

## Facts & Figures

**Owner:** Fort Hunter Fire District, Guilderland

**Type of Project:** A replacement fire station

**Architect:** Richard E. Jones Associates, Queensbury

**Construction Manager:** AKW Consulting, Inc.

**General Contractor:** Jorsen Construction Group, Waterford

**Size:** 21,225 square feet

**Cost:** \$5.87 million (total, including all administrative costs)

**Construction Time:** March 2004 - November 2005

**The Need:** Replacing an old fire station that was too small and not code compliant

**The Challenge:** Phasing the project so the fire department could continue to serve the community during construction

## Supportive Team Members

**Buffalo Hotel Supply Co., Inc.**  
Food Service Design & Equipment



Photos courtesy of Richard E. Jones Associates

Guilderland, New York

# Fort Hunter Fire Station

The Fort Hunter Fire District needed a new fire station to serve its growing community. The existing 50-year-old facility was too small to accommodate new apparatus space needs and the department's administrative needs. In addition, it did not meet current fire station design standards outlined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the

New York State Building Code. So, the district decided to build a replacement facility.

Encompassing more than 21,000 square feet, the new facility includes six drive-through emergency vehicle bays; two back-in emergency vehicle bays; apparatus support, maintenance and storage spaces; two storage mezzanines within the apparatus bays; administrative offices; a training seminar room; public

meeting space; and a full commercial kitchen.

In order to keep the current fire station operational during construction, the project was completed in two phases. "Phase I involved the construction of new apparatus bays as well as support/storage space adjacent to the existing building," said Craig Jones, project architect for Richard E. Jones Associates, the project's architect. When this phase was



completed, the department moved into the new space, while the existing building was demolished and Phase II occurred. The second phase included the construction of the administrative and public portions of the new station.

Nearly two years was spent researching designs of other firehouses, including taking several tours. According to Jones, it was important to the fire department that the new facility respect the residential nature of the community. To that end, the design incorporates the use of varying pitched roofs and building materials that are evocative of many of the historic residential structures found in the surrounding neighborhoods. "The building's form features steep pitched roofs," he said, "and although the building is somewhat long and linear, the varying roof lines break the large mass down into smaller elements and assist in providing the residential scale desired."

The building's exterior material palette includes brick veneer and several types of concrete masonry unit (CMU). David Jensen, project manager for Jensen Construction Group, the project's general contractor, said the facility features incredible ornamental brickwork with a lot of intricate detail.

All parties agreed that the most challenging aspect of the project



was the phasing necessary to keep the fire department fully operational. The site is very narrow, and it was not feasible to build the new facility completely independent of the existing one. "Through careful planning and design of the new building and overall site, we were able to keep the department functioning throughout construction," said Jones.

"[Richard E. Jones Associates] did an outstanding job listening to our needs/comments throughout the design and construction process," said Eric J. Adams, chairman of the board of fire commissioners for Fort Hunter Fire District. "The phased approach to this project was very extensive." He said that a lot of time was spent planning and coordinating the different aspects

of the construction so the department could continue responding to emergencies in the community without interruption or delay.

"This new facility will provide a 'center' for our community," said Adams. The department has expanded access of the building to community groups. "We have

increased capabilities to host various fundraising and community events. Our firefighters have new areas to meet, train, [and] maintain apparatus and other equipment." Indeed, the new Fort Hunter Fire Station will benefit the community in many ways. ■

— Keith M. Nathanson



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