

# CANTON FIRE MEMORIAL BELL

Applicant: Canton Fire Department

Memorial Bell at  
Ponkapoag Fire  
Station  
(dating to 1888)

photo credits:  
George Comeau



## Project Description

The Canton Firefighter's Memorial Bell is located at the Ponkapoag Fire Station on Sassamon Street. The memorial was constructed in 1973 in conjunction with the dedication of the new fire station that replaced "Old Shakey" in the very same location. The Memorial Bell sits upon on brick foundation with a plaque commemorating all those who served on the Canton Fire Department since its organization in 1885.

The antique bronze bell was manufactured in 1888 by the William Blake Company and was installed in the Ponkapoag Fire Station bell tower in that same year. Interestingly, one of William Blake's partners was Paul Revere III, the grandson of Paul Revere, whom both men apprenticed under. After more than four decades in its current location, the impressive bell is showing the effects of time and exposure to the elements. Additionally, the brick foundation which supports the bell is crumbling and in need of repair.

The Canton Fire Department is seeking CPA funds in the amount of \$10,000 to refurbish and relocate the Memorial Bell to the lawn of the Ponkapoag Station where it can be viewed by the public and utilized during the annual "Firefighter's Sunday" memorial service held each year in June. The dedication of the refurbished memorial is slated to coincide with the rededication of the Ponkapoag Fire Station in September of 2015.