

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

PH0698539

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 30 1979

DATE ENTERED

APR 11 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Peabody Central Fire Station

AND/OR COMMON

Peabody Engine House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

41 Lowell Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Peabody

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
6th

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE  
025

COUNTY  
Essex

CODE  
009

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

\_\_\_ DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
\_\_\_ STRUCTURE  
\_\_\_ SITE  
\_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC  
\_\_\_ PRIVATE  
\_\_\_ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
\_\_\_ IN PROCESS  
\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED  
\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
\_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
\_\_\_ NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE  
\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL  
\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL  
\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL  
\_\_\_ MILITARY  
\_\_\_ MUSEUM  
\_\_\_ PARK  
\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS  
\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC  
\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION  
\_\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Peabody

STREET & NUMBER

24 Lowell Street

CITY, TOWN

Peabody

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

South Essex Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

32 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE  
Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #50

DATE

1975

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE  
Massachusetts

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Peabody Central Fire Station faces south on Lowell Street in downtown Peabody. It is surrounded by several other mid to late nineteenth century buildings and stands diagonally opposite the City Hall (NR). The two and a half story mansard roofed structure has a hose tower to the rear. There is also a two story rear ell which originally housed the stables and a one story ell which was attached to the west elevation to house the fire equipment in 1921.

The station is constructed of red brick with granite trim and currently has an asphalt shingle roof. The overhanging roof is supported by modillions and the cornice is further accentuated by decorative brickwork. Paired barrel dormers on the east and west elevations light the attic. The facade is dominated by two jerkin headed cross gables containing oculi in granite frames. There are now four engine bays on the ground floor set within a corbelled sawtoothed frame. Three groups of paired windows with 6/6 double hung sash light the second story. These have granite sills and keyed stilted segmental arches connected at the impost level by a molded string course. A small plaque with the date 1873 is located above the central pair.

The east elevation is four bays in width and fenestration is similar to that of the facade although the arches are formed of raised brick rather than granite. There are doorways at the end of this elevation. The west elevation was identical before the addition of the one story ell. This sits on a high granite foundation and has a corbelled cornice. Its south elevation has three windows with granite stilted segmental arches and 6/6 double hung sash, while those of the west elevation are trabeated and have 2/2 sash. The two story rear ell has a mansard roof and asymmetrically placed windows, some with 6/6 sash and some with 2/2.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Bruce & Copeland

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Peabody Central Fire Station, built in 1873, is a landmark in Peabody Square. It is significant for the quality of its architectural design and for its continuous role as a fire station. Its construction was recommended by a building committee composed of several distinguished citizens including D.S. Littlefield, John V. Stevens, S.F. Blaney, Warren Wilson, Franklin Osborn Jr. and R.G. Nelson. Town meeting, acting on their resolve, appropriated the sum of \$31,000 to pay for construction of the station.

It was designed by the Salem architectural firm of Bruce and Copeland. The contractor was Charles Folsom and Samuel Trask was the mason. Upon completion, in 1874, the Peabody Press reported that "the appearance of the building from every point of view is remarkably fine, and for an engine house quite imposing."

The first floor originally provided space for two steam fire engines, a hook and ladder truck and hose carriages, while stalls for six houses were in the rear ell. The second floor provided rooms for the offices of the fire company and rooms for the engineers and drivers. The tower was used for drying the hoses.

With its rich brick detail and deep bracketed cornice, the Peabody Fire Station is one of the finest examples of its type in the state. It is also one of the earliest extant fire stations. Its particular importance to Peabody is demonstrated by the numerous articles which appeared in the local newspaper (Peabody Press) at the time of its completion. "One gentleman who claimed to have visited all prominent engine houses in the state, stated that nowhere could a finer one be found. The work was solid and honest; finish tasteful and elaborate; conveniences ample and adequate; and the whole building superior and a model." Further, they noted that the new engine house was an example of the public spirit and enterprise which moved Peabody to provide so handsomely for its fire department and that it was one of the many improvements being made in Peabody Square from which locality a stranger gets his first impression of the town.

The building remains in use as a fire station serving downtown Peabody.



Peabody Central Fire Station  
Map #85, lot #245





HWT  
CIV

LIVE  
CENTER

BEYBOND

RECEIVED  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
JAN 30 1979

APR 11 1979

Property Peabody Central Fire Station

State Mass.

Working Number 1.30.79.190

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 2  
Maps 1/1

**CONTROL**

*pl*  
OK 2.1.79

**HISTORIAN**

*By implication, this fire station must be associated with expansion of city services and provision of fire protection in 19th century. Darned if I can find this in the #8. Architectural significance better justified. Ask for continuation sheet on historical significance.*

*CALL DUBIE 3/9/79*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

*ONE OF THE FINEST EXAMPLES OF ITS TYPE IN STATE. STANDS ALONG ON ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE.*

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*ACCEPT  
Mason  
4/6/79*

*Spectacular mid-late 19th C fire station occupying prominent location.*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

*Accept  
Lobovick  
4/9/79*

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_

5-1-79

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered APR 11 1979



Peabody  
Central Fire Station  
41 Lowell Street  
Peabody Fire Dept. 1975  
Central Fire Station

ESSEX County

JAN 30 1979

APR 11 1979

Photo #1  
Facade facing Lowell Street



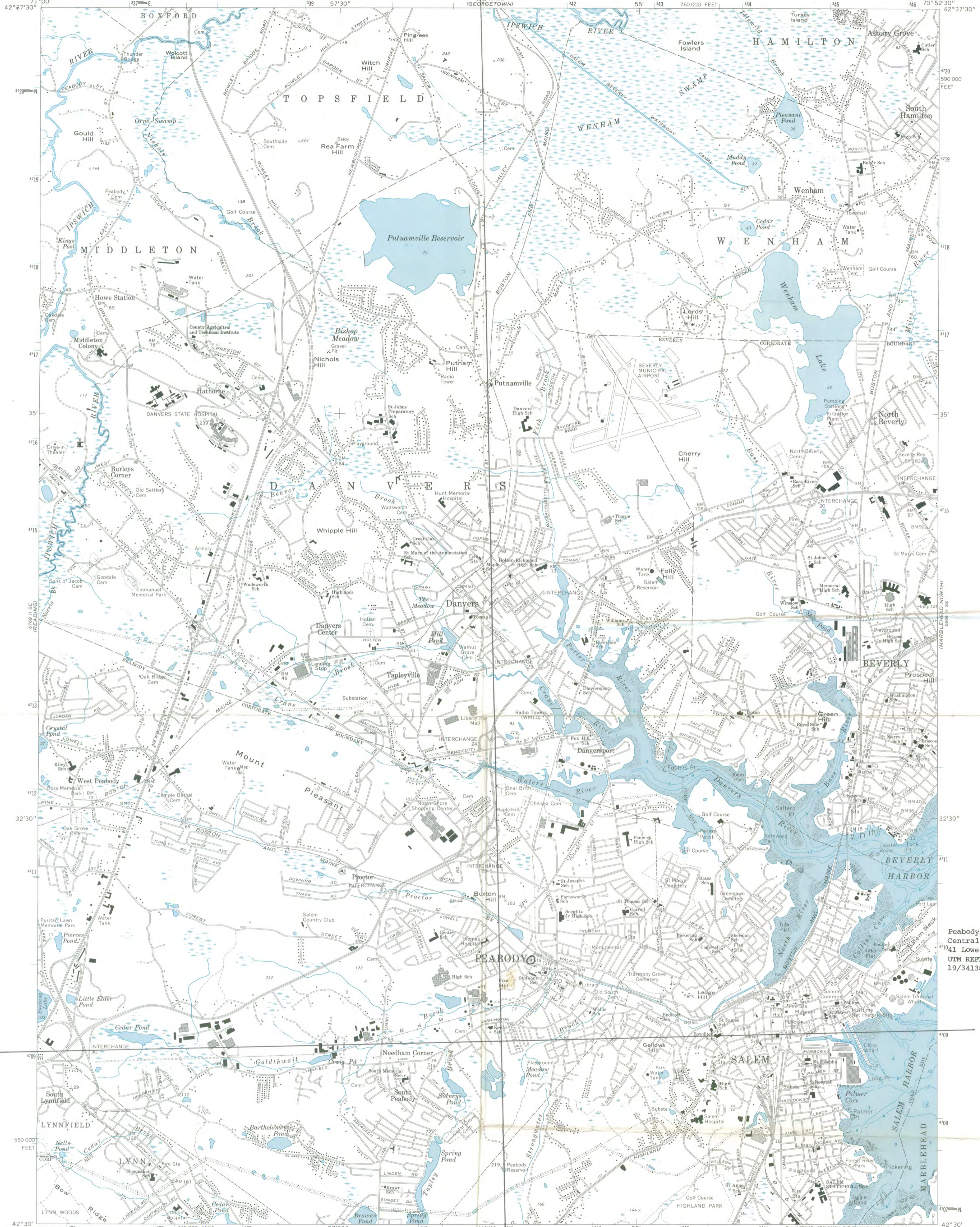
JAN 30 1979

ESSEX County

Peabody  
Central Fire Station  
41 Lowell Street  
Peabody Fire Dept. 1975  
Central Fire Station

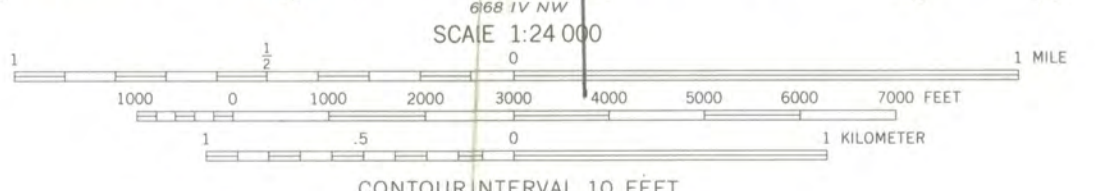
APR 11 1979

Photo #2  
Facade and east elevation



Peabody  
Central Fire Station  
1041 Lowell Street  
UTM REFERENCES:  
19/341380/4709910

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240 and  
241 (1970). This information is not intended  
for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



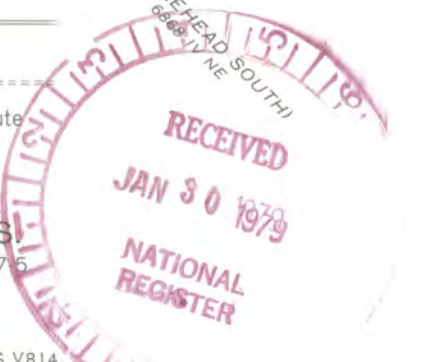
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM II MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

SALEM, MASS.  
N4230—W7052.5/7  
1970





# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Secretary of State

*Massachusetts Historical Commission*

*294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108*

*(617) 727-8470*

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY  
SECRETARY OF STATE



January 23, 1978

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief  
Registration Branch  
National REGISTER  
OAHP, Heritage Conservation and  
Recreation Service  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Herrington,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Peabody: Peabody Central Firestation  
Waltham: Boston Manufacturing Company

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

*Christine Boulding*

Christine Boulding  
Survey Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CB/cj

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **JAN 29 1979**

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

TAKEN

LS

Mr. Charles Harrington, Chief  
Registration Branch  
National Register  
OHR, Heritage Conservation and  
Restoration Service  
Washington, D.C. 20540  
Dear Mr. Harrington,

Enclosed you will find the following information regarding the National Register of Historic Places. I have been pleased to provide you with this information and I hope it will be helpful to you.

Christina Bonfigli  
Deputy Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CB/af

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered      APR 11 1979

Name

Location

Peabody Central Fire Station

Peabody  
Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas  
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Nicholas Mayroules

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR      Byers/bjr      4/13/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Peabody Central Fire Station  
 ② OTHER NAMES: Peabody Engine House  
 ③ date of entry: APR 11 1979  
 ④ county code: 9

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 41 Lowell St.  
 city / town: Peabody  
 vicinity of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 state: MA  
 county: Essex  
 ⑥ NPS REGION: NE

⑦ OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS  HABS  HAER  NHL  
 ⑩ FUNDED?  YES  NO  
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 6  
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL  
 if state who prepared form? \_\_\_\_\_

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  NO  
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  NO  
 ⑮ ACCEAS:  LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION  deteriorated  altered  original site  
 excellent  ruins  unaltered  moved  
 good  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  
 fair  unexcavated  excavated  
 ⑰ features: INTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-4  NOT APPLICABLE-7  
 EXTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-5  NOT APPLICABLE-8  
 ENVIRON  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-6  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS  YES-Restricted  YES-Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown  
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO  
 ⑳ SAVED?  YES  
 ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  ENGINEERING-11  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  POLITICS / GOVT.-21  RECREATION-28  
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2  COMMERCE-6  ENTERTAINMENT-26  LAW-16  RELIGION-22  SETTLEMENT-29  
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1  COMMUNICATIONS-7  EXPLORATION-12  LITERATURE-17  SCIENCE-23  URBAN PLANNING-31  
 AGRICULTURE-3  CONSERVATION-8  HEALTH-27  MILITARY-18  SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ARCHITECTURE-4  ECONOMICS-9  INDUSTRY-13  MUSIC-19  SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30  
 ART-5  EDUCATION-10  INVENTION-14  PHILOSOPHY-20  TRANSPORTATION-25  
 ㉓ CLAIMS: explain  
 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

㉔ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ CURRENTLY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉕ dates of initial construction: \_\_\_\_\_ major alterations: \_\_\_\_\_ historic events: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s): \_\_\_\_\_ ㉘ architect: \_\_\_\_\_ ㉙ master builder: \_\_\_\_\_ ㉚ engineer: \_\_\_\_\_

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer: \_\_\_\_\_ ㉜ interior decorator: \_\_\_\_\_ ㉝ artist: \_\_\_\_\_ ㉞ artisan: \_\_\_\_\_ ㉟ builder/contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

㊱ NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL:  
 EVENTS:  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP