

# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.

~~M-84-62~~ 491

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")

Staple to left side of form

Photo number Inst. CL 4 # 20 A

1. Town Fall River, Mass.

Address 116 Rock Street

Name Cataract Engine Company No. 3

Present use G.A.R. Building

Present owner City of Fall River

3. Description: 2st. 3 bays wide

Date 1843

Source History of Fire Department

Style Greek Revival (commercial)

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features gable end to street; plain  
pilasters, 1st front porch; ground floor  
bay window

Altered porch Date early 20th C.

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 1,908 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate distance of building from street  
7 ft.

6. Recorded by Patricia Giza

Organization FROHP

Date 11/14/80

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location  
in relation to nearest cross streets and  
other buildings. Indicate north.

N

ROCK ST.

FRANKLIN ST.

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Fall River

Original use fire barn

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates City of Fall River voting place; evening school 1883;  
school dept. headquarters 1867

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |                                     |                            |                          |                         |                          |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Conservation               | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agricultural          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Education                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Architectural         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exploration/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/<br>humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Military                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Political                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |                         |                          |
| Community development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                            |                          |                         |                          |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Cataract Engine Company No.3 of 1843 is the oldest fire station still standing in Fall River, the only remaining frame fire station, and one of the very few Greek Revival non-residential structures surviving in the city.

The Cataract Engine Company was Fall River's third fire station. The first was erected in the 1820's on Pleasant street; the second, also a small wooden structure, originally stood on Stone Lane. The Fall River Fire Department was officially established in 1832. The Cataract Engine Company was erected in response to the devastating fire of 1843, which destroyed much of the early settlement area. Located at the corner of Rock and Franklin Streets on the fringe of the downtown, the 2-story, 3-bay Greek Revival temple-front building looks more like a house than a public facility. It was built for the town by Southard H. Miller and James Ford at a cost of \$976 plus \$362 for the land. At the same time the town purchased its No. 3 fire engine from William C. Hunneman, a well-known Roxbury builder. In 1872 the city's first chemical fire engine was housed here. The firehouse was initially manned by a volunteer company of 60 men, a number later increased to 82. It remained in use as a fire station until 1876.

From 1867 to 1890 the second floor of the building was used as the Fall River School department administration headquarters. The first evening high school opened in the Cataract No. 3 in 1882 and continued here for many years, until this successful program was moved to the old High School building. From 1891 to 1917 the building was used by the Veteran Firemen's Association, organized in 1890. From 1918 until recent years it served as the Richard Borden Post 46 of the Grand Army of the Republic, (G.A.R Hall). The house was recently sold and will be restored (cont'd)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Atlas 1895: engine house shown

1883: shown

1871: shown (city written on this lot)

1858: shown

1850: shown

Directory : 1853-Cataract Engine Company No. 3-corner Rock & Franklin Sts  
Lazarus Borden foreman

History of the Fire Dept.-Captain Thomas Lynch-1900-pgs. 52-162

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:  
Fall River, Mass.

Form No:  
N-78-62  
491

Property Name: Cataract Engine Co. #3

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

for residential use.

As an early building of major significance to the history of the Fall River Fire Department and as a unique building type, the Cataract Engine Company No. 3 meets criteria A and C of the National Register, individually.

10.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (cont'd)

Phillips History of Fall River-Vols. II and III-1945

1843-1865: building housed Cataract Engine Company No. 3 source: Fall River Directories

1866: no listing

1867-1890: second floor of building used as school headquarters. First evening high school opened in the Cataract No. 3 in 1882. This school continued to teach academic high school subjects for many years. It grew in numbers and usefulness and was moved to the old High School building.

Source: Phillip's History of Fall River pgs. 60 and 79 Vol II

1891-1917: building used by Veteran Firemen's Association which was organized on Aug. 5, 1890.

Source: Fall River City Directories, History of Fall River Fire Department by Thomas Lynch pg. 162

1918-1931: building used by Grand Army of Republic Richard Borden Post 46

Source: Fall River City Directories, Phillips History of Fall River pg. 112 Vol. III

1932-present: listed in city directories as GAR Hall

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 1/5/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 10

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic GroupName Fall River Multiple Resource Area  
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Borden, Ariadne J. & Mary A., House  
Substantive Review

Keeper

2/16/83 Paula Ann Boyd

Attest

12. Border City Mills

Substantive Review

Keeper

2/11/83 Paula Ann Boyd R

Attest

13. Borden, N. B., School

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

14. Borden-Winslow House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

15. Brayton Methodist Episcopal Church

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

16. Brightman, Hathaway, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

17. Bristol County Superior Court

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

18. Cadedy, Squire William B., House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

19. Cataract Engine Company No. 3

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

20. Central Congregational Church

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Cataract Engine Company No. 3 (Fall River MRA)  
Bristol County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 15/83-15  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84  
Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83  
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/16/83  
☐ RETURN  
Entered in the National Register ☐ REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

## 1. Name

## 2. Location

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

## 4. Owner of Property

## 5. Location of Legal Description

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

## 7. Description

| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                           |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

## **8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

## **10. Geographical Data**

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## **11. Form Prepared By**

## **12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## **13. Other**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



ONE WAY

SAR BLDG.  
116 ROCK ST.

Crust. kl. 4 #20A

Fall River MRA, Ma

Cataract Engine Company No. 3



CATARACT ENGINE CO. #3  
116 ROCK ST.  
FALL RIVER, <sup>MA</sup> MA

PAT GIZA (1981)

FALL RIVER OFFICE OF HIST. PRES.  
1 GOVERNMENT CENTER  
FALL RIVER, MA 02722  
(HL 2 XX11-15)

CATARACT ENGINE CO. #3 - FRONT  
FACADE, LOOKING WEST

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279