

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B - BUILDING

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BLVD
BOSTON, MA 02125

Town Provincetown
Place (*neighborhood or village*)
Address 117 COMMERCIAL ST
Building ID 119
Parcel No. (PID) 06-4-023-0
Mapbase # 06-4-023
Building Area 633.499
Historic Name Fire House #2
Present Use Residential
Original Use Municipal - Fire house
Date of Construction 1868
Source Tax assessment
Style/Form Italianate
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material clapboard on 2nd fl. Shingle on sides
Foundation concrete block
Wall/Trim wood
Roof Front Gable
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll	Negative(s)



Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate

Major Alterations (with dates)

Skylights

Condition Good
Moved no yes **Date**
Acreage 0.026
Setting

Recorded by Vanessa Zeoli
Organization Kise Straw & Kolodner
Date (*month/year*) September 2003
Form Status new update
 Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings in the community.

117 Commercial St. is a 2-1/2-story; 2-bay Italianate-style former fire house; gable-front roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, rear exterior brick chimney with arched cap, partial cornice returns, modern skylights; exterior is clad in clapboard on 2nd story of front façade and wood shingles on the other façades, wood corner boards, 1st story of front façade comprised of wood surround including pent roof with entablature and dentils, building sits on a concrete block foundation; fenestration includes single 2/2 vinyl DHS windows, segmental arched trim over front gable-end attic window; primary entrance is accessed by a pane-and-panel wood door with a wood entablature surround and flat brackets; wood ledged and braced overhead garage door; square cupola on rear roof ridge with dentiled cornice is lit by 2/2 vinyl DHS windows.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

As per Josephine Del Deo (1976): "The firehouses in Provincetown are a significant part of the community development. They house the pumpers for each section of the town and all fire fighting equipment. In addition they were important social gathering places for the volunteers of the fire department. Which is an old and distinguished organization of the town dating back to 1836 (see Jennings) Many of the original memorabilia of each of the five pumper houses is now displayed at the Provincetown Heritage Museum. The location of the old engines still held by the town: 'Ulysses' Pumper #3, by Adams Pharmacy; 'Franklin' No. 2 Provincetown Heritage Museum, 'Washington', Pilgrim Monument Museum. 'Old Steamer' now owned by Edaville Railroad. The meetings and drills general social life of the fire department is carried on in the firehouses today just as it was in the beginning days of the companies and is therefore significant as a social legacy completely unchanged."

As per Tom Boland (1994): "On March 7, 1835 the Fire Department was created through a vote of town meeting. In 1850, another engine was purchased and established in the former firehouse at 351 Commercial Street. In May of 1859, A Board of Engineers was formed to expand the Department and oversee the acquisition of more equipment and the construction of five new stations. The first fire chief was E.G. Loring. The dates of these equipment purchases were: No. 1 (117 Commercial) 1868, No. 4 (189 Commercial) 1868, No. 5 (514 Commercial) 1869, No. 2 (252 Commercial) 1871. All of these firehouses were built in the same style and are quite similar. Number 117 Commercial Street, then called Engine #2, was the repository for the Franklin Engine, a 5 ½ cylinder 16 stroke engine, built by the Messrs. Hunneman & Co. of Boston Highlands. The house was erected at a cost of \$1200. The house is currently called Engine 1. In 1993 the Fire Department suspended operation in all the stations (except #3, a slightly later station which houses an ambulance, and #5 which houses an antique engine) and centralized equipment at the new Shank Painter Fire House.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable County Atlas., 1880.
Barnstable County Atlas., 1907.
Cape Cod Directory, 1901.
The Extremity of Cape Cod. Map, 1836.
H.F. Wallings Co. Map of Provincetown Village. Atlas, 1858.
Jennings, Herman A. Chequocket or Provincetown. 1893.
Jennings, Herman A. Provincetown. or Odds and Ends from the Tip End. 1890.
Report of Town Officers. 1870, 1872. Provincetown.
Resident Directory. W.F. Richardson & Co., 1886.
Resident Directory. W.H. Hopkins, 1889.
Hatch C. and Mellen C. M. "The Log of the Provincetown and Truro on Cape Code, Massachusetts, pp 45-46

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*