

# Smethport Fire & Fire Department Timeline of Major Events

April 1868	Astor House destroyed - no fire company
1875	Wright House (later Hulls Hotel) construction completed
1881	Rockwell House (later named Chautauqua/Imperial) construction completed
1881	Kittredge Opera House construction completed
June 1881	Opera House 16 kerosene lamp chandelier falls- no real damage- extinguished quickly
1881	Pierce House Hotel completed
1881	Grand Central Hotel completed
1881	3rd McKean County Courthouse completed- Martin Beebe architect
August 1881	8/ 25/1881 1st organizational meeting of the Smethport Hose Company at Pierce House Hotel
<b>December 1881</b>	12/8/1881 Smethport Hose Company adopts constitution/ elects officers at Grand Central Hotel Smethport Borough Building at corner of W. Water & Fulton serves as fire hall
April 1882	4/11/1881 Bennett House burns: firemen at Opera House Dance- they save most of the Bennett House
April 1882	2nd Bennett House fire, arson expected, finishes off Bennett House landmark- site of 1861 Bucktail mustering
1882	Smethport Hose Company new uniforms & first fire wagon w/ 500 feet of hose
1883	Smethport Extract Company fire in East Smethport destroyed
1893	1/31/1893: wooden frame Smethport Academy building destroyed by fire.
1893	12/4/1893: new brick school completed on site of former Smethport Academy
1898-1899	BAD FIRE YEARS
August 1898	“new” 1893 brick school is destroyed by fire. Arson.
November 1898	11/28/1898 Kittredge Opera House destroyed
December 1898	12/17/1898 Baptist Church destroyed/ replaced 1899 w/ Cottage House
1899	Grand Central Hotel losses 4th floor in fire/ building saved
1900	new brick high school constructed
1903	Hamilton Building (later Christmas Store) replaces lost Opera House
Dec 1904	12/24/1904: Christmas eve: St. Elizabeth of Hungary wooden frame church & parsonage destroyed
1907	St. Elizabeth of Hungary brick church (current) consecrated
1907	new Smethport cutlery factory completed
1909	Henry Hamlin donated nickel & brass steam pumper named “The Henry Hamlin” by fire department.
1910	Smethport Case Cutlery factory (former Smethport Cutlery) destroyed by fire
1910	1/12/1910: DC Young Store destroyed by fire. The “Henry Hamlin” saves the rest of Smethport.
1911	1/6/1911: Smethport Fire Department formed. Replaces Smethport Hose Company.
1927	Ford Model T chassis purchased. Old fire wagon installed on it by Holmes & Gilfillan.
1929	Packard-Buffalo Fire Truck purchased.
1933	1/20/1933: horrific Smethport Fire “old stand” 400 block destroyed/ Imperial Hotel & north 300 block destroyed
1940	2/12/1940: McKean County 3rd Courthouse built in 1881 destroyed by fire.
1940	Smethport Fire Department Drum & Bugle Corps formed.
July 1940	Quaker State Refinery in Farmers Valley saved from being destroyed by fire.
1942	4th McKean County Courthouse dedicated.
1957	Nelson Street Firehall purchased.
1962	Nelson Street Firehall expanded.
January 1981	1/6/1981 Hull’s Hotel, former Wright House built in 1875, destroyed by fire
November, 1996	former Grand Central building destroyed. Adjoining Picard Annex, Hamlin Bank, Smethport Auto Parts , Kwik Fill saved.
2004	Picard Annex (Take-Two Video) destroyed. Last section of the original Grand Central destroyed.
2006	Smethport Fire Department celebrates 125 year anniversary.

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