

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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DEC 28 1987

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name District 13 Police Station
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 28 Seaverns Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Boston (Jamaica Plain) N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code _____ zip code 02130

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Talmage Dec. 22, 1987
Signature of certifying official Date
Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 2/10/88
 See continuation sheet. _____
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. _____
 determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
 removed from the National Register. _____
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use District 13 Police Station, Boston, Massachusetts

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government; correctional facility

domestic; multiple dwelling

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

High Victorian Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone

walls red brick

roof slate

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The District 13 Police Station, at 28 Seaverns Avenue in Jamaica Plain, is an unusual example of the High Victorian Gothic Style, in an area still largely comprised of Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival frame houses. Although the police station itself is just 2 1/2-stories high, the red brick structure dominates the neighborhood. The structure is the only Gothic style municipal building in Jamaica Plain, and is one of just a few high Victorian style buildings in the City of Boston.

The original building is a simple rectangle in plan, but the steeply pitched roof, off-center entrance, dormers, and other window treatment create the illusion of variety and irregularity characteristic of this style. The use of red brick and contrasting stone trim give further vitality to the design.

Two full floors are set above a raised basement, with dormers in the hipped roof providing light to the large attic space. The Maple Place facade is three bays wide, with two windows on either side of a central door at ground level. On the first and second floors, paired lancet windows are flanked by wider single windows. The main facade of Seaverns Avenue is divided into six bays with end bays projecting slightly from the center four. Each end bay contains two windows on the basement level and a pair of arched windows on the first and second floors. The front entrance off-set at the eastern end of the central section, is reached by a flight of stone steps flanked by heavy stone posts with a carved quatrefoil motif. An ornate cast iron fence runs along the Seaverns Avenue edge of the property, and in a subdued version forms the bannister for these steps. The carved, wooden, double doors are framed by a shallow pointed arch. The original transom and door lights are missing, as is much of the window sash. A trio of lancet windows and single arched window, set between recessed panels, complete the first floor of this central section; four evenly spaced single arched windows make up the second floor.

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Continuation SheetDistrict 13 Police Station,
Boston, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1

Windows throughout the two main floors terminate in pointed arches with polychromatic voussoirs of red and beige stone. Those on the basement level are flat-headed with rosettes carved in the center of the stone lintels. The same light-colored sandstone is used for quoins at the corners of the main block and projecting bays. String courses forming the sills of the windows and others at the spring-line of the first floor window arches are also of this contrasting stone, as is the sloping water table above the basement level.

The bracketed cornice supports a steep roof originally composed of bands of slate in contrasting colors; it is now a uniform gray. Five pyramidal-roofed domers pierce the roof on the north and south facades. The central domer contains a pair of narrow 1/1 windows; the others have a single 2/2 sash. A triple-window domer surmounted by a spired ventilation shaft is set into the end slopes.

The original floor plan of the building is still very much in evidence. On the basement level, the bars of the old jail cells can be seen. The first floor contains several offices with surviving trim, while the second floor locker room still contains many of its original oak lockers. Adjacent to the locker room is an area originally partitioned for use as sleeping quarters for the policemen, and later converted to servicemen's quarters (c. 1943). Although these partitions have since been removed, some original trim remains. The attic was never finished, though it is spacious and well-lit. Large wood beams and brick piers intersect the space, with additional support supplied by iron tie-rods.

The annex (ca. 1892), connected to the rear of the original building by a 1 1/2-story passageway, is of the same red brick and originally had Romanesque decorative elements in red terra cotta and Longmeadow stone. Architect Edmund Wheelwright's 1892 rendering of the design for this building shows a single pointed-arched entrance on Maple Place, with seven windows set between colonettes on the floor above. The Starr Lane facade has a similar doorway below two-triple-arched windows, and the whole was crowned with a low hipped roof. Its Gothic arches and use of polychromy related this annex to the 1873 building.

The annex contained a patrol-wagon house and stable on the ground floor, with a municipal courtroom, offices and a dormitory above. The hayloft was built above the dormitory, and a small staircase connected these two rooms with the stable below. The courtroom has a public staircase, a private staircase for court offices, and a set of stairs for criminals that led to the covered passageway connecting to the jail cells in the main building.

continued

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2District 13 Police Station,
Boston, Massachusetts

An early 20th century renovation converted the stables to a garage. At this time the arched entrance on Maple Place was replaced by two round-arched vehicular entrances with oversized fanlights. The colored windows above were replaced by larger keystone windows, as were the windows on the passageway. On the Starr Lane, facade the doorway was filled in with brick, and large 9/9 windows were substituted for the triple-arched Romanesque ones. The Georgian Revival style, of the exterior renovations, was carried through to the interior. The wainscoting and trim in the courtroom appear to have been remodeled during this renovation. Although the date is not documented, stylistic evidence suggests that these alterations were carried out in the 1920's.

Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, it is possible that sites are present. At least eight known sites are located in close proximity (within one mile) to the station. In addition, its proximity to Jamaica Pond, Muddy River and Stony Brook would have made this an attractive area for nature settlement and subsistence. Although these factors indicate a high site potential for the original landscape, historical development in the area, and the small size of the lot suggest that the likelihood of significant prehistoric survivals is low. These factors also suggest that the potential for significant historic sites is low. Some early settlement (17th -18th centuries) of Boston (then Roxbury) occurred in the area although later development probably destroyed most sites.

8. Statement of Significance District 13 Police Station, Boston, Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1873 - 1937

1892

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Edmund M. Wheelwright

George Ropes

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The District 13 Police Station retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, association, and workmanship. Constructed in 1873, the structure is architecturally significant because it is an unusual example of the High Victorian Gothic Style. The District 13 Police Station meets National Register of Historic Places criteria C on a local level.

The District 13 Police Station was built in response to the needs of a growing and increasingly urban community. Located in what is now Jamaica Plain, it was originally intended to serve the town of West Roxbury, which was incorporated into a separate municipality from 1851 to 1873. The town's selectmen, recognizing the need to expand police protection, formed a committee early in 1872 to investigate enlarging or remodeling an existing station on Centre Street. This apparently proved impractical, for the following year the selectmen voted a \$45,000 appropriation for the purchase of land and the construction of a new police station. Although the minutes of the Town Meeting do not specify the location of the new building, this appropriation coincided with the improvement of Seaverns Avenue and Starr Lane to the level of public thoroughfares, indicating that the site chosen corresponded to the present address. Expenditures for the new station included the sum of \$7,043.75 for "house, land and interest" from a Joseph Stedman, and \$1,655.50 to George Ropes for services as architect.

1873 was the year in which West Roxbury was annexed to Boston, and the District 13 Police Station appears to have been the last major municipal project undertaken by the Town of West Roxbury. The next mention of the new police station appears in the Boston Police Department's Annual Report of 1874. The building had been completed by this date and appears on the Hopkins 1874 Atlas of the County of Suffolk Massachusetts. The police report notes that the station was in good condition and well-suited to its purpose. The building continued to serve as the neighborhood's Police Station until being converted to condominiums, during the early 1980s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Twentieth Century Souvenir, Boston Police, Major G. Arthur Tappan and A.M. Bridgeman, 1901.

Official Reports - Town of West Roxbury for the Year 1873.

Reports of City of Boston Architect Department 1890-1894.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

Quad - South Boston Scale- 1:25000

UTM References

A 19 325870 4686360
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is bounded by Seaverns Ave., Maple Place, Starr Lane, and number 34 Seaverns Avenue.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire lot of the former District 13 Police Station.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Zarowin/MHC with Katherine Boonin/Preservation Consultant
 organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date 4/24/87
 street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 727-8470
 city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02116

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

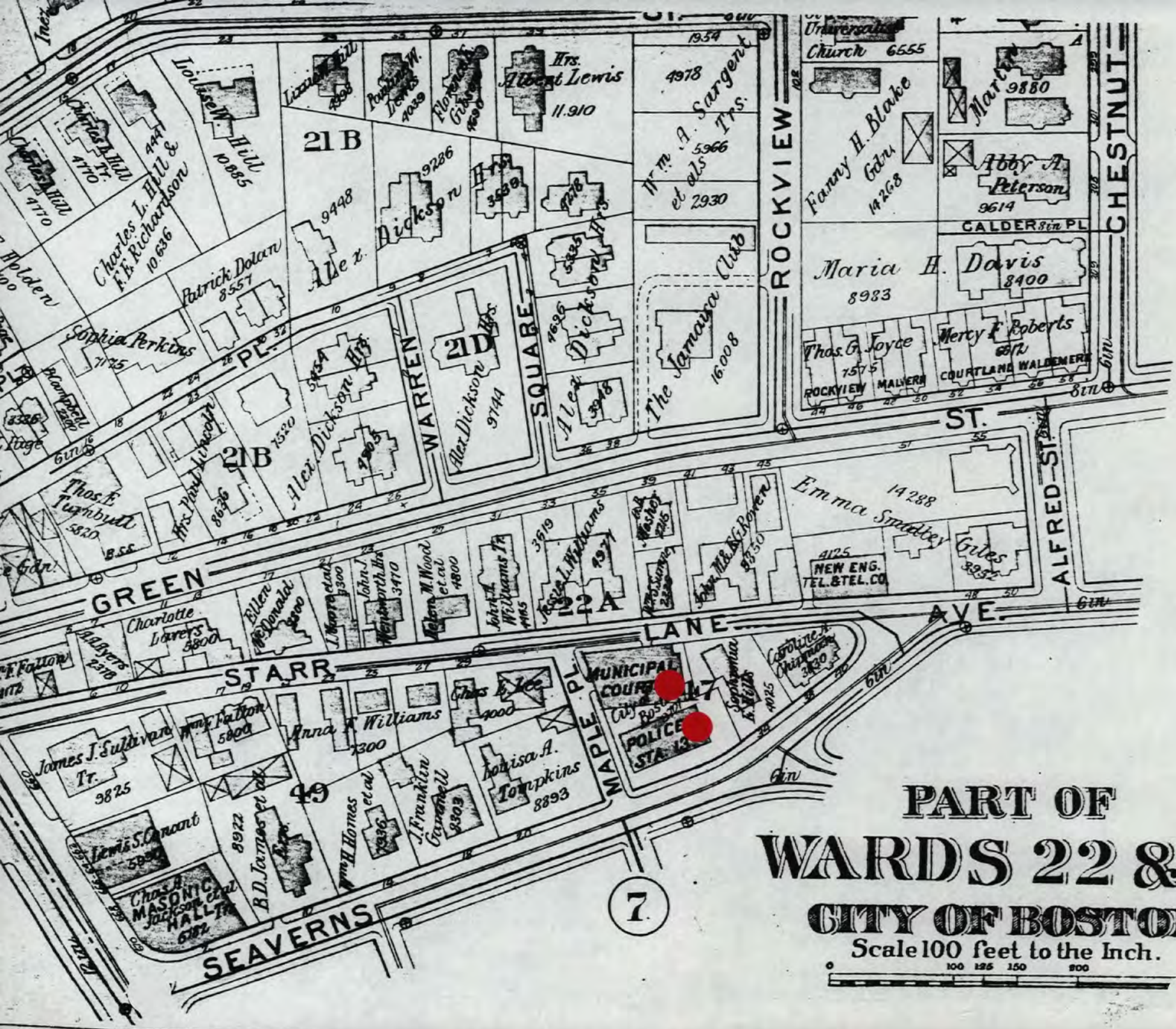
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

District 13 Police Station,
Boston, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 1

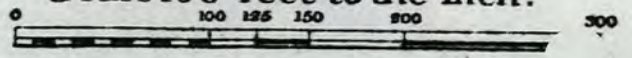
An addition to the building containing stables and a wagon barn, as well as a second floor courtroom, was begun in 1892. The city architect at that time, Edmund M. Wheelwright, noted in his 1892 Annual Report that a contract for the addition had been drawn up for \$21,500 and the foundation had been covered for the winter. The annex was built by John Mack, Jr. at a final cost of \$23,971.97. Wheelwright, who worked as City Architect from 1891 to 1895, is notable for his eclectic use of various historic styles. His design for the City of Boston Fire Department Headquarters, built in 1894, replicated the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. His 1892 rendering for the police station addition shows a more restrained use of historical sources, with Romanesque-derived details combined with Gothic elements that relate it to the original structure. An 1898 photograph, published in a commemorative folio of Wheelwright's work, shows these original details.

A later renovation converted the stables to a garage and remodeled much of the original trim in a Georgian Revival style. The polychromatic slate roof, typical of the High Victorian period, was replaced in 1937, by a roof of monochromatic slates, but other elements of the Victorian Gothic style remain very much in evidence. This style, although somewhat rare in Boston, was commonly used in a subdued version for municipal buildings. The Jamaica Plain Police Station furnishes an excellent and largely intact example of both the High Victorian Gothic and later 19th century Eclectic styles.



**PART OF
WARDS 22 & 23
CITY OF BOSTON.**

Scale 100 feet to the Inch.





on of the Boston Redevelopment Authority
 . S. and the Mass. Geodetic Survey
 al Surveys

Aerial Surveys, April 1961

927

ies by

rice Inc.

District 13 Police Station & Municipal Court
 28 Seaverns Ave.
 Jamaica Plain (Boston), Massachusetts

Source: Boston Redevelopment Authority Map
 No. 17N-8E

Scale: 1" = 100'



Chas. L. & F. Hill
18270

44 ST. 48

216

St. Paul's
Universalist
Church
6555

JAMAICA
CLUB

Helen E. Rand
18000

ROCKVIEW
CHESTNUT

Chas. L. & F. Hill
14900

21B

Maria H. Davis

Ellis
Peterson
9614

Maria H. Davis
8400

Chas. Perkins
9475

Mary W.
Starbuck
5034

Wm. Dickson
9448

Albert Lewis
11910

Phoebe B. Sturdevant
5966
2980

Albert H. East
8612
ROCKVIEW MADYER COURTLAND WALDEN

CENTRE

GREEN

21B

WARREN
PL.

Wm. Dickson Jr.
9744

Wm. C. Hillman
15974

ST.

Y. D. Blake
9719

Ellen Dennis
5000

Wm. Marshall
5090

Wm. Thomas
4300

Irene Williams
8081

Ed. H. Williams
9529

Mary A. Graham
9850

P. B. Smith
22365

ALFRED ST.

STARR

LANE

Wm. James
31452

Wm. James
31452

Jos. W. Williams
7300

Wm. H. Blake
4009

Louise Tompkins
18893

Chas. Curtis
500047

Irene Williams
3890

Mrs. Wm. Winchester
7988

Adaline Shepherd
7400

Wm. H. Blake
4009

Louise Tompkins
18893

Chas. Curtis
500047

Irene Williams
3890

SEAVENS

7 WEST ROXBURY
WARD 23
CITY OF BOSTON
Scale 100 feet to the inch

87002549

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

District 13 Police Station
Suffolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

DEC 28 1987

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-89
Date Due: 1/21/88 - 2/11/88
Action: ACCEPT 2-10-88
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Locally significant representative of civic building executed in High Victorian Gothic mode.

Recom./Criteria Accept C
Reviewer Swake
Discipline Architectural History
Date 2/8/88
_____ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification	Ownership	Status	Present Use
Category	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	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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: _____



District 13 Police Station
South and East Facades

District 13 Police Station & Municipal Court
28 Seaverns Ave.
Jamaica Plain (Boston), Massachusetts

Photo # 1 of 5
Southeast oblique (camera facing northwest)

May 1985
American Landmarks, Inc.
negative - American Landmarks, Inc.



District 13 Police Station
South and West Facades

District 13 Police Station & Municipal Court
28 Seaverns Ave.
Jamaica Plain (Boston), Massachusetts

Photo #2 of 5
Southwest oblique (camera facing northeast)

May 1985

American Landmarks, Inc.

negative - American Landmarks, Inc.



District 13 Police Station & Municipal Court
28 Seaverns Ave.
Jamaica Plain (Boston), Massachusetts

Photographer: Carol Kennedy
May, 1987
Negative filed at Boston Landmarks Commission

Photo #3 of 5
East elevation (camera facing northwest)



District 13 Police Station & Municipal Court
28 Seaverns Ave.
Jamaica Plain (Boston), Massachusetts

Photographer: Carol Kennedy
May, 1987
Negative filed at Boston Landmarks Commission

Photo # 4 of 5
West elevation at rear (camera facing
southeast)



District 13 Police Station & Municipal Court
28 Seaverns Ave.
Jamaica Plain (Boston), Massachusetts

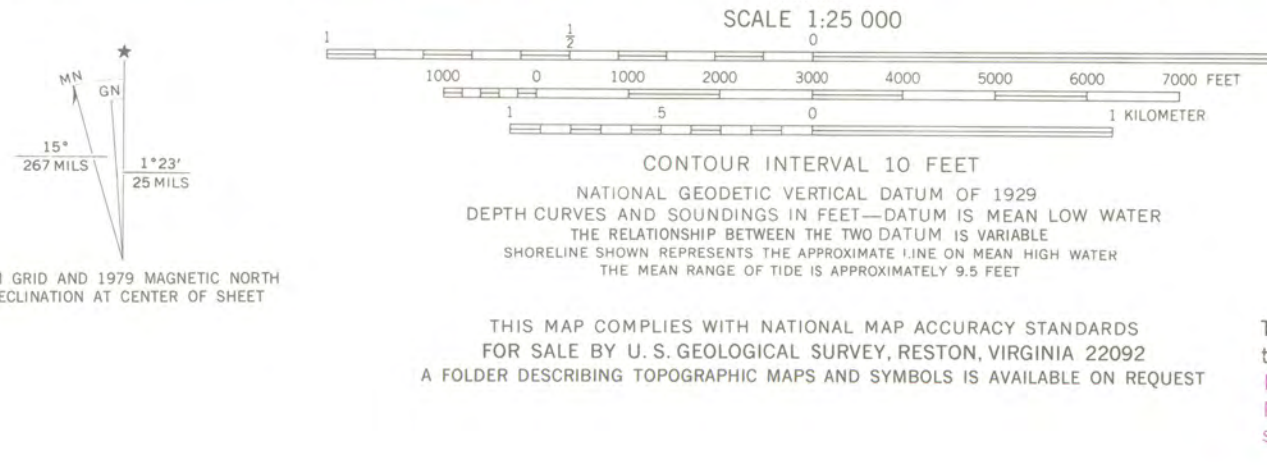
Photographer: Carol Kennedy
May, 1987
Negative filed at Boston Landmarks Commission

Photo #5 of 5
East side walls (from rear, camera facing
southwest)

District 13 Police Station & Municipal Court
28 Seaverns Ave.
Jamaica Plain (Boston), Massachusetts
UTM Reference: 19JZ5870/4686360
Quad - Boston South Scale 1:25,000



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). 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
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215-W7100/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 I SE-SERIES V814

RECEIVED ✓
AUG -4 1987
MASS. HIST. COMM.



P-534 920 345

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

December 22, 1987

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the nomination forms for the following properties:

Adams, Hoosac Street School, 20 Hoosac Street

Boston (Jamaica Plain), District 13 Police Station, 28 Seaverns Avenue

Cambridge (Cambridge MRA), George Gale House, 14-16 Clinton Street

Shelburne and Buckland, Shelburne Falls Historic District

They have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/es

Enclosure

REC 28 1987