



Firehouse Gallery

In 1914, William Augustus Edwards, a prominent Atlanta architect, designed the City Hall and Firehouse on the corner of Crawford and Water Streets in downtown Bainbridge, GA.

Through the years, community life revolved around the building as it served as City Hall, Library, and Public Safety Building. When no longer adequate to meet the city's needs, it was deeded to the Arts Council in 1995 and is now the community's cultural center and is home to the Bainbridge – Decatur County Council for the Arts, Decatur County Historical Society Museum, Decatur County Artists' Guild, Bainbridge British Brass Band and Riverside Artsfest.

The building reflects the Mission style architecture popular in the early part of the last century for public buildings. Basically made of brick and cast stone, Mission buildings feature shaped parapet walls, arched doorways, classical entrances, and broad overhangs. Many of these buildings have been razed in the path of progress. The Bainbridge building is the only example of Mission architecture remaining in this part of the state. Considering the age and numerous changes



that have occurred over time, the structure is in good condition. Although generally concealed, original detail is evident throughout.

Now this building has assumed a new role in community life as a cultural center. The complex is located in the Downtown Historic District that was listed as a National Historic Landmark in November 1987.

Proposed renovations of this wonderful building will include revealing many of the original details of the architecture that were previously hidden. By removing many of the

“improvements” that were added over the years, the original ceiling details, beams and brickwork will emerge to enhance the dramatic architectural detail of this structure.



While structurally sound, it is in need of some renovations. During the time of occupancy by the City, many modifications of the building were done, including wall partitioning, lowered ceilings and office-type lighting. Most of these modifications were functional for the use of the building at the time, but they did not endeavor to be anything other than practical and did nothing to enhance the historic beauty of the building. They do not function well for the current use of the building as a cultural arts center, and most are in a state of disrepair.

The Arts Council wants to make sure that the building's physical future is secured, that the presently unusable space is utilized and that the building become accessible to those with physical limitations for the many activities that take place at the Firehouse Center.

Cost of Construction:	\$800,000
Funding Sources:	
\$125,000	Fundraisers & Kirbo Charitable Trust Matching Grant
\$250,000	City of Bainbridge
\$250,000	Decatur County
\$175,000	Outstanding