

Charlotte Firefighting Apparatuses

The William Jeffers & Company Hand-Powered Pumper (1861), the American Fire Engine Company “Metropolitan” Steam-Powered Pumper (1902), and the American LaFrance & Foamite Company Gasoline-Engine-Powered Pumper (1928) are the only extant fire apparatuses of their types that exist in the collection of fire engines owned by the Charlotte Fire Department. The apparatuses document the evolution of fire engines used by Charlotte firefighters from the last quarter of the nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century, and have been restored to operational condition and therefore possess educational value, not only for Charlotte but for communities throughout North Carolina. The City of Charlotte acquired the William Jeffers & Company Hand-Powered Pumper (1861) for use by Charlotte’s African American volunteer fire company. Consequently, the hand-powered pumper is an important artifact of Charlotte’s African American history.



William Jeffers & Company Hand-Powered Pumper (1861)



The American Fire Engine Company “Metropolitan” Steam-Powered Pumper (1902)



The American LaFrance & Foamite Company Fire Truck (1928)