

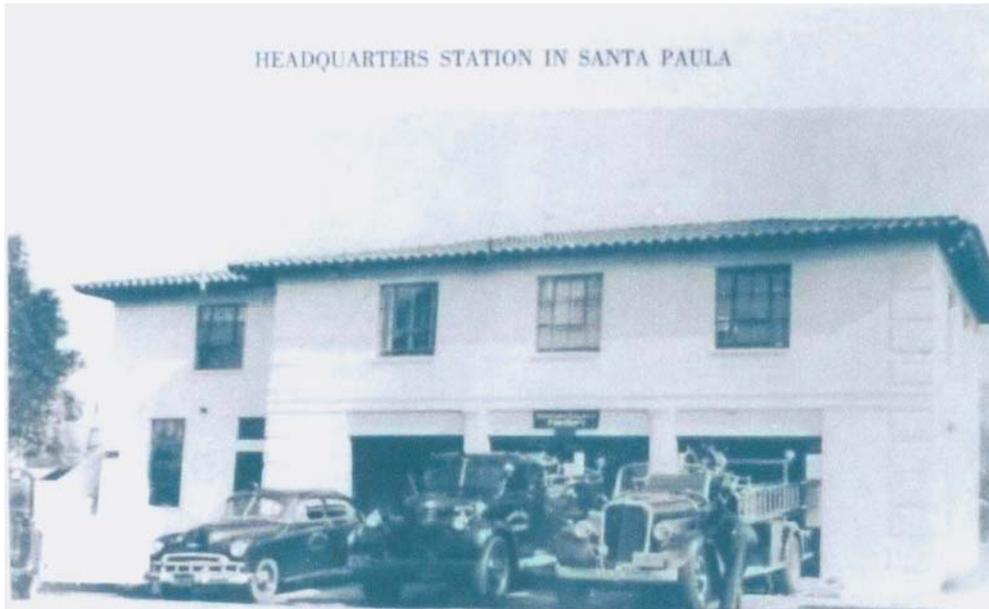
# History

## Fire District Headquarters



**First headquarters located in the County Agricultural Building from 1928 into the 1930s.**

Five different facilities have served as the Ventura County Fire District headquarters with three of those locations in Santa Paula and two in Camarillo. When the District was formed in 1928, the first headquarters was located in the County Agricultural Building at 845 Santa Barbara Street in Santa Paula, selected because of the first Fire Chief's duties as the Fish and Game Warden.



**Fire District Headquarters located at 735 Santa Barbara St. , Santa Paula, 1935-1956.**

As the district grew and space became cramped, property to the west of Santa Barbara Street, across 8th Street, was purchased in 1935. Construction of a second headquarters structure, with crew quarters, allowed around the clock staffing for the first time. The new two-story concrete block building measured 40-feet across and 26-feet deep. Located at 735 Santa Barbara Street in Santa Paula, it still stands.



**Fire District Headquarters and Station 12  
located at 530 W. Main St., Santa Paula, 1956 to 1976.**

In 1956, new headquarters were built in Santa Paula at 530 West Main Street. This facility consisted of three major buildings. The first building contained administration offices, Santa Paula Dispatch, a four-stall wide two deep engine-room and crew quarters for Fire Station 12. The second building housed an auto repair shop and the third a warehouse. The district had grown to approximately 75 personnel.

In 1974, the headquarters station was crowded and unable to support the training program. Gary Girod, Training Chief for the district, was searching for a place to conduct basic training classes. He found the old Oxnard Air Base in Camarillo, which had been closed by the Air Force. He acquired permission to use parts of the base on a month-to-month basis for his training program, providing an effective and meaningful training location for the district.



**Fire District Headquarters located at 395 Willis Av., Camarillo, 1976 to 1992.**

A couple of years later the airport was turned over to Ventura County by the Federal Government. In 1976, Chief Masson made the bold decision to move headquarters from Santa Paula, where it had been located since its beginning, to the Camarillo Airport in the old Air Force hospital building at 395 Willis Avenue.

In February of 1992, headquarters was relocated to the two-story building at 165 Durley Avenue at the Camarillo Airport and currently serves as the Ventura County Fire Department Headquarters. This building had served as the Operations Building for the Oxnard Air Force Base.

As the population in the county has grown, with the demand for more and specialized services, the Fire District has expanded accordingly to provide fire protection and service for the increased population.