

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

71-12	Marble-head N	BEV. S	BEV.255 (updated)
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Photograph



Northeast and northwest (façade) elevations

Locus Map (north at top)



Town/City: Beverly

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Centerville

Address: 439 Essex Street

Historic Name: Centerville Hose House No. 4

Uses: Present: residential

Original: fire station

Date of Construction: 1903

Source: building permits

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: Putnam & Cox

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick (main block) and concrete (rear addition)

Wall/Trim: synthetic shingles, wood trim

Roof: fiberglass asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Vehicular entry altered, rear addition (2009)

Condition: good to excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.0 acres

Setting: Located on main rural thoroughfare between downtown Beverly and Wenham, in a small cluster of residential, civic, and commercial development.

Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero and Pamela Hartford

Organization: Beverly Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): September 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BEVERLY

439 ESSEX STREET

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Centerville Hose House occupies the northern corner of a large, roughly rectangular lot in the village of Centerville. The building faces northwest behind a modest front setback on Essex Street. The parcel presently contains the Centerville School, also located along Essex Street, and a small gazebo in the back, east corner of the property. At the time of the 1980 cultural resources survey, the school and fire station stood on two separate assessors parcels. Asphalt paving surrounds the building on the northwest, northeast, and southeast sides; a patio with granite pavers and low, granite rubble retaining walls occupy the space between the fire station and the school building. The land slopes gently down towards the back of the property.

The Hose House consists of a rectangular main block, measuring 26 feet wide by 35 feet deep, and a small rear addition measuring 22 feet wide by 10 feet deep. Both components rise two stories to a hip roof. Walls are clad with a synthetic, faux-wood shingle with plain corner boards, a narrow cornice molding, and sill boards along the façade and part of the northeast elevation. At the main block, the deep overhanging roof edge comprises decoratively carved, exposed rafter ends resting on a boxed outrigger beam, which in turn is supported by decoratively carved, horizontal wood brackets along all four elevations and by a pair of large carved triangular braces at each corner of the building. A broad but shallow exterior chimney rises up the northeastern elevation, piercing the roof overhang on that side. Windows characteristically display 6/1 replacement sash with flat wood casings.

The façade of the building retains its firehouse door, set slightly off-center, adjacent to a single-leaf pedestrian door with a simple fabric-clad canopy. Five banded windows are asymmetrically placed above, framed by the horizontal wood eaves brackets. The side elevations of the main block have asymmetrical fenestration. The southwest elevation contains two windows on each floor, none of which are vertically aligned. The northeast elevation has a bay of windows on each floor at the outer corners and two additional windows of varied sizes in the middle of the second floor.

Most of the rear elevation of the main block is covered by a recent two-story addition that rises from a poured concrete foundation. Minimally fenestrated, its northeast elevation has one casement window high on the second floor; the southeast elevation is blank, and the asymmetrical southwest elevation features one window on the second floor and a single-leaf door accessed by a utilitarian wood staircase at the first floor.

Largely intact and well-maintained, the Centerville Hose House is a modest but lively example of turn of the twentieth century civic architecture in Beverly, in a distinctive Craftsman style. Major alterations include synthetic siding, replacement window sash, moving of the original pedestrian entrance on the façade, and the rear addition. The 1980 survey photo shows the façade with original wood shingle cladding, a continuous wood sill course spanning the second floor, a slightly larger vehicular door opening, and a pedestrian door with a six-light transom above at the western corner of the facade. The building is notable for its large, fire-station era garage door, surviving historic fenestration, and unusual, spatial roof edge.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Manufacturing prosperity and a huge population increase between 1890 and 1920 led to a surge of new institutional buildings in Beverly during this period, including four fire stations, eight schools, two libraries, a municipal waterworks facility, armory, and a central post office. Constructed in 1903, Centerville Hose House No. 4 was one of four new fire stations built in Beverly in the

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first two decades of the 20th century; the others included Hose House #4 at 439 Essex Street in Centerville (1903; BEV.255); Hose House #2 at 30 Rantoul Street (1905; BEV.73; NR 1986); and Beverly Ladder #2/Engine #5 Fire House in North Beverly at Cabot and Dodge streets (2 Dodge Street; 1907; BEV.470).

During the late 19th century, the Centerville area, while still predominantly agricultural, developed a village center comprised of a public school and Sunday school (both in 1870), fire house (1880), a branch public library and a streetcar railway along Essex Street (1890s); a new religious society organized and built itself a church in the first decade of the 20th century. Several country estates were also established in Centerville in the early 20th century, such as Ellery Sedgwick's Long Hill (572 Essex Street, 1923; BEV.257) and the home of Quincy Adams Shaw McKean and his wife Margaret Sargent McKean (87 Hull Street, ca. 1920; BEV.444).

A firehouse was first established in Centerville, on this site, in 1874; it stood next to the Centerville School of 1870, which is still extant. In 1902, the firehouse featured a one-horse hose wagon and a company of 10 men. In 1903, this building was moved across the street and repurposed as a single family home (436 Essex Street, BEV.646). The City's chief fire engineer reported for the year that "A new up-to-date building has been built for Hose No. Four", although it was still just a one-horse hose wagon, 10 men, and one thousand feet of hose, at a cost of \$2,445. (Municipal Documents, 1903: 13 and 27) The fire station was closed in the late 20th century, and in 2009, a large addition (13 feet by 23 feet) was built on the back to provide three bathrooms for a group home.

Centerville Hose House No. 4 was designed by Boston architects Putnam and Cox. Founded in 1902, the firm was well known in Boston in the early 20th century, comprised of William E. Putnam (1873-1947) and Allen H. Cox (1873-1944). William Putnam graduated from Harvard in 1896 and from MIT in 1898 and afterwards studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Cox studied architecture at MIT and also at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. The firm was known for its distinguished public and educational buildings, including many in western Massachusetts (where Cox was born and raised), such as the Jones Library and Lord Jeffrey Inn in Amherst, fraternity houses at Amherst College, the Gaylord Memorial Library in South Hadley, dormitories and academic buildings at Mount Holyoke, and a gymnasium at Harvard. They are known to have designed 24 buildings in Cambridge between 1908 and 1933, including the Cambridge Police Headquarters and many houses and apartment houses. Boston projects included an unexecuted design for a new Boston Atheneum building, the Toy (later Copley) Theatre (1914), the American Unitarian Association Building on Beacon Street, numerous apartment houses on Stuart Street, the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital (1915), and the Kirstein Memorial Library (1930) on City Hall Avenue. MACRIS identifies a total of 49 properties with Putnam and Cox; none of these are on the North Shore. A descendant firm of Putnam and Cox (Putnam, Griswold, Wyld and Ames) designed Beverly's Central Fire Station at 15 Hale Street (see form).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Southwest and southeast elevations