

Today in Columbus History: On June 17, 1873, an article appeared in the *Weekly Sun* about the first fire department in Columbus -- the first city fire department. It was created in 1843, after a horrific fire in 1842 caused over \$100,000 worth of damage on Broad -- damaging residences and businesses, but no cotton warehouses. There had been a volunteer fire department in 1831 headed by Asa Bates and others. Two photos of Firehouse #1, built 1920.

Compiled by Callie McGinnis, Muscogee Genealogical Society

Our snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days-worth of searching through the most popular sources for Muscogee County history. Meant to inspire readers to explore more about Columbus history, they are not exhaustive dissertations on the topic and may contain mistakes. If you have corrections or additional information, feel free to share them with the group.

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>

ONLY TWELVE SURVIVORS.—Out of a company of forty-six members of the first fire organization of Columbus formed on February 4th, 1843, only twelve survive. Mr. John S. Allen, who died the other day, was one of the original number. Mr. I. G. Strupper gives us the names of those who still live: W. S. Chipley, Geo. H. Peabody, James A. Kivlin, Ben. F. Coleman, P. A. Clayton, F. A. Cairns, C. T. Inslee, W. G. McAlister, Wm. S. Snow, J. A. Bradford, I. G. Strupper, J. E. Webster. All but three continue to reside in Columbus, including one whose home is near by. Nearly all are now in the vicinity of sixty years of age. The company known as Columbus No. 1 has we believe the same charter which was obtained thirty years ago, and under which it was first organized.



Fire House #1 as it appeared in 1980 (National Register nomination).



Fire House #1 as it appears on latest Google street view map.