

History

Fire Station 45, Pacific Street

Ranches filled the hills and canyons and farms scattered over the valley floor in 1930's Simi Valley. In October 1933, local volunteer fire fighters requested a small building from the County Fire District to store their small cache of hand tools and a 40-gallon chemical/water fire extinguisher on wheels.

The County offered property south of Los Angeles Avenue at 4th Street and Pacific Avenue. Funds were raised for an 18- by 30-foot building where Station 45 is located today.

Labor from the depression era Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) constructed the building from large cut stone quarried on the Koenigstein Ranch in Santa Paula Canyon in the Upper Ojai. The station was not finished until 1937.

The first person hired was Jack White who was replaced by Val Smith in 1944. Smith moved his family into the station and later became the first Battalion Chief for Battalion Four.



Battalion Chief Val Smith in front of 1937 Dodge pumper at the Simi station.

Simi Valley's first fire truck was the Fire District's first factory-built truck. The 1937 Dodge 1½ ton with a 500 gallon-per-minute front-mount pump and a 300-gallon water tank cost the District \$2,495

In 1956, Simi Valley's first fire station closed when a new station was built in the center of the valley on Los Angeles Avenue, but it reopened on September 19, 1960, when new housing tracts began to fill the valley.

With two local stations, the department began identifying stations by number rather than the name of the community. The 4th Street station reopened as Station 45.

A new engine room was constructed on the West Side of Station 45 in 1964, replacing a small metal building at the rear. The Fire District demolished Simi Valley's original stone fire station in 1977, and built new office and living areas onto the 1964 engine room.



Station 45, Simi's first fire station building constructed in 1937 with engine room added in 1964.