

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 258 COMMERCIAL ST
Building ID 763
Parcel No. (PID) 11-3-080-0
Mapbase # 11-3-080
Building Area 5549.426
Historic Name First Congregational Meetinghouse
Present Use Commercial
Original Use Religious - Meetinghouse
Date of Construction 1850
Source Tax assessment
Style/Form Greek Revival
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material Clapboard, wood shingle
Foundation obscured
Wall/Trim wood
Roof Front gable
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

1-story modern commercial addition

Condition Good
Moved no yes **Date**
Acreage 0.179
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.

258 Commercial St. is a 3-story, 3-4 bay, Greek Revival-style meetinghouse that has been converted to commercial use; gable-front roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, partial cornice returns; exterior of historic core is clad in wood shingles, clapboard siding on modern commercial addition, wood corner pilasters, modillions and trim; foundation is obscured; 1-story irregularly-shaped modern commercial building extends from front facade; addition has central recessed area, roof deck, small central section with hipped roof, and 2nd-story section in rear corner; fenestration includes 2/2 DHS on core and fixed windows with transoms on addition; addition is accessed by multi-pane doors in multiple entries; storefront does not exhibit Greek Revival style.

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): "The first church building in Provincetown was erected, probably around 1717, on "Meeting House Plain" across Winthrop Street from and south of the Old Cemetery. Shank Painter Pond, now much reduced in size, came close to the structure. Some years later a second and larger church was build on or near the same site and this in turn gave way to the famous "Old White Oak" which was dedicated on February 20, 1774. The latter edifice, framed from the timber which gave it its name, stood about where the Catholic rectory now is.

The church society that built and occupied these meeting houses was "orthodox", bringing the Calvinistic doctrine of the Pilgrims down through the years unchallenged, for almost two centuries, in the Cape communities. With the arrival of Methodism came schism and in 1830 the "Old White Oak" closed its doors and the parish it had served went out of active existence. In 1843 it was torn down and new edifice, for a new society, was framed from the old timbers. This structure is still sanding, is the "Congregations Church of the Pilgrims" on Commercial Street west of Town Hall.

It was also common practice in the early days of the community to select all the officers for the town affairs from the membership of the Congregational parish. These men were almost automatically the deacons of the church as well as the officers of the town, This tradition must have been broken at some point after Methodism began, but for a long period the tradition remained. It is thought that early records of the town which have seemingly been irretrievable lost may have been stored or kept in the Congregational Church instead of Town Hall. This is little hope of their recover however at this date."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Hatch, Mellen, C.M. :The Log of Provincetownand Turro, pp 29, 30.
Comments of Geroge Bryant, Grand Bank Archives, Provincetown.

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