

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B - BUILDING

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

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

Town	Provincetown
Place <i>(neighborhood or village)</i>	
Address	189 COMMERCIAL ST
Building ID	451
Parcel No. (PID)	11-1-009-A
Mapbase #	11-1-009-A
Building Area	701.411
Historic Name	Firehouse Pumper #4 (Excelsior Engi
Present Use	Residential
Original Use	Municipal - Fire house
Date of Construction	1868
Source	Town Report, 1872
Style/Form	Italianate
Architect/Builder	
Exterior Material	Wood shingle
Foundation	poured concrete
Wall/Trim	wood
Roof	Front gable
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures	

Major Alterations *(with dates)*

Replacement windows. New foundation and sill beam

Condition	Good
Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes Date
Acreage	0.117
Setting	

Recorded by	Vanessa Zeoli		
Organization	Kise Straw & Kolodner		
Date <i>(month/year)</i>	September 2003		
Form Status	<input type="checkbox"/> new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.

189 Commercial St. is a 2-story, 2-bay Italianate-style former fire house that has been converted to residential use; gable-front roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and has partial cornice returns, exterior brick chimney on rear facade; exterior is clad in wood shingles with wood trim; building sits on a new poured concrete foundation; fenestration includes single 6/6 wood DHS windows, window in gable end has segmental arch surround; primary entrance is an overhead garage door constructed of wood drop siding with two single-pane windows; slab wood entry door is adjacent to garage door; decorative 1st-story cornice above doors is supported by scroll-sawn brackets.

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 (1977). "Fire House No. 2"

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.

Constructed around 1868 under the direction of John D. Hilliard, Chief of the Board of Engineers, 189 Commercial Street served as the "Excelsior" Engine #4 so named after the fire engine. The original engine was built in Boston by Hunneman & Co. in 1854. According to Jennings, the officers of the company as of January 1, 1890, were: Wallace M. Burch, Foreman; Frank Burnett, First Assistant; L.A. Smith, Second Assistant; and, Stephen A. Childs, Clerk. In 1993, the house ceased operation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

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