

# SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 37

Spring 2008

Number 2

### SAVING BALTIMORE'S LAST CAST-IRON FIREHOUSE

**T**he Fire Museum of Maryland (tour site – 1995 SIA Annual Conference) has undertaken an ambitious project to restore the cast-iron façade of Engine Co. No. 8, a Baltimore firehouse built in 1871. When completed in 2009, the façade will be on permanent display at the museum in Lutherville, a suburb just north of Crab Town on the Baltimore Beltway.

The Baltimore Fire Department was transformed into a paid organization in 1859 when the fire-fighting apparatus and its attendant houses were purchased from the various volunteer companies that traced their roots to 1763. The fledgling department expanded its roster and moved to protect new or growing neighborhoods.

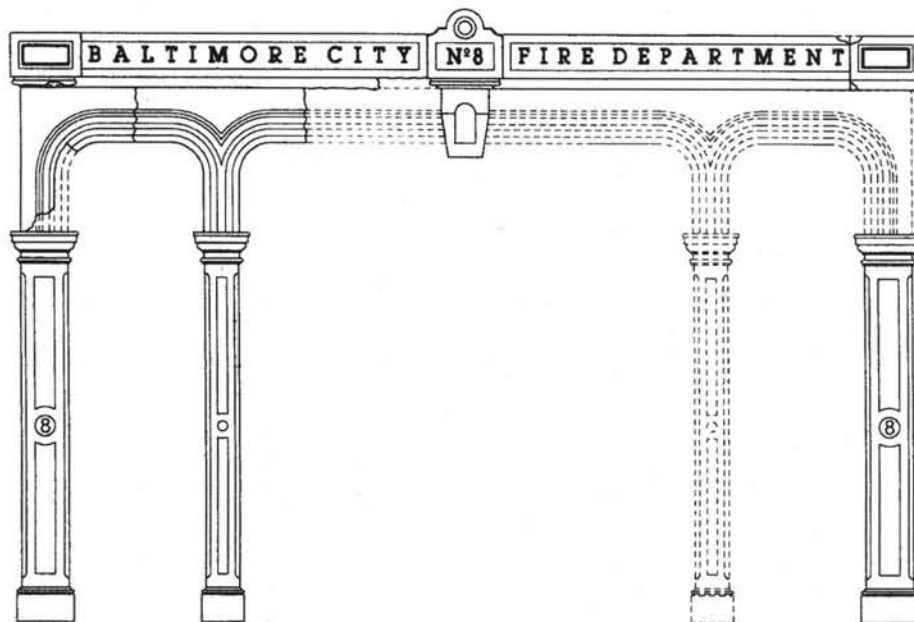
Engine Co. No. 8 was placed in service on Mar. 8, 1871 at 1031 W. Mulberry St., between Schroeder and Oregon streets. The new house filled the width of the lot at 23 ft. and had a cast-iron first-floor façade. According to architect-author Jim Dilts, this is Baltimore's sole surviving

municipally built cast-iron façade. It was vacated by the fire department in 1912 because it had become too small for the steam equipment of the time. Thereafter it was used as a boys' club and motorcycle repair shop until the 1970s when it was left open to the elements. Vandals took a third of the cast iron before a preservationist could squirrel away what

*(continued on page 2)*

#### In This Issue:

- SIA Board Goes High Tech
- Yale & Towne Lock
- Walnut Lane Bridge at 100



*Elevation drawing of the cast-iron façade of Engine Co. No. 8. The dotted lines indicate the missing pieces that must be replicated. Mouldings will be done in fiberglass and the arches in bendable plywood.*

# CALENDAR

## 2008

**Aug. 5–10:** Intl. Committee for the History of Technology Annual Symposium, Victoria, BC. Info: <http://icohtec.uvic.ca/>.

**Sept. 1–4:** First Chinese Intl. Conference on Industrial Heritage, TICCIH 2008, Chengdu, China. Info: [www.ticcih.org](http://www.ticcih.org).

**Sept. 11–14:** The 6th Preserving the Historic Road Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Info: [www.historicroads.org](http://www.historicroads.org).

**Sept. 11–14:** Society for Commercial Archeology Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Paper sessions and tours of the Old Spanish Trail, Ozark Trail, and Route 66. In conjunction with the Historic Road Conference (see above). Info: [www.sca-roadside.org](http://www.sca-roadside.org).

**Sept. 24–27:** Textile Society of America Symposium, Honolulu, HI. Info: [www.textilesociety.org](http://www.textilesociety.org).

**Sept. 29–Oct. 4:** 16th General Assembly & International Scientific Symposium of the Intl. Council on Monuments & Sites (ICOMOS), Quebec, Canada. Theme: The Spirit of Place between the Intangible and the Tangible. Info: <http://quebec2008.icomos.org>.

**Oct. 3–4:** Heritage: Past, Present, and Future, NY State Historical Assn., Cooperstown, NY. History, current state, and future of the heritage preservation field, with emphasis on traditional craft. Info: [www.nyfolklore.org/about/janevents.html](http://www.nyfolklore.org/about/janevents.html).

**Oct. 11–14:** Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal. Info: [www.shot.jhu.edu](http://www.shot.jhu.edu).

**Oct. 15–19:** SIA FALL TOUR, CHATTANOOGA, TN. Theme: "Industry of the Old and New, New South." Site tours will feature synthetic fabrics, carpets, ceramics, historic bridges, blast furnaces, railroads, plastics, and more. Info: [www.sia-web.org](http://www.sia-web.org).

**Oct. 16–18:** Pioneer America Society: Assn. for the Preservation of Artifacts & Landscapes Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA. See article in this issue. Info: [www.pioneeramerica.org](http://www.pioneeramerica.org).

**Oct. 28:** 28TH ANNUAL DREW SYMPOSIUM ON IA IN THE N.Y.–N.J. REGION. Sponsored by the Roebling SIA Chapter. See call for presentations in this issue. Info: [RCSIAprez@aol.com](mailto:RCSIAprez@aol.com).

**Nov. 6–7:** Automobility: A Conference on the 100th Anniversary of the Model T, Hagley Museum & Library, Wilmington, DE. Info: Carol Lockman, [clockman@hagley.org](mailto:clockman@hagley.org).

## 2009

**Mar. 7–8:** Washington on the Move: The Architecture of Transportation in the Capital Region, Washington, DC. Latrobe Chapter, Society for Architectural Historians. Paper proposals requested by Sept. 2. Info: [www.latrobechaptersah.org](http://www.latrobechaptersah.org).

**May 24–27:** Incredible Industry: Preserving the Evidence of Industrial Society, Copenhagen, Denmark. See article in this issue. Paper proposals requested. Info: [www.kongres09.nkf-dk.dk](http://www.kongres09.nkf-dk.dk). ■

Department of Social Sciences  
Michigan Technological University  
1400 Townsend Drive  
Houghton MI 49931-1295

**SOCIETY FOR  
INDUSTRIAL  
ARCHEOLOGY**

Address Service Requested

Presorted Standard Mail  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Permit No. 2431  
Minneapolis, MN