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Sioux City Public Museum unveils historic fire truck

A major acquisition for the Sioux City Public Museum pulled into downtown today. A 1918 Mack fire truck on permanent loan from the Irving F. Jensen family was unveiled at the Sioux City Convention Center today.

The truck was on display for the Business for Breakfast presentation featuring New York Fire Department Chief John Salka. Officials from the Sioux City Fire Department and Sioux City Public Museum were in attendance at the Mayor's press conference as the permanent loan was announced.

Meticulously restored, the fire truck is fully operational and is equipped with ladders and hoses. It is 8,500 lbs. and measures 40' long x 8' wide x 12' high.

Jensen acquired the rare historic fire truck from the Fire Department in Long Branch, NJ. The LBFD operated the truck through the 1950s when it went to the Oceanside, NY Fire Department. A similar type of fire truck was used by the SCFD.

The bright red fire truck will be displayed behind the glass façade of the new museum site as part of the Disaster and Recovery exhibit. It will be visible from both outside the new museum and from the glass skywalk.

"This donation represents a premier addition to the Sioux City Public Museum's exhibits," said Steve Hansen, Museum director. "We have several large artifacts that we are very eager to display in our new facility."

Located at 607 4th Street, the new museum site will occupy most of the first floor of the building — approximately 55,000 square feet of floor space. With construction currently underway, the museum is on track for a 2010 grand opening.

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.