

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B - BUILDING

--	--	--	--

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

Town Provincetown
Place *(neighborhood or village)*
Address 222 COMMERCIAL ST
Building ID 630
Parcel No. (PID) 11-3-037-0
Mapbase # 11-3-037
Building Area 2683.297
Historic Name Masonic Hall (King Hiram's Lodge)
Present Use Commercial - Retail
Original Use Mass Assembly
Date of Construction 1865
Source NR Nomination
Style/Form Second Empire
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material clapboard
Foundation concrete block
Wall/Trim wood
Roof Mansard
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)*

Storefronts altered. Foundation under storefront.

Condition Good
Moved no yes **Date**
Acreage 0.081
Setting

Recorded by Johnette Davies
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.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FORM B - BUILDING

--	--	--	--

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

222 Commercial St. is a 2-story, 3-bay, Second Empire-style assembly hall that has been converted to commercial use; mansard roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, gable dormers with paired brackets and pendants, overhanging eave with paired pendant brackets; exterior is clad in clapboard siding on the front façade with wood shingles on the secondary facades; building sits on a concrete block foundation; fenestration includes band of 4-light display windows with corner pilasters on storefront, single-pane windows, 2/2 DHS in gable dormers; primary entrance is accessed by a band of 4 multi-pane doors in the center bay; secondary entrance on right side façade.

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): "King Hiram's Lodge was organized on December 12, 1795. It is one of the oldest lodges in the country, and certainly one of the oldest in Massachusetts. The Charter of King Hiram's Lodge was signed by Paul Revere, on December 12, 1796, and of the chartered lodges by Paul Revere it is one of the 7th or 8th stills surviving. Its history is interesting. Quoting from the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary booklet printed in 1946 it is interesting to note the following:

The lodge was established in Truro, which then extended to what is now Howland Street, east end. About 1/4 of the houses of the town were located just east of the boundary. A majority of the charter members belonging to Provincetown, many of the meetings were held in the latter town, and quickly efforts were put forth to obtain a working charter. These efforts were rewarded early in 1796. permission to remove the lodge across the line into Provincetown being granted, the removal occurred.

It is recorded that on May 20, 1797, a vote was taken to build a "lodge house" and work of building same was commence soon after that date. The building then erected still stands in Provincetown (the building was used partly as a school and partly as a seminary). It stands at the base of high Pole Hill and is, or was, the residence of Mrs. Rachel C. Atkins. It was used quite a good many years as a lodge house then sold to the Rev. Mr. Partridge, who converted it into a dwelling. Not long after the sale was effected, the marine Lodge of Odd Fellows, newly formed, erected a hall, and the Mason's obtained quarters in the new hall. In 1865 the present hall was built by the Masonic Association, etc.

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.*