

TRENTON CENTRAL FIRE HEADQUARTERS AND MUSEUM

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.

Location: Trenton, NJ

Client: City of Trenton Fire Department

Construction Cost: \$9,100,000

Area: 54,000 sf

Completion: 2002

VSBA renovated, restored, and expanded this firehouse -- a Renaissance palazzo style building with *piano nobile*, listed as a contributing building in the Academy/Hanover District -- to accommodate administrative operations, a fire museum, and new support spaces. Apparatus and service bays, firefighter's facilities, and work shops are contained in an addition, conceived as a rhythmic composition of well proportioned elements -- a generic architecture analogous in materials to the original building.

The focus of the overall composition is a glass-enclosed entry structure that contrasts with the renovated original building and VSBA's addition. It brings urban civic scale to the complex, linking old and the new, and providing gracious connected entrances from front to back. A big firefighter's hat sign over this entry serves as a civic gesture announcing the public museum enclosed within the original apparatus bays.



