

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCPS use only

received DEC 29 1981

date entered JAN 26 1982

1. Name

historic Park Street Firehouse

and/or common Adams Ambulance Service (current)

2. Location

street & number 47 Park Street _____ not for publication

city, town Adams _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
____ district	☒ public	☒ occupied	____ agriculture
☒ building(s)	____ private	____ unoccupied	____ commercial
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational
____ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	____ entertainment
____ object	____ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☒ government
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial
		____ no	____ military
			____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Adams

street & number 65 Park Street (Town Hall)

city, town Adams _____ vicinity of _____ state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkshire County North Registry of Deeds

street & number 65 Park Street

city, town Adams _____ state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the
title Commonwealth #641 has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ☒ no

date January 1979 ____ federal ☒ state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission, 294 Washington Street

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 Park Street Firehouse is located on the east side of Park Street, south of School Street. The building is a three-story brick structure with a rectangular floor plan and flat roof. The building's facade (west elevation) faces Park Street and is set back approximately 5' from its western lot line; the north elevation is attached to and entirely concealed by a neighboring commercial block, while the south elevation is free-standing but is only 6" distant from a neighboring commercial block. The rear (east) elevation faces a courtyard formed by the neighboring Armory Block (39-45 Park Street) and is accessible only through an enclosed alley in the first story of the Jones Block (#49-53 Park Street).

The facade (west elevation) is asymmetrical at the first story, containing a sliding garage door over most of its width and a single entry near its north end. This entry consists of a wooden door with a panelled base and a multipaned light of colored glass; above the door is a large six-pane transom. Extending across the top of this entry and the garage door is a painted metal cornice which, in turn, is capped by a decorative band of diagonally laid bricks. The facade's second and third stories are symmetrical. Centered at the base of the second story is a granite plaque bearing the raised letters, "A.F.D." (Adams Fire District) and the numerals, "1890." Fenestration of the second story consists of three rectangular windows, grouped at the facade's center; sills and lintels are formed by single bands of rock-faced granite, in addition, a band of decorative brickwork extends across the facade, immediately below the lintels. Sash is double-hung, each consisting of a 2-pane lower sash and a 15-pane upper sash made up of a central clear pane surrounded by fourteen small square panes of colored glass. The third story contains 3 windows connected by intersection arches of radiating bricks, capped by a brick archivolt. Each window has a rock-faced granite sill and double-hung sash, consisting of a single-pane lower sash and an arched upper sash with a central arched pane surrounded by 6 smaller panes. Above the third story is a low parapet with three recessed panels surmounted by a shallow corbelling.

The east (rear) elevation is symmetrically arranged, containing three evenly spaced windows at each story. First and second story windows are rectangular with rock-faced granite sills and lintels and 2/2 sash. Third story windows have arched heads (made up of two rows of headers), rock-faced granite sills and 2/2 sash. Horizontal courses include a rock-faced granite foundation, facing bands of diagonally set bricks (top of first story and at the top of second story windows) and a projecting brick cornice.

The building's north and south elevations were originally exposed, but were soon concealed by the construction of neighboring blocks between 1893 and 1896. It is not evident from the exterior whether either of the elevations contained windows; however, the smallness of the Firehouses's lot suggests that the Firehouse was probably planned to become part of a row of buildings. Alterations to the exposed elevations are limited to the installation of a modern, sliding garage door on the facade (3rd quarter 20th century).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☒ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1890 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Park Street Firehouse possesses integrity of location, design and materials and workmanship and is an interesting example of Queen Anne design elements adapted for use on a firehouse. In addition, the building has historical associations with the Adams Fire District, a quasi-governmental corporation established in 1872 to provide fire protection in Adams (then called South Adams). Thus the building meets criteria A & C of the NRHP. The Fire District was governed by a Prudential Committee whose members were drawn largely from the ranks of local industrialists, it seems to have been formed with the initial goal of protecting mill buildings, particularly textile and paper mills, from the fires which plagued them in the nineteenth century, although fire protection was apparently extended to all buildings in the town's major villages in part on a fee basis. Corresponding to the District's industrial focus, companies were established at Adams's main industrial villages (Maple Grove, Renfrew, Adams Center, and Zylante); however, individual firehouses were not built until the late 1880s, beginning with Maple Grove. The first station was followed by the Park Street building, which was the most substantial of the buildings constructed for the Fire District in the nineteenth century and which may have served the function of a central station for the Fire District.

Although the Park Street Firehouse was built as a free-standing block, the small lot which it nearly completely covers and its overall design suggest that it was planned from the beginning to be part of a row of buildings. In its present condition, the Firehouse preserves nearly all elements of its original design including Queen Anne style decorative sash with colored glass, decorative brick work and a panelled door. Alterations are limited to the replacement of original wagon-doors with a modern, sliding garage door, added when the building was converted to use as the town's ambulance service in the mid-20th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Smith, J.E.A., ed. History of Berkshire County. Vol. I. New York: J.B. Beers & Co., 1885.
Reports of the Officers of the (South) Adams Fire District. Adams: Freeman Book and
Job Printers. Annual after 1878.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .035 acres

Quadrangle name Windsor, Mass.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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6	5	4	1	4	0
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4	7	2	0	4	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes only the rectangular shaped lot on which the Firehouse stands; no plan of this lot is recorded with either the Adams Assessors or the Berkshire County Registry of Deeds.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director with Brian Pfeiffer
Act for Massachusetts

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 1981

street & number 29 1/2 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Peter H. Weselowski

title Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission date 12/15/81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 1/28/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

DUE 1/28/82 - 2/7/82

dnr-3

82004949

Name Park Street Firehouse

State, County MA Berkshire

Working Number 12-29-81/531

Fed Nom or Request-Agency

Federal Register Date 2.7.83

☒ Nomination
☐ Determination of Eligibility
☐ On Nomination Form

☒ Bldg(s)
☐ Site
☐ Object
☐ Structure
☐ District

Within:
☐ Multiple Resource Area
☐ Thematic Group

Maps 2
Photos 1

Nomination prepared by:

☐ State Staff
☐ Local
☐ Other

Entered in the

Action: National Register

☒ ACCEPT 1/28/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Check if Appropriate:

☐ State Request for Review
☐ Keeper's Decision to Review
☐ 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format ☐ Yes ☐ No				
2. Significance Statement Short Format ☐ Yes ☐ No				
3. Concepts/Integrity				
4. Concepts/Criteria				
5. Concepts/Boundaries				
6. Contextual Evaluation				

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date _____

See Attached _____



Park Street Firehouse
Adams
Berkshire County
Massachusetts

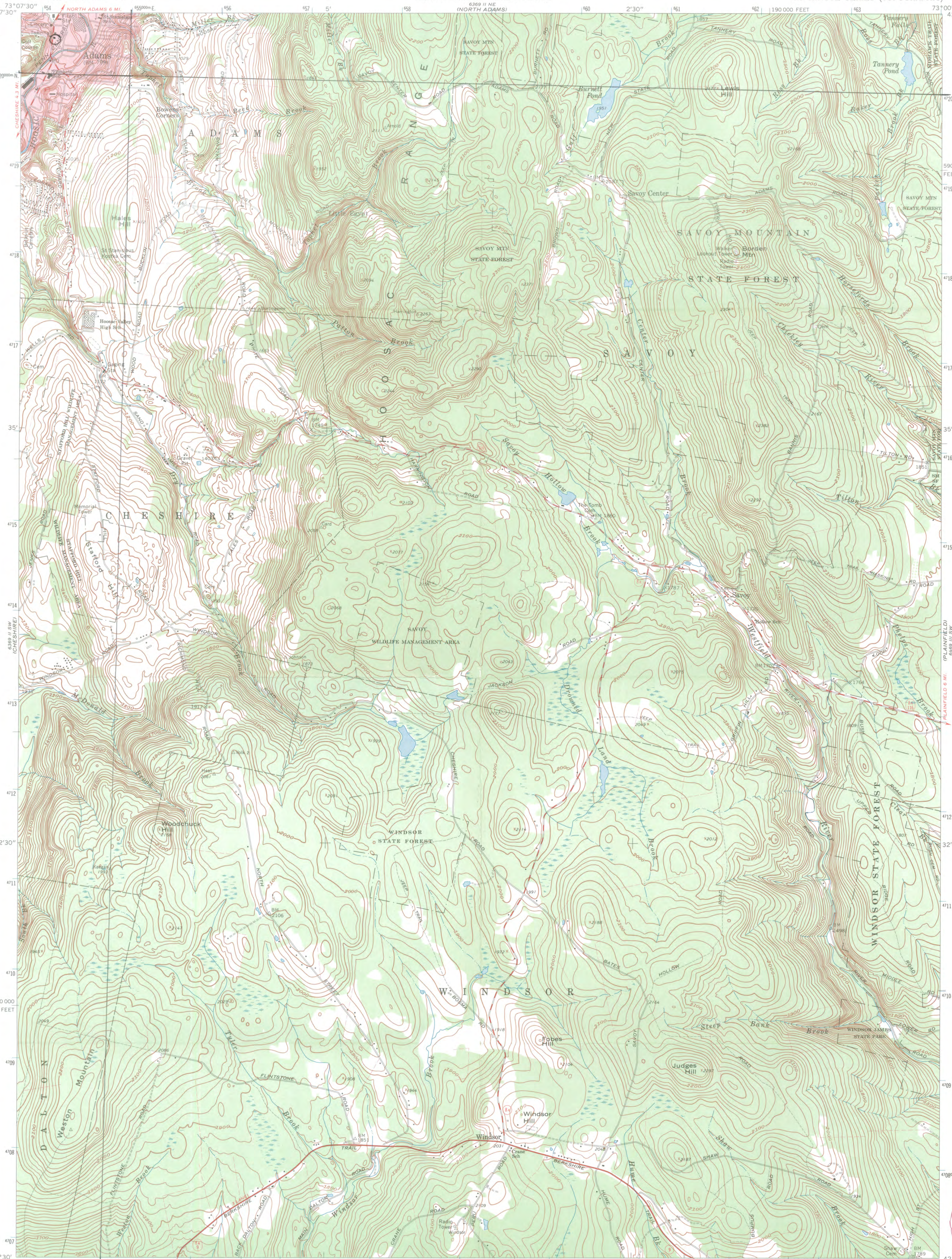
Photo Credit: Brian Pfeiffer
Negative Filed: ACT for Massachusetts
Identification: West Elevation
Date: July 1980

DEC 29 1981

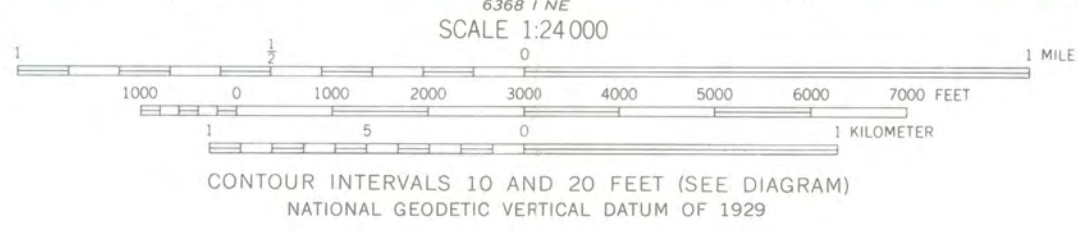
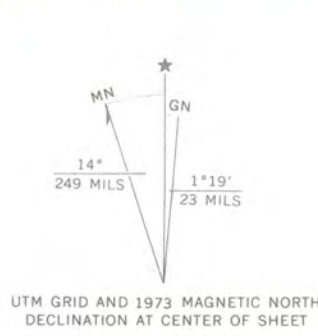
JAN 28 1982

JAN 28 1982

Park Street Firehouse
Adams, MA
UTM Reference
18/654140/4720400



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 1942. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943 and 1944
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973
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 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



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



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WINDSOR, MASS.
N4230—W7300/7.5

1973

AMS 6369 II SE—SERIES V814



Park Street Firehouse
Adams, MA
Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet



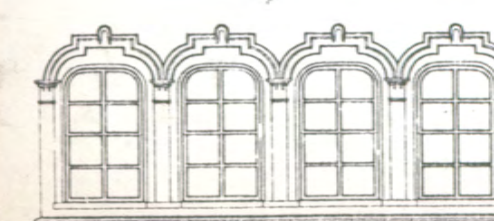
Scale in feet
0 25 50 100 200 250

ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Note:
This Drawing is a composite of information
from several sources; it does not represent
official or legal boundaries. Information
presented on this drawing is for illustration
only.

Prepared for:

Architectural Conservation Trust
(ACT) For Massachusetts



Vision

The Center for
Environmental Design
and Education

678 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Telephone 617-491-3763





**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

15 December 1981

Ms. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Quincy: Hancock Cemetery (national)
North Attleborough: Falls Fire Station (local)
Adams: Park Street Fire House (local)

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

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
Candace Jenkins
Registration Director

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered

JAN 28 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hancock Cemetery	Quincy Norfolk County
Park Street Firehouse	Adams Berkshire County
Fire Barn	North Attleborough Bristol County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Brian J. Donnelly
Honorable Silvio O. Conte
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler

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

Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS
North Atlantic Region, NPS

NR

Eady/mc

2/10/82

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6401. 272-3504