



A Live Fire Training Facility for St. George

"The essence of community, its heart and soul, is the non-monetary exchange of value; things we do and share because we care for others, and for the good of the place."

— Dee Hock

Firefighting is a very dangerous occupation. When the alarm goes off, firefighters respond, ready to do what is required to protect the people and property of our Town. It is our responsibility to prepare our firefighters for that task by providing the proper equipment and training. Training is the most important component of the package that our firefighters need before we ask them to take on such a dangerous job.

The only way to train a firefighter to fight fire is to put them in real conditions: faced with fire, heat and smoke, wearing all of their gear and hauling hoses and axes. In the past training was done by acquiring structures that could be burned. This has become very problematic because of environmental concerns and the increasing value of older structures.

We have the opportunity to meet this need. A live fire training facility will give our firefighters the necessary training they require.

For the past few years St. George has been going to Wiscasset to use the burn building there. It is not always available and the distance is an issue. We need a closer training site so that we don't have to strip our town of personnel and equipment during training. Neighboring towns also face the same issues. The Knox County Fire Training Academy has had to send the last two classes to Hollis for their end test and The Mid-Coast School of Technology in Rockland has been sending their students all the way to Ellsworth for end testing.

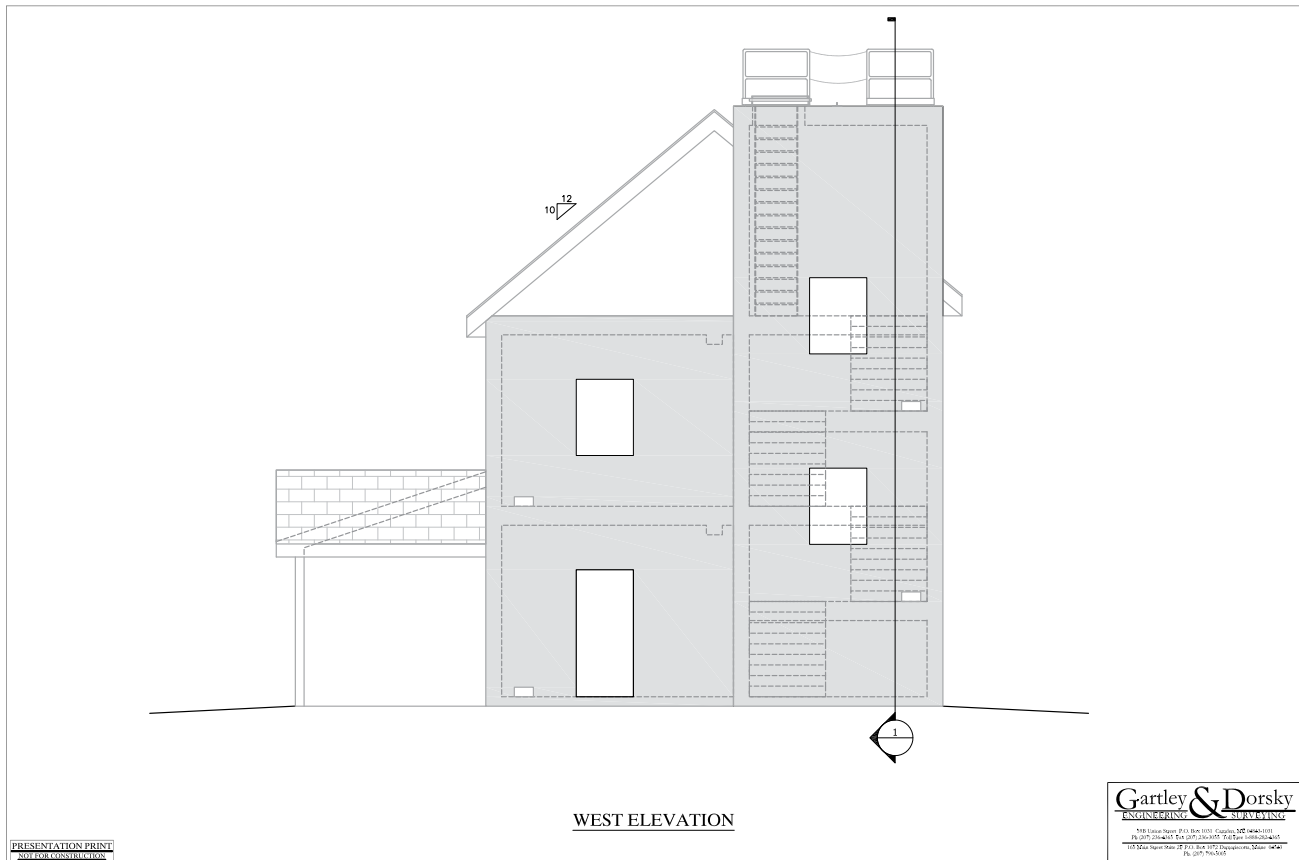
The St. George training facility will be a regional resource. Like many towns, when there is a structure fire we don't always have enough trained firefighters to respond. That's when we depend on mutual aid from neighboring towns. And they depend on us. We need to train together with these towns that make up the Knox County Mutual Aid Association. There are 18 municipalities in the association, including Waldoboro and Lincolnville.

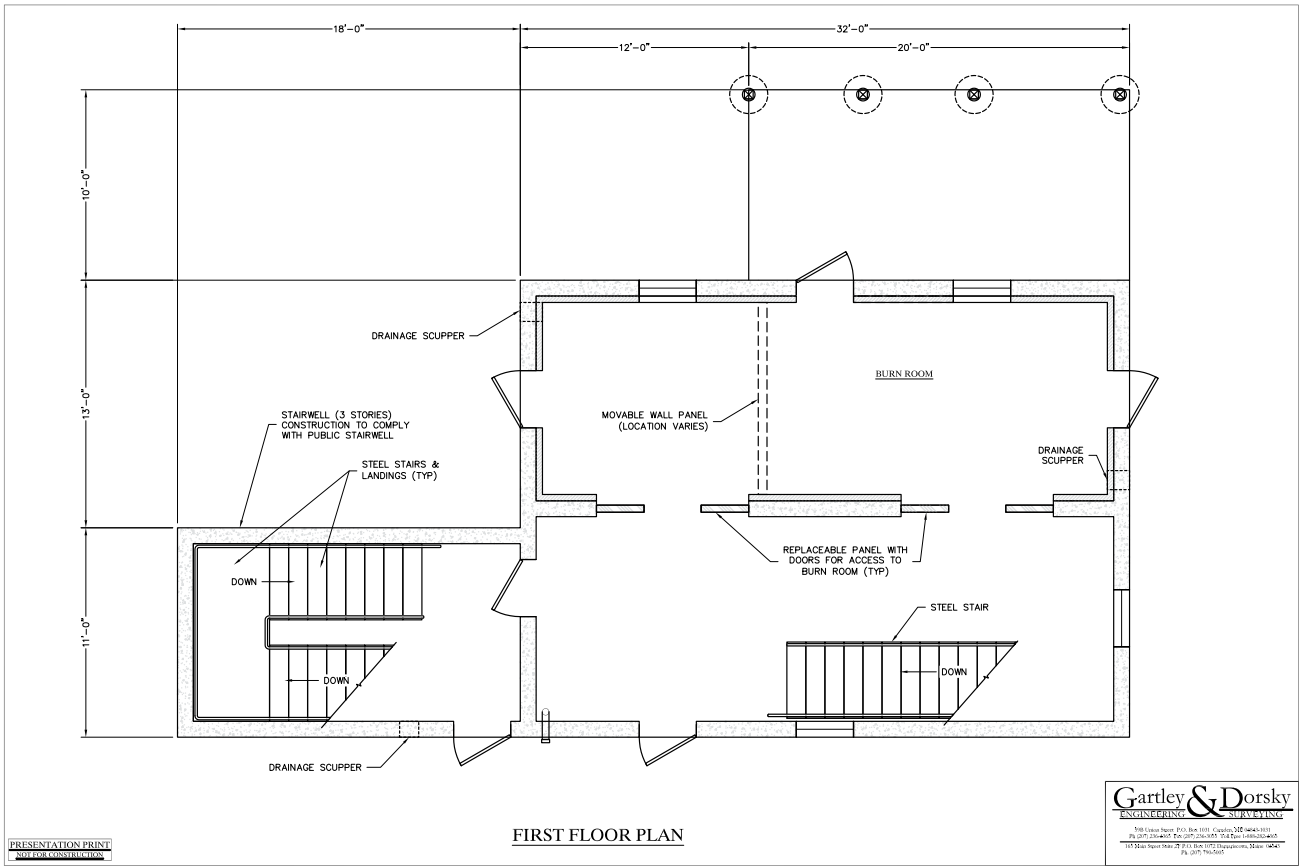
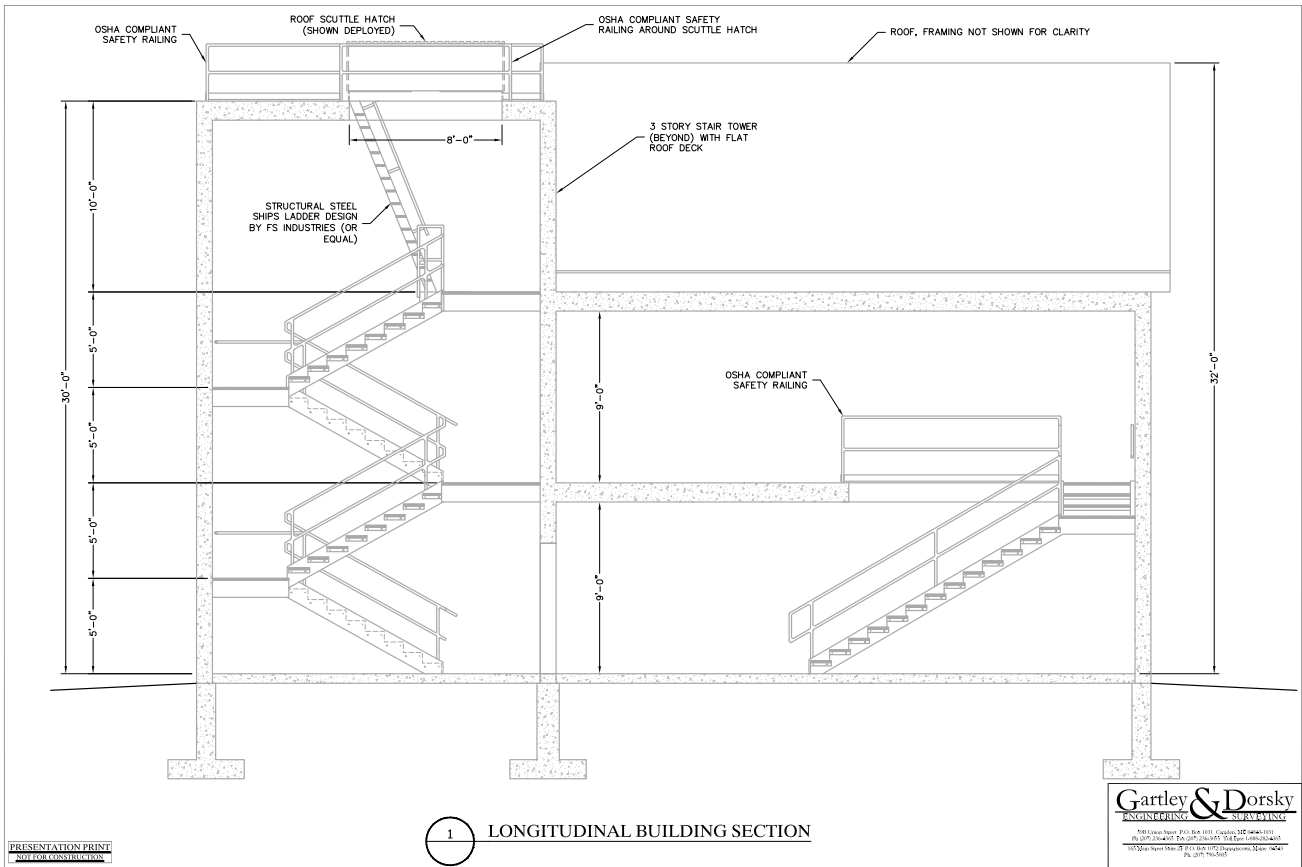
This facility will be a state of the art training center, and provide a valuable and necessary resource for St. George and other communities in the region. It is designed to the most up to date standards, and there is nothing else like it in the state. The building can be configured to create a variety of training scenarios. Firefighters can experience going down into a basement, or going upstairs to a second floor. They can become familiar with entering a room that is thick with smoke, and practice rescuing people, carrying them down stairs, or going out through a second story window.

The Knox County Mutual Aid Association has endorsed this project and with their support we believe that we can provide a training facility that will help recruit and train a firefighting force that will serve our town and the region.

Project Timeline

- 1998 The St. George Firemen's Association purchased land next to the fire station on Seal Harbor Road for \$3,000. The goal was to develop a training facility including a burn building.
- 2001 The St. George Firemen's Association started a Burn Building Reserve Account with \$3,000 and gave the burn building site to the town.
- 2007 Article 15 of the warrant at Town Meeting created a Training Building Reserve Account with an initial contribution of \$25,000. Additional contributions from the Town since then have established an \$81,837 reserve fund.
- 2014 The SGVFFAA contracted with Gartley and Dorsky Engineering of Camden to develop a site plan and building design.
- 2015 Selected a contractor and finalized project budget. Developed a fundraising plan and began writing grants and soliciting support. Break ground in August.
- 2016 Complete project in July 2016.







Project Budget

Available Funds

SGVFFAA Cash Balance	\$52,525
Town of St. George Reserve Funds	<u>\$81,837</u>
TOTAL Funds as of 1/22/15	\$134,362

Costs

Design	\$8,000
Site Work	\$100,000
Construction	\$200,000
Thermal Lining for Burn Rooms	\$125,000
Fundraising	<u>\$1,000</u>
Total	\$434,000

\$300,000 needs to be raised through grants, donations and in-kind contributions from corporations and individuals.

Dues and user fees paid by Knox County Mutual Aid and other departments will cover operating costs and fund a reserve account for future major capital expenses.

The training facility will be located on Seal Harbor Road, behind the Spruce Head Fire Station. When completed, it will become the property of the Town of St. George.



For more information contact Fire Chief Tim Polky at 372-8581 and visit the website of Knox County Fire Training Academy, www.kcfta.com.

The St. George Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Association is a 501(c)3 organization.