

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

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

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Continuation sheet 117

Item number 7

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NAME: Fifth Ward Wardroom (recently Henrietta I. Drummond Post
50 American Legion)

LOCATION: 47 Mulberry Street

OWNER George J. & Jane Jerry

47 Mulberry Street

Pawtucket, Rhode Island

CONDITION: Good; altered; original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Fifth Ward Wardroom, a modest, red brick building in the Queen Anne style, sits on a corner lot in a densely built-up late nineteenth-century residential neighborhood located just to the south and west of Pawtucket's downtown. A single-story, red-brick building of basically rectangular plan, the wardroom is capped by a low-pitched hipped roof covered with gray slate. A central closed entry pavilion projects from the building's narrow eastern facade; twin open porches in the re-entrant angles were oriented, one to face Mulberry Street, the other to face the cross street, Cedar Street. (The latter porch has been closed in with plywood.) A rear ell steps back from the long Cedar Street side elevation, responding to a sharp bend in the street. The bricks are laid in a dark red mortar; the drafted granite sill course and drafted brownstone belt-course at window sill level provide color contrast. Three large lunette windows, each divided vertically into thirds, are spaced along the long side walls of the building's main block; the same round-arch motif is repeated in the pair of windows set in the end wall of the entry pavilion and in the three smaller windows (now boarded in) in the pavilion's pedimented gable end. Ornamental Queen Anne sash (four-over-two-light upper sash, over two-light lower sash) are used in the side window; a modified fanlight over a trio of deeply sunken wooden panels fills each of the lunettes in the pavilion's end wall. Simple two-over-two double-hung sash are used in the rear ell. One pair of presumably original eight-panel doors survives under the Mulberry Street porch. Most of the original exterior wooden trim--simple classical cornices, heavy porch piers, pedimented gable peak, and under-window paneling--survives as well.

Inside, a single open meeting-hall space originally filled the main block of the building, with service spaces partitioned off in the rear ell, and with the major access through the front porches and pavilion. The meeting-hall spaces appears originally to have been open to the roof, although a dropped acoustic tile ceiling was later inserted. The building is presently being remodeled into a single family residence.

PERIOD: 1800-1899

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture; Politics/Government

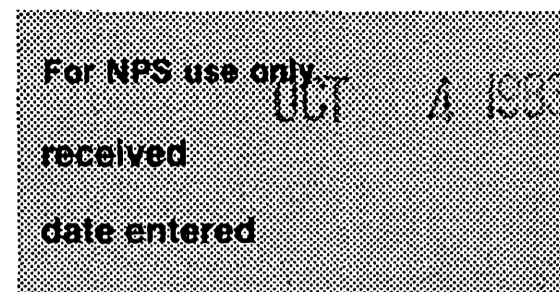
SPECIFIC DATE: 1886

ARCHITECT: William R. Walker & Son

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SIGNIFICANCE:

The Fifth Ward Wardroom possesses architectural significance as a well-preserved example of an exceedingly rare building type; and as a picturesque example of the work of the important Providence architectural firm, William R. Walker & Son. It is, in addition, an historically significant physical reminder of a pivotal event in Pawtucket's political evolution--the community's 1885 decision to give up the town-meeting form of government and to accept incorporation as a city.

The Mulberry Street wardroom is one of only three wardrooms currently known to exist in Rhode Island. Of the other two, one is a c. 1905 wooden building located in Woonsocket, and the other is Pawtucket's own First Ward Wardroom (171 Fountain Street, also included in this nomination.) Both of these Pawtucket wardrooms (along with a third example, since removed) were designed by William R. Walker & Son and built by S. Mason & H.A. Smith in 1886. Architecturally, these two Walker-designed wardrooms are clearly related but are far from identical. The two buildings thus present an interesting comparison--two variations on a theme by an important late nineteenth-century architectural firm.

Historically these buildings are representative of an expansive, prosperous period in Pawtucket's development, an era when first the town and then the city government initiated a series of public improvements intended to transform Pawtucket into a "well-ordered, energetic, modern American community of the first rank." The construction of these handsome brick wardrooms to serve as polling places and meeting halls in the city's densely built-up residential neighborhoods was one important facet of that late-nineteenth-century drive for civic development.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property is Pawtucket Assessor's Plat 53A, lot 258, and includes the wardroom and its immediate surroundings.

ACREAGE: Less than one acre
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local
UTM: A 19 301380 4638360

(See Continuation Sheet #119)