

# 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** 259-263 COMMERCIAL ST  
**Building ID** 766  
**Parcel No. (PID)** 11-3-025-0  
**Mapbase #** 11-3-025  
**Building Area** 5312.564  
**Historic Name**  
**Present Use** Commercial  
**Original Use** Commercial  
**Date of Construction** 1880  
**Source** Tax assessment  
**Style/Form** Italianate  
**Architect/Builder**  
**Exterior Material** Wood shingle  
**Foundation** brick  
**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)*

Storefront alterations

**Condition** Good  
**Moved**  no  yes **Date**  
**Acreage** 0.18  
**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.*

259-263 Commercial St. is comprised of two 3-1/2-story front-gable buildings joined by a center 1-story storefront hyphen; gable-front roofs are sheathed in asphalt shingles; exterior is clad in wood shingles with wood corner boards and trim; building sits on a brick foundation; fenestration includes square bay windows on the 2nd story with brackets, Victorian details, and paneling below windows, 2/1 wood DHS on one building and 2/2 wood DHS windows on the other; operable louvered shutters on gable-end attic window; Italianate details in the storefronts and 2nd-story bay windows (brackets, window types), and Greek Revival details on remainder of building (window trim, partial cornice returns etc.); storefront contains bracketed cornice, replacement 3/1 and 3/2 wood picture windows with paneling below; 3 entrances on front façade all containing wood pane-and-panel doors, end doors are sheltered by flat Italianate hoods with brackets; 2nd-story square bay window on west side supported by posts that span the entire 1st floor; additions to south side not visible.

### 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 Tom Boland (1994): Noted only as a store in 1858, one of the buildings on the site (#261) was purchased by Obadiah Snow in 1873. Two years later, he acquired the other (#263). At this location, the Snow's sold household furnishings and fancy goods.

(261-63) The extant early storefront, comparable to 191 Commercial and 197-199 Commercial survives as an excellent representation of commercial properties in the 19th century.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable County Atlas., 1880.

Barnstable County Atlas., 1907.

Ruckstuhl, Irma. Old Provincetown in Early Photographs. Toronto, 1987.

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