

# 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** (neighborhood or village)  
**Address** 252 COMMERCIAL ST  
**Building ID** 744  
**Parcel No. (PID)** 11-3-078-0  
**Mapbase #** 11-3-078  
**Building Area** 3831.87  
**Historic Name** Rescue Hook & Ladder #1  
**Present Use** Commercial/Residential - Multi-unit  
**Original Use** Residential  
**Date of Construction** 1850  
**Source** Tax assessment  
**Style/Form** Greek Revival  
**Architect/Builder**  
**Exterior Material** vinyl  
**Foundation**  
**Wall/Trim**  
**Roof** Front Gable  
**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures**

### Major Alterations (with dates)

1-story storefront addition; 2nd-story addition

**Condition** Good  
**Moved**  no  yes **Date**  
**Acreage** 0.103  
**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.

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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.*

252 Commercial St. is a 2-1/2-story, 3-bay, Greek Revival-style mixed use commercial/residential building; gable-front roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles; exterior is clad in vinyl siding; building sits on an obscured foundation; fenestration includes 2/1 DHS replacement and 6/6 DHS with storms, storefront contains 3/1 fixed windows with center awning window in top panes, square bay on side façade with 6-light casements; primary entrance is a corner storefront entry with a modern glass door; 2-story, 1-bay shed-roof side façade addition; 1-story rear addition with another 1-1/2-story gable-front addition on rear behind it; 1-story storefront on front façade is a later addition.

### 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): " In the July 3, 1969 article in the Provincetown Advocate, an issue which commemorates its centennial years, the owner of Adams Pharmacy, Dr. John Crocker, is thoroughly memorialized. Dr. Crocker was the first publisher of the Advocate and was also an apothecary. He began printing the Advocate in 1869 and was living at the time at the present site of the pharmacy. His apothecary shop was situated beside his residence and has since been incorporated into the store. He had definite ideas about the treatment of tuberculosis far in advance of his time, recommending sunshine and fresh air instead of simply quiet and darkness. His diagnosis was 15 years in advance of the first sanitarium at Saranac Lake. This building is important, therefore, from the standpoint of medicine, communication and community development. Its architecture dates it as significant in the town's general development. The business is the oldest in continuous operation in the town."

As per Tom Boland (1994): The earliest known structures of the area are 250 and 280. 250 Commercial is listed as the office of Dr. John L. Lothrop, who also had a pharmacy here, in the 1858 atlas. By 1875, the building had become Adams Pharmacy which still exists to this day and is the oldest business in continuous operation. The building in 1880, however was still owned by a J.M. Croker. By 1901-1907, the site was owned by John D. Adams himself. Historic photographs from the turn of the century indicate that the storefront remains unchanged in form.

CONT.

### 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.  
Resident Directory. W.F. Richardson & Co., 1886.  
Resident Directory. W.H. Hopkins, 1889.

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