

**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 HCERS use only
received **MAR 2** 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic Harvard Avenue Fire Station

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 16 Harvard Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Boston N/A vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025

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	<u>N/A</u> in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Fidelity Guarantee Mortgage Corporation

street & number 14 Newbury Street

city, town Boston N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number Pemberton Square

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1) title Inventory of Historic Assets of has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no
the Commonwealth

date July 1978 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Mass. 02108

7. Description

Harvard Ave. Fire Station, 16 Harvard Ave., Boston, MA

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Harvard Avenue Fire Station is located on the east side of Harvard Avenue near its intersection with Cambridge Street in the Allston neighborhood of Boston. It is a classically inspired brick building designed by City Architect H.H. Atwood and constructed by R.R. Mayers & Co. ca.1891 for the City of Boston.

The elongated rectangular two-story building is located slightly off-center on its 6,112 square foot lot. A driveway to the south leads to a one-story brick addition, with its early hinged wooden doors, which extends off the southeasterly rear corner of the building. The third floor is lit by dormers in the slate-clad hipped-roof which is surmounted by a monitor. The piers and segmental arches of brick with keystones and impost blocks of limestone support the brick second floor front which is pierced by three rectangular window openings with flat-arched brick lintels. A rectangular triple sash in the hip-roofed dormer of the third floor completes the fenestration pattern.

The interior above the first floor including the stairway with turned balusters and matched-board partitions remains largely intact. The firemen's lockers, dormitories, offices, etc. survive relatively little altered with only the slide-poles missing, although the floor openings and much of the associated hardware remain.

The relatively minor utilitarian changes to the steam-heated building include garage-type overhead front doors and a rebuilt first-floor reinforced concrete slab installed ca.1946-7 when the related plumbing and electrical systems were upgraded. In general, the fire station is a well-preserved survivor of the era of horse-drawn fire equipment, adapted to serve the age of motor vehicles.

The fire station's Roman-yellow brick and limestone trim with classical decorative motifs are representative of a civic style which flourished around the turn of the century. It is a substantially constructed building with notable masonry details such as the twin-arched openings of the first-floor front, the corner pilasters and consoles, and the modillion cornice and frieze with egg-and-dart motifs. It also has fine copper detail work in the leader box design and elsewhere which enhances its authentic historic appearance.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

Harvard Avenue Fire Station
16 Harvard Avenue
Boston, MA.
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

6. Representation in Existing Surveys:

- 2) Comprehensive Boston Preservation Survey
July 1976
Boston Landmarks Commission
Boston, MA. 02201

8. Significance Harvard Ave. Fire Station, 16 Harvard Ave., Boston, MA

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 1891

Builder/Architect Harrison H. Atwood

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Harvard Avenue Fire Station possesses integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship. It is significant as a fine example of the classically inspired civic architecture of the late nineteenth century and is a unique example of its type in the Allston area. Additionally, it is an example of the work of an important City Architect, Harrison H. Atwood, and is significant for its role in community development. It thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Harvard Avenue Fire Station's significance is not only in its fine architectural quality and association with a prominent member of the profession, but also in the fact that it is one of the last of fifteen surviving City Fire Stations of the nineteenth century designed for the accomodation of horse drawn equipment given the highest evaluations in Boston Landmarks Commission surveys. It is described in the 1978 Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth as a "solidly constructed municipal building with fine detailing". Considered "one of several important buildings near the intersection of Harvard Avenue and Cambridge Street (including Allston Depot, Chester Block, & Allston Hall Block)", "a high state of preservation" is also cited by the Inventory as among reasons for its significance.

As part of the body of important municipal design work by City Architect Harrison Henry Atwood, the firehouse gains further importance. Atwood, who was Boston City Architect from 1889-91, went to Charlestown Schools, studied law, and practised architecture with F.J.F. Thayer and George A. Clough, Boston's first City Architect. Atwood was also a member of the lower house of legislature, 8th Suffolk District, in 1887-89. Among his works in Boston are several termed "Significant" in Boston Landmarks Commission Surveys and other sources listing numerous schools, among which are: The Bowditch School in Jamaica Plain, Roxbury High School, and Horace Mann School; firehouses in East Boston, Jamaica Plain, and Brighton; the Municipal Building in Roslindale, East Boston District Court; and numerous houses in Dorchester and elsewhere including his own at 61 Alban Street in Ashmont.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Boston Building Department Records; Boston Public Library Fine Arts Dept.
2. Built in Boston, City & Suburb, Tucci, (Boston: N.Y. Graphic Society, 1978).
3. Boston of Today, Herndon, Richard, (Boston: 1892) pp. 130-31.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Newton

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A

1	9
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3	2	4	3	4	0
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4	6	9	1	2	2	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes only the lot on which the building stands; it is described in Boston Assessor's records as parcel 674 of Ward 21 and is shown on map 25 N -6 E

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director by Frederic C. Detwiller &

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date 5 August 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston, state Massachusetts 02108

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 Patricia L. Weslow

title State Historic Preservation Officer, MHC date 2/24/83

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/31/83

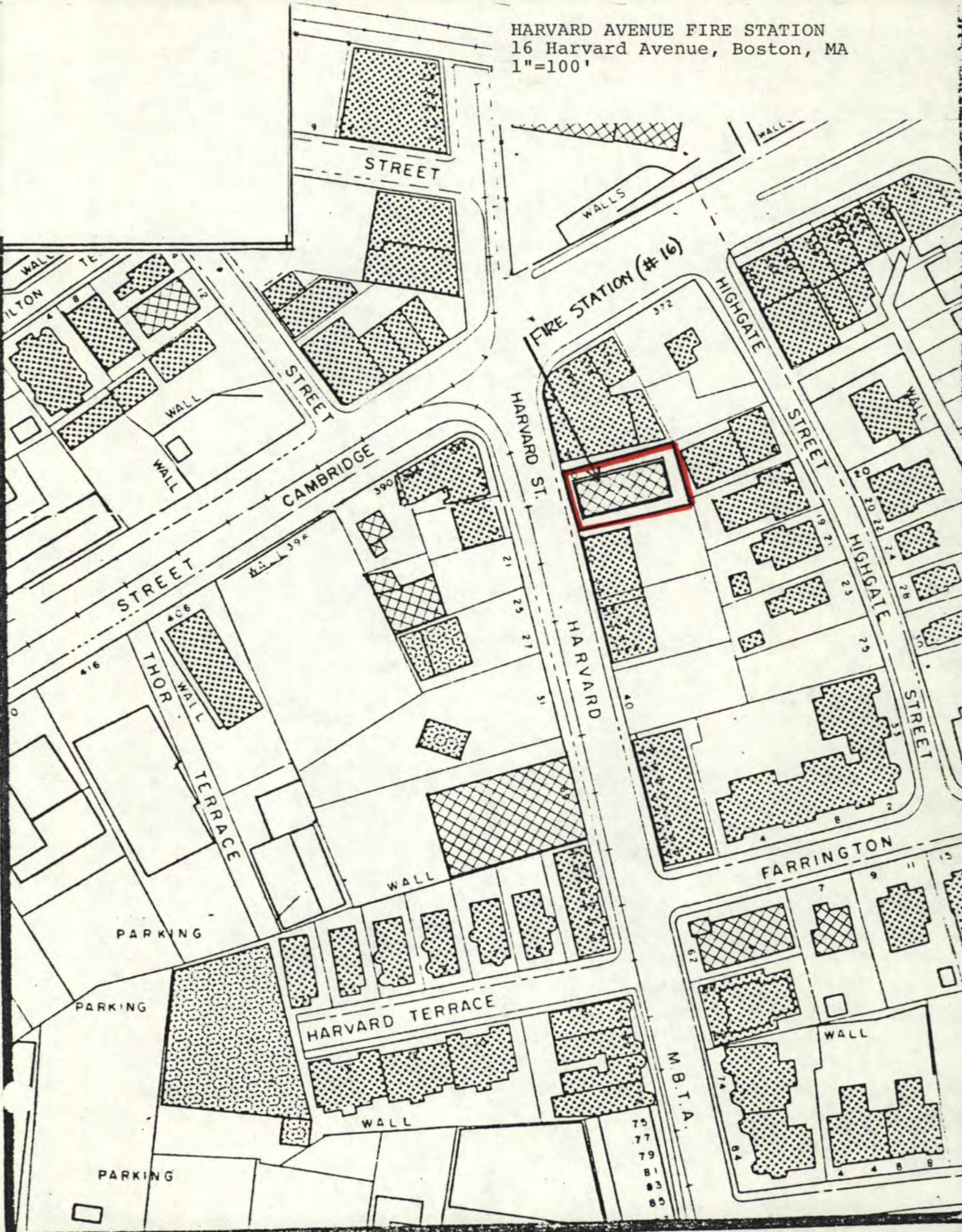
Keeper of the National Register

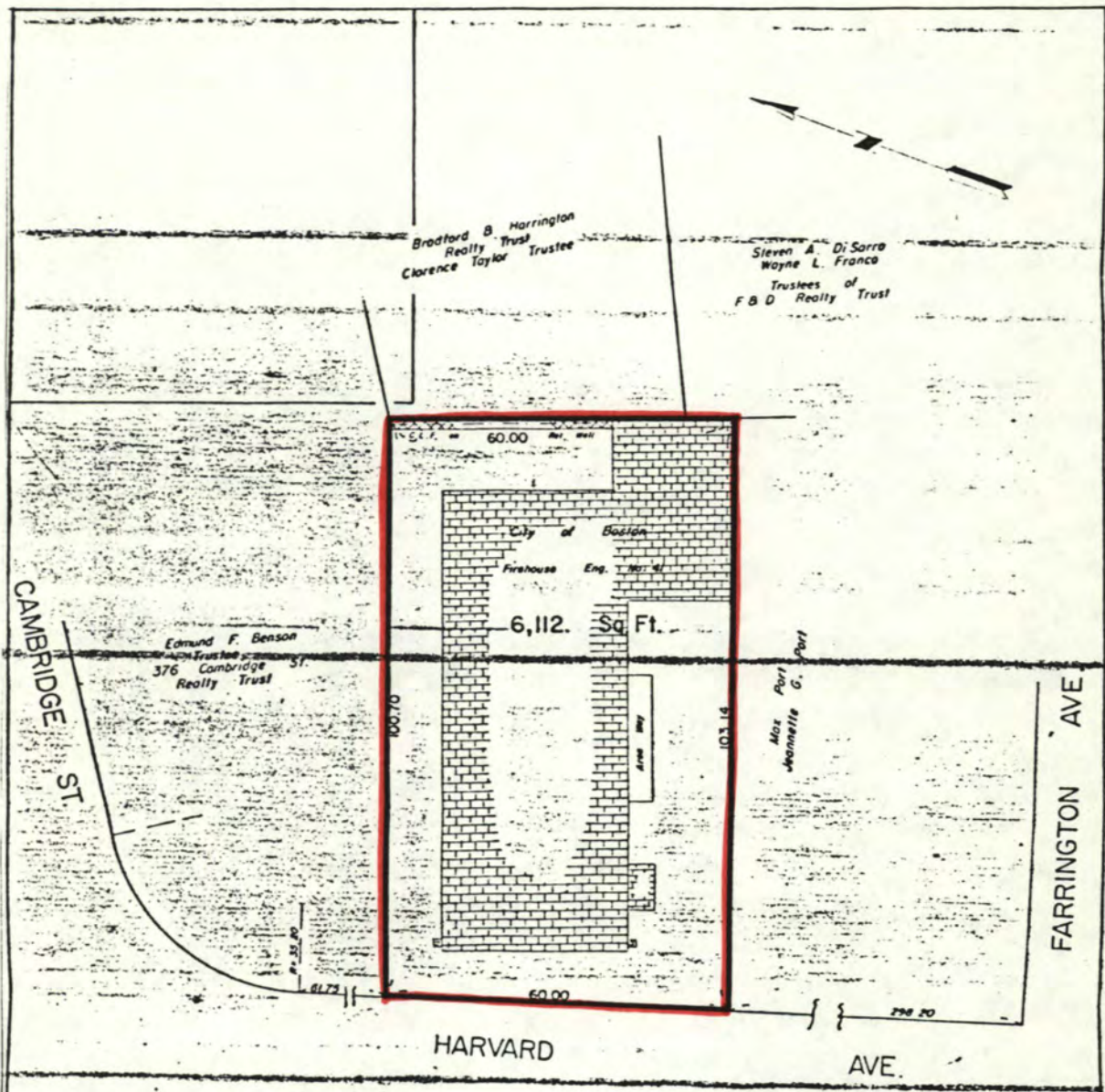
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

HARVARD AVENUE FIRE STATION
16 Harvard Avenue, Boston, MA
1"=100'





I certify that this plan has been prepared in conformance with the rules and regulations of the Registrar of Deeds for Suffolk County.

Plan showing land belonging to the City of Boston. (Fire Dept.)



Richard B. Brown
DIVISION ENGINEER

A. J. Valente

K 793 b

DRAWN BY *Robert T. Ridge*
TRACED BY *Robert T. Ridge*
CHECKED BY *J. A. Valente*
APPROVED BY *Richard B. Brown*

CITY OF BOSTON		PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	
ENGINEERING DIVISION		DIVISION	
HARVARD AVE.		BRIGHTON	
FEB. 17, 1978		SCALE 1 IN. = 10 FT.	
<i>Richard B. Brown</i> DIVISION ENGINEER			

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Harvard Avenue Fire Station
Suffolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR 2 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84

Date Due: 3/31/83 - 4/1/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 3/31/83

Entered in the ☐ RETURN

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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unspoiled		date _____

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 _____

USFT 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



Photo #1

Harvard Avenue Fire Station
16 Harvard Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

Photo credit: Frederic Detwiller
1/83 73 Canterbury Road
Newton, Massachusetts

View: Looking northerly, of facade and
southeastern side elevation.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

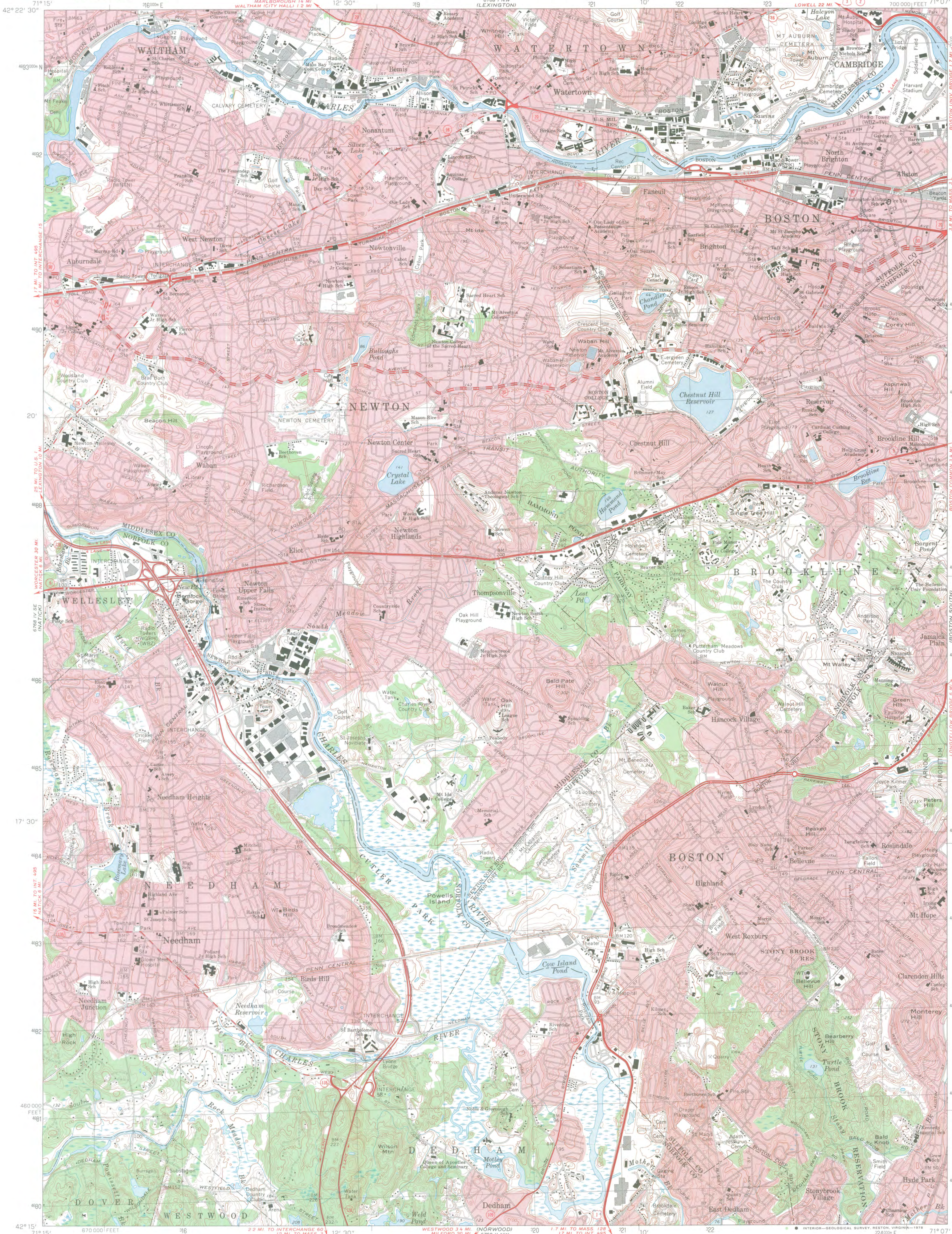
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

HARVARD AVENUE FIRE STATION
16 Harvard Avenue, Boston, Ma
U.S.G.S.
1"=25,000'
UTMS; 19/324340/4691220

NEWTON QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

71° 15' 12" E
42° 22' 30" N

71° 07' 30" E
42° 22' 30" N

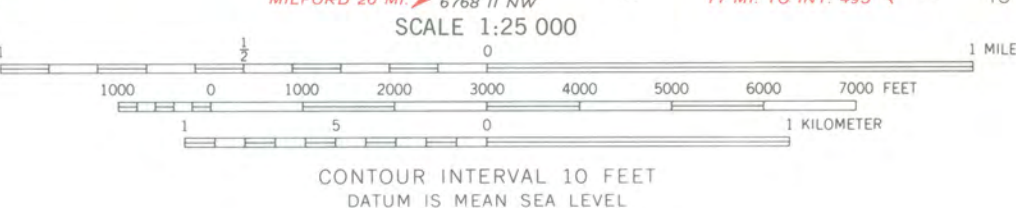


CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4267
13000	4000
12000	3703
11000	3413
10000	3048
9000	2743
8000	2438
7000	2134
6000	1829
5000	1524
4000	1219
3000	914
2000	609
1000	305
0	0

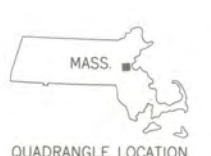
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

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 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas 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



NEWTON, MASS.
N4215-W7107.5/7.5
1970

AMS 6768 I SW-SERIES 7814

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



**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

February 24, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
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:

- ✓ Boston - Harvard Avenue Fire Station (Local)
- Dedham - Ames School (Local)
- Needham - Amos Fuller House (Local)
- Newbury - Hale-Boynton House (Local)
- Northbridge - Rockdale Common Housing District (Local)
- Springfield - Upper Worthington Historic District (Local)
- Winchester - Town Hall (Local)

All 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. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director

CJ/lk

