for the fire department and was also used as a parking place in 1911 another addition was added to the building and an addition for truck was built.



In November of 1953, American Legion Post 179 moved into the former fire house and renamed the building. The American Legion occupied the building until 1979. Since then, the building was renovated several times and used as an antique store, a profit stand and several retail stores.



After the war the fire house was moved to its present location. The building was moved onto the hillside and the site. The building continued to be used as the fire station until 1979 when it was the station was built on the hillside.



The building was moved down to the hill. The old firehouse was building and others in the village. The building was moved down to the hill. The old firehouse was building and others in the village. The building was moved down to the hill. The old firehouse was building and others in the village.

... for the Military Coast Patrol
which covered the Monterey Bay up to
Pigeon Point.

In November of 1953, American Legion Post 778 moved into the former fire house and remodeled the building. The American Legion occupied the building until 1979. Since then, the building was remodeled several times and used as an antique store, a produce stand and several retail stores.



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By 1935 the department had outgrown the firehouse, so in January of 1936 the building was moved from the Arano property to the adjacent parcel owned by Southern Pacific Railroad where it was connected to the rear of a new addition, large enough to house two fire trucks. The original building was used for meetings to discuss fire protection and was also used as a polling place. In 1939 another addition was added to the building and an Indiana Fire Truck was purchased