

**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 DEC 23 1981
date entered JAN 28 1982

1. Name * Fire Barn

historic Falls Fire Station No. 2

and/or common Fire Barn (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Commonwealth Avenue not for publication

city, town North Attleborough vicinity of congressional district 10

state Massachusetts code 025 county Bristol code 005

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Town of North Attleborough

street & number 43 South Washington Street

city, town North Attleborough vicinity of state Massachusetts 02760

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 11 Court Street

city, town Taunton state Massachusetts 02780

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets
of the Commonwealth

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

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 Falls Fire Station is located on the north side of Commonwealth Avenue in the center of the village of Attleborough Falls, a section of North Attleborough. The area is a mixture of commercial and residential uses.

The building is 1½ stories high, of wood frame construction. The simple composition of the Fire Barn includes a 2-story, rectangular main block with a gable roof and a square, 4-story tower with a hip roof at the southwest corner. Originally clapboarded, the building is now covered with asphalt shingles on all but the first floor of the facade, which retains its flushboard siding. Fenestration is irregular, generally consisting of single 2/2 windows with a small molded architrave. The main block of the building is articulated by simple horizontal and raking entablatures and small gable returns.

The principal design features of the Falls Station are confined to its facade. The first floor is clad in vertical wood panelling, with a high projecting base and narrow Doric pilasters visually supporting a wide, plain entablature. This frame is pierced by Renaissance-inspired doorways, including a small rectangular entrance with a bracketed cornice on the tower and two large, arched doorways for the fire apparatus on the main block. Centered above the apparatus doors are three round arched windows sporting interlocking lancet tracery in their upper sashes.

The tower on the corner of the facade serves as a stairwell and bell tower and anchors the overall design. The wooden panelling on its facade appears originally to have continued around its western side. Under its low hip roof is an open belfry, elaborated by Tuscan columns, a wide entablature, and a simple balustrade.

Major alterations to the Falls Fire Station are few, including the asphalt siding; modern overhead garage doors in place of the original, side-hinged apparatus doors; and an enclosed stairway (ca. 1950s) on the long east side of the building.

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 1893 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Falls Fire Station possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and association. The building is an unusually monumental design using wood-frame construction, is a locally important example of classically-inspired design, and represents an era of civic improvements associated with the incorporation of North Attleborough. It thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register.

North Attleborough is an industrial town based on textile and jewelry manufacturing. Although the town did not have a separate political existence until 1887, development began earlier here (at the turn of the 18th century) than in its parent town of Attleborough. Early 19th century industrialization drew settlement away from the Old Town Center in the south to several water sites on the Ten Mile River. The village of Attleborough Falls was one of these sites, built around the Falls Manufacturing Company cotton factory. Industrial and social development peaked in the late 19th century, evidenced by the incorporation of the town, establishment of new civic services (gas, light, and water), and architectural vigor.

The town water supply, established in 1884, was extended to Attleborough Falls ca. 1891. This service was a strong factor in the efficiency of the municipal fire district created in the Falls section in 1892. The Fire Barn was built in 1893 to contain a horse-drawn wagon and ladder truck. By 1913, the building also housed an engineer's buggy and a brush fire wagon; two men were on duty at all times, and 13 call men also responded to alarms. Three horses were available at the station and were last used in 1930. The Falls Fire Station was connected to the Gamewell Fire Alarm System, which employed 30 miles of wire and 44 fire alarm boxes throughout the town. In its organization and equipment, North Attleborough provided a notably modern and efficient system of fire protection in these early years of operation.

The Fire Barn is one of a small but significant number of North Attleborough's municipal buildings surviving from the late 19th century and it is the only such structure in Attleborough Falls. Like others of the period, the Fire Station is an eclectic Classical design, combining relatively sophisticated motifs in a vernacular composition. Of particular note are the building's dramatic first floor facade, bell tower, and wooden construction. Its prominent location on a major thoroughfare makes the building a local landmark, although it has been vacant since 1977. In recognition of this historical and visual importance, the Town of North Attleborough hopes to restore the Falls Fire Station for use as a fire-fighting museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Reports of the Committee of the Fire District on the Annexation of Attleboro Falls, North Attleborough, Massachusetts. William Barnes, Printer, 1888.
Souvenir Firemen's Relief Association and the Fire Department of North Attleborough, December 19, 1901. The Evening Chronicle Press, 1901.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5,980 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Attleboro, Massachusetts - R.I.

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A 19 308220 4648970
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Lot 18, Plot 15 (see attached sketch map)

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with North Attleborough Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 1981

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. Weselowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts 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



NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA
Falls Fire Station

Assessors' Map
Scale: 1" = 100'

SEE PLAT

JAN 28 1982



DOE 1/28/82 - 2/12/82
Name Fire Barn

State, County MA. Bristol

Working Number 12-29-81/533

Fed Nom or Request—Agency

Federal Register Date 2.1.83

- ☒ 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 _____



Falls Fire Station No. 2
North Attleboro, Massachusetts
Taken by Clayton Bachelder
July 1981

Negative located in files of
North Attleborough Historical
Commission

South Elevation

Photograph number: 1

JAN 28 1982

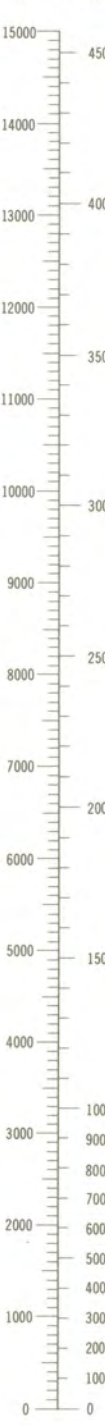
DEC 29 1981

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA
Falls Fire Station

UTM Reference:
19/308220/4648970

CONVERSION
SCALES

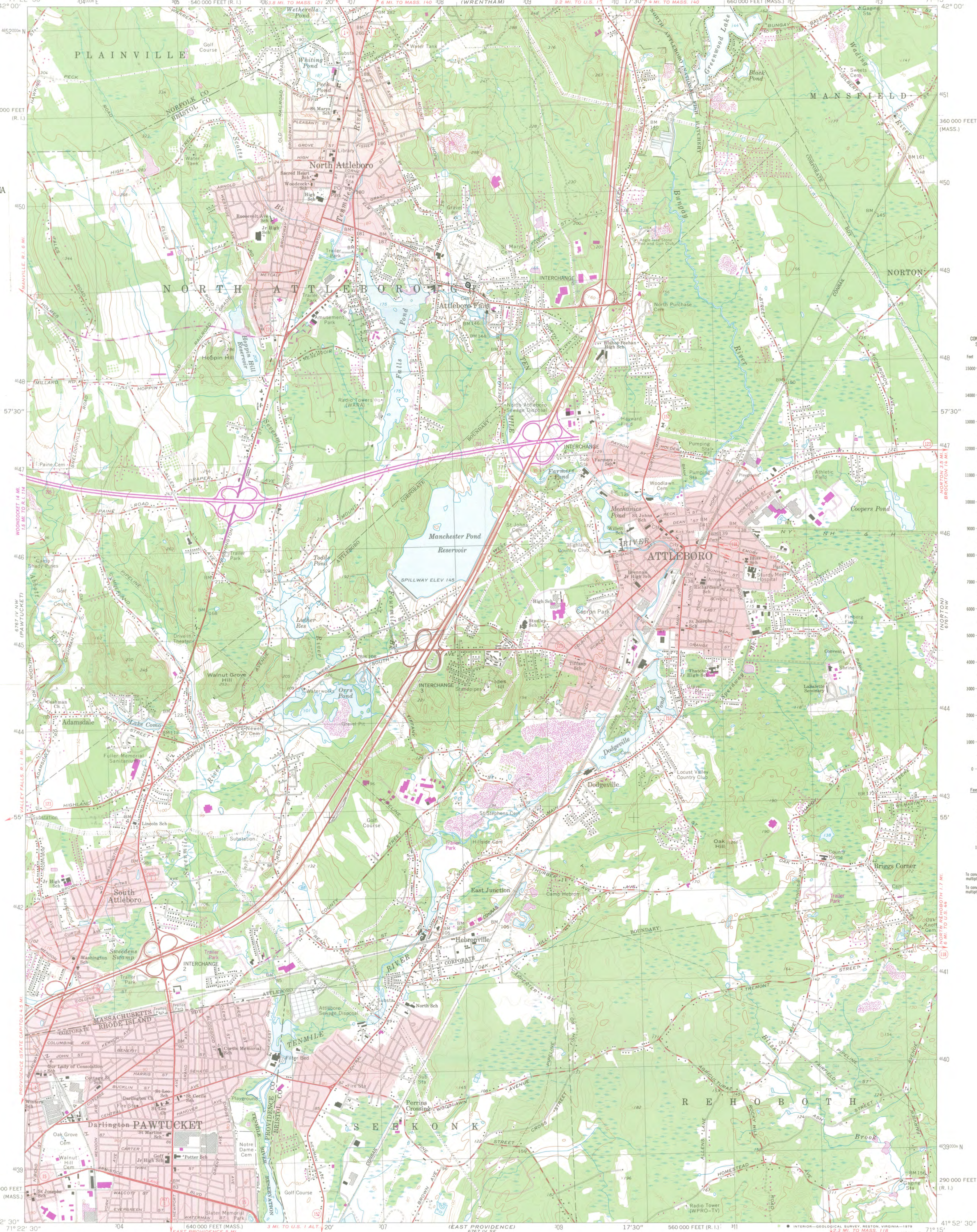
Feet Meters



Feet Meters

1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

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

Topography by planetable surveys 1935 and 1938-1939

Revised 1964

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

SCALE 1:25 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

ATTLEBORO, MASS.—R. I.

N4152.5—W7115.7.5

1964
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6767 IV NE—SERIES V814

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

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**

Name

Location

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