

History of the Hartford Fire Bell

The Hook and Ladder Company became organized in 1863. Meetings were held in their fire house that was on the existing city hall site. This was a volunteer department they raised money for fire fighting equipment. The Hook and Ladder Company bought the bell for fire alarm purposes in 1867. It was installed in their bell tower. The bell reportedly cost \$400.

In 1888 the city council requested that the Hook and Ladder Co. give up their building and land so the new city hall could be built there. They would be willing to house both fire companies there after completion. At this time the Hook and Ladder Company agreed to serve the city and came under contract on July 7, 1888. The Hook and Ladder Company asked the city council to buy the bell from them since it would be their new headquarters also. They asked the city for \$100. In 1895 the Hook and Ladder Company requested payment for the bell or they would like it returned. The city paid them \$75 for the bell. They used that money for fire fighting equipment.