

CITY OF SALISBURY HEADQUARTERS

SALISBURY, MARYLAND

Originally the City of Salisbury's Fire Station 16 before it moved locations almost two decades ago, the Salisbury Fire Headquarters building located at 115 S. Division Street sat vacant for many years before the City of Salisbury decided to take action to breathe new life into the historic downtown building. Originally built in the 1920's, the structure was officially declared surplus in 2008, with the City accepting proposals for redevelopment in 2009 and 2012. After years of public discussion and negotiation, Gillis Gilkerson's bid to redevelop the property was accepted.

Gillis Gilkerson's development team invested over a million dollars to transform the vacant firehouse into a mixed-use music venue and office complex. Construction started in 2014, and included improvements to every level of the structure, and the exterior facade, but maintained features from the original firehouse headquarters including the large garage bay doors, historic architectural details, and iconic bell tower. The music venue that opened there in 2015 also paid homage to the original structure's use, with the name Headquarters Live.

Upon the closure of the music venue in 2017, the building was redeveloped again, this time into the headquarters structure for the City of Salisbury's well-known newspaper The Daily Times. Construction work completed the transformation of the second floor into office spaces and half of the first floor into offices, leaving a large portion of the original venue space open for public meeting use. The lowest level's access provided an ideal configuration for the newspapers distribution department.

The building changed tenants again in 2023, becoming the new City of Salisbury Headquarters. Coming full circle, the improvements made to the structure to accommodate The Daily Times proved to be a perfect match for the City of Salisbury's growing team. The historic fire house now houses the Mayor's Office, the Arts, Business and Culture Department, a new Downtown Salisbury Visitor Center, and a large public meeting space for City meetings and special events. The new office location creates a new hub for City efforts, directly adjacent to the City of Salisbury's Parking Garage and Unity Square park, complete with public art and a splash pad.

