

# 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** 254 COMMERCIAL ST  
**Building ID** 757  
**Parcel No. (PID)** 11-3-079-0  
**Mapbase #** 11-3-079  
**Building Area** 711.617  
**Historic Name** Pumper Fire Station - Pumper #3  
**Present Use** Residential  
**Original Use** Municipal - Fire house  
**Date of Construction** 1880  
**Source**  
**Style/Form** Italianate  
**Architect/Builder**  
**Exterior Material** Clapboard, Concrete block  
**Foundation**  
**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)*

1st story rebuilt (c. 1920)

**Condition** Good  
**Moved**  no  yes **Date**  
**Acreage** 0.015  
**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.*

254 Commercial St. is a 2-story, 2-bay Italianate-style firehouse converted to residential use; gable-front roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, wood cornice with partial returns; exterior is clad in clapboard siding and concrete block, with wood pilaster corner boards, bracketed eave at 1st story; building sits on an obscured foundation; fenestration includes 1/1 wood DHS with storms; primary entrance is a wood garage door and adjacent metal panel-and-panel entry door.

### 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): "Constructed around 1859 under the direction of E.G. Loring, Chief of the Board of Engineers, 254 (FORMERLY 252) Commercial Street served as the Rescue Hook & Ladder Company #1. The original engine was built in Wellfleet, Mass. by the B.A. Ellison Co. in 1859. According to Jennings, the officers of the company as of January 1, 1890 were: James A. Small, Foreman; Joseph A. West, Assistant; and, Andrew T. Williams, Clerk. In 1993, the house ceased operation and commenced use as a Police Department substation for the summer season.

### 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. Provincetown. or Odds and Ends from the Tip End. 1890.  
Resident Directory. W.F. Richardson & Co., 1886.  
Resident Directory. W.H. Hopkins, 1889.  
Town Report, 1872.

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