

# Dennis Fire Station #2

## Dennis, MA



Dennis's new Fire Station #2 began as a feasibility study of the old station it would replace, comparing the costs and benefits of renovation versus new construction. In use as a repurposed wooden schoolhouse since the Dennis Fire Department's founding in 1932, the two-bay facility was beyond repair. Equipment and vehicles lacked proper storage, combustible liquid covered the floors, and there was no decontamination or fitness room. Yet the old station's gabled Cape style held a regional appeal that The Galante Architecture Studio sought to reinterpret in the new facility.

After seven site analyses, a new location was selected for its potential to hasten firefighter response times and stimulate area development. Completed two years after the initial groundbreaking, the new Dennis Fire Station #2 increased the department's apparatus stationing capacity by 50% and put advanced decontamination into action to protect firefighters from toxins brought in from fires.

The facility also holds seven bunkrooms, locker rooms, and a kitchen/dayroom with exposed ceiling timber trusses, New England-style. Other Cape-like elements include a gabled roof on the two-story administrative section. The double-height brick volume housing the three double-loaded apparatus bays recalls a classic New England barn, but it can hold far more: six fire trucks, two per bay, stationed back-to-back so they can exit on either side. In the rear, a one-story firefighter training room doubles as a 60-person-capacity community room with exposed trusses, where people can enter the station through a separate access door to use the room without having to disturb the Fire Department.





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