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Historic fire truck moved to its new home

A 1918 Mack fire truck took its final run today as it was moved to its permanent home in the Sioux City Public Museum's new downtown site. The procession and public ceremony featured officials from Sioux City Fire and Rescue and the local family that donated the truck to the Museum. Two SCFR trucks escorted the rare ladder truck from the Sioux City Convention Center along a blocked off 4th Street to the museum site.

The Long Branch, NJ Fire Department originally owned and operated the truck through the 1950s. The rare fire truck was in disrepair when local businessman Irving F. Jensen Jr. purchased it from the Oceanside, NY Fire Department and had it meticulously restored. Similar ladder trucks were used by the Sioux City Fire Department during the 1920s and 1930s.

The Jensens have put the ladder truck on permanent loan to the museum to be displayed in its permanent exhibit gallery. Now fully operational, the bright red truck is 8,500 lbs. and measures 40' long x 8' wide x 12' high. The truck will be visible from both outside the new museum and from the glass skywalk as part of the "Overcoming Adversity" exhibit. Fire, police, and military history will be highlighted along with notable floods, fires, and accidents. The adjacent Disaster and Recovery Wall will show a multi-media presentation of the 1904 Pelletier Fire, 1953 Floyd River Flood, and Flight 232 Crash.

The installation of the permanent displays will begin the first week of November and will be completed in approximately six weeks. The new museum site will occupy most of the first floor of the building — approximately 55,000 square feet of floor space.

For more information about "Our New Museum," visit www.siouxcitymuseum.org. The website includes the latest news as well as giving information and a pledge card.