

AUG 07 1989

1371

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	295

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

SEE ATTACHED MAP

UTM REFERENCE 19/335,070 E/4,678,640 N  
USGS QUADRANGLE Weymouth, MA  
SCALE 1: 25,000

Town Quincy, MA / MRA  
Address 26 Quincy Avenue  
Historic Name Central Fire Station  
Use: Present fire station  
Original fire station

DESCRIPTION

Date 1938  
Source cornerstone  
Style Colonial Revival  
Architect George E. Robinson  
Exterior Wall Fabric brick  
Outbuildings 63 foot brick drill tower-nc

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition Good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage Less than one acre: 26, 683 sq.ft

Setting The station is located just outside of Quincy Center on busy Quincy Avenue.

Recorded by Fannin and Lehner / J. Johnson

Organization Quincy Historical Commission

Date June 19, 1986/ May 1987

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Central Fire Station retains integrity of design, location, materials, feeling and association with the improvement of Quincy's municipal services in the 1920s and 1930s. As a highly elaborated example of Colonial Revival architecture adapted for a public building, the fire station meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

SEE INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

SEE INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Building permit.

William Churchill Edwards. Historic Quincy, Massachusetts, 1957, p.217.

Paul Robert Lyons. Quincy: A Pictorial History, 1983, p.162.

Robert N. Mood. QFD: A History of Municipal Fire Protection....Quincy, 1976, pp.1-7, 13,44,51.

Quincy Patriot Ledger, January 7, 1937, p.d-10; January, 25, 1938; June 9, 1938.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: QUINCY, MA	Form No: 285
Property Name:	

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

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE -- 26 QUINCY AVENUE  
CENTRAL FIRE STATION**

As part of the City's efforts to expand and modernize municipal services in the 1920s and 1930s, the \$150,000 Central Fire Station of 1938. The station was erected on the same Quincy Avenue site as the earlier Central Station of 1893. Built to update facilities and provide adequate space for new fire trucks, it was the first in a series of new stations built in the 1930s and 1940s which replaced outmoded 19th century buildings.

The history of fire protection in Quincy began in 1644 when all townspeople were ordered to have a ladder leaning up against their chimneys. In 1792, just after Quincy became a town, the "Quincy Fire Society" was formed among the inhabitants for the mutual protection of property in case of fire. In 1812, Quincy acquired a hand pump, its first major piece of fire apparatus. The first act to establish a Fire Department in Quincy was accepted at the Town Meeting in 1854. The \$3800 purchase of a steam pump, a house for its shelter, and piping the streets was approved at town meeting in 1878.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

QUINCY

Form No:

285

Property Name:

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

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE -- 26 QUINCY AVENUE  
CENTRAL FIRE STATION**

The red brick two-and-a-half story building with a gabled slate roof is roughly T-shape in plan. Composed of a central section flanked by two subordinate one-and-a-half story wings, and a similar one-and-a-half wing to the rear, the building alludes to Georgian predecessors in form and detail. Evocative of Philadelphia's Independence Hall (1731), the building's design includes parapet gables which rise from the end walls of the main block as well as from the wings. A central octagonal tower signifies the building's identity as a municipal structure. The building's function as a fire station is indicated by the segmental arched garage entrances. Second story windows are multi-paned double hung sash. A brick string course separates the two floors. The side wings are embellished with hip-roofed dormers and granite piers between the three bays. A 63 foot brick drill tower erected in the 1940s stands on the corner of the property (noncontributing).

The Central Fire Station is the most elaborate of the Colonial Revival fire stations designed in Quincy by local architect George A. Robinson in the 1930s and early 1940s. His other stations are in West Quincy (1939), Quincy Point (1941) and Squantum (1943). The Central Fire Station served as a model for a car dealership, also designed by Robinson, erected in Quincy Center in 1939.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

AUG 7 1989

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Quincy MRA  
State Norfolk County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review Date/Signature

- |     |   |        |                      |                |
|-----|---|--------|----------------------|----------------|
| 11. | Building at 1--7 Moscow Street<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i> | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |
| 12. | Building at 51 Hunt Street<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i>     | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |
| 13. | Burgess, Charles H., House<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i>     | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |
| 14. | Burgess, Frank, House<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i>          | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |
| 15. | Burgin, Clarence, House<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i>        | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |
| 16. | Central Fire Station<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i>           | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |
| 17. | Christ Church<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i>                  | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |
| 18. | Christ Church Burial Ground<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i>    | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |
| 19. | Coddington School<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i>              | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |
| 20. | Crane, Frank W., House<br><i>Entered in the<br/>National Register</i>         | Keeper | <i>Shelton Byers</i> | <u>9/20/89</u> |
|     |   | Attest |                      |                |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Central Fire Station  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Quincy MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 8/07/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/22/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/07/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/21/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001371

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/20/89 DATE Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



26 Quincy Ave Station  
Central Fire Station

Fannin Lehner  
Spring 1986

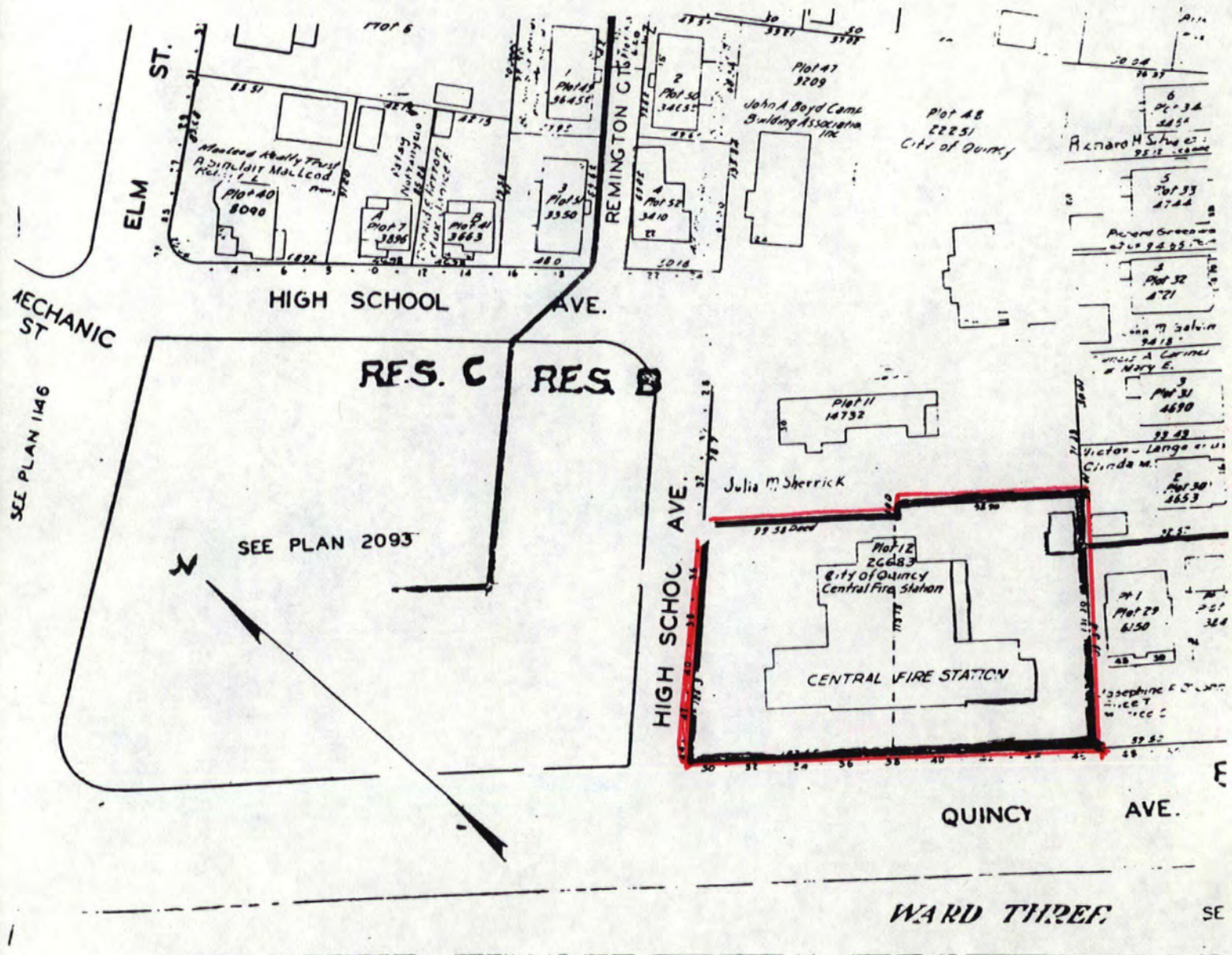
at: Planning Dept. - Quincy

view: South

pic: # 285

# 285 Quincy, <sup>MA</sup> Mass,

JUL 1987



Address 26 Quincy Avenue  
Central Fire Station

QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS / MRA  
 Assessors Map # 2092

1979  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 80 feet

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000289