



South Side Fire Station

424 South Ave.

Bicentennial Landmark

The tall tower of the South Side Fire Station at 424 South Ave., has been a landmark in that neighborhood since the building was erected in 1911. Characteristic of the Italian Villa style of architecture, the tower originally served a practical as well as decorative purpose. Fire hoses could be hung full length to dry.

Waukegan's fire department was organized in 1847 as a bucket brigade. In 1852 a hand engine and other equipment were purchased and the department reorganized into three divisions: Fire Co., Hose Co., and Hook and Ladder Co.

The South Side Station was the city's second fire house and some of the antique equipment is still on hand, including an automatic harness attachment used with the old horse drawn engines.

The original patterned tin ceiling remains in the garage, but the old wooden floor has been replaced with concrete to accommodate heavier equipment.

Unique brickwork adds to the pleasing symmetrical look of the exterior of the building. Dark red brick was used on the first floor with lighter brick above a belt line forming the second.