

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

37-112	Marble-head N	BEV.C , U	BEV. 1135
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Photograph



Northwest and southwest (façade) elevations

Town/City: Beverly

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
 Beverly Farms

Address: 2 West Street

Historic Name: Beverly Farms Fire and Police Station

Uses: Present: fire station

Original: fire and police station

Date of Construction: 1956

Source: plaque on building

Style/Form: Mid-20th Century Modern

Architect/Builder: John J. Mahoney, Assoc., architect;
 Walsh Construction Co., Inc., contractors

Exterior Material:

Foundation: poured concrete

Wall/Trim: brick with concrete trim

Roof: membrane

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
 none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

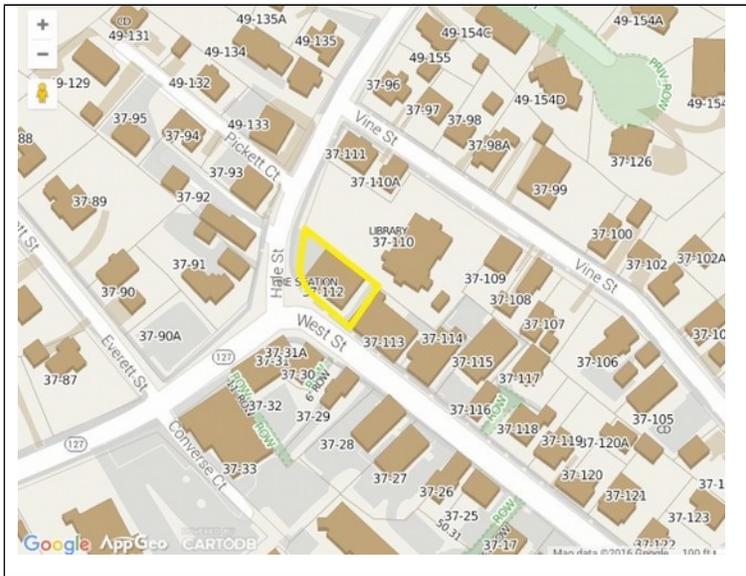
Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.12 acre

Setting: Located at prominent intersection of Hale and West streets in village of Beverly Farms. Mixed-use neighborhood of small scale residential, commercial, and civic buildings dating mainly from the late 19th through early 20th centuries.

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero and Pamela Hartford

Organization: Beverly Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): September 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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BEVERLY

2 WEST 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 Beverly Farms Fire and Police Station occupies a small, roughly rectangular lot, facing southwest towards the intersection of West and Hale streets. The building occupies most of its flat site, with minimal setbacks on the front, southeast, and northeast. The larger, curved setback on the northwest side of the building is paved with asphalt and used for parking. A pedestrian path runs along the southeast side of the building, leading to the public library on Vine Street. Accessed through a decorative cast iron arch at both ends, the walkway is paved with brick and concrete pavers.

The rectangular building measures 66 feet wide by 56 feet deep and rises two stories in the front section along West Street and one story in the rear portion, where vehicles are stored. Both roofs are flat. Walls are clad in brick in a variation of Flemish bond pattern having two stretcher bricks alternating with one header brick. Windows are a variety of double hung and casement replacement sash, with horizontal metal jalousie sash on the front bay window; plain concrete sills are typical. A small exterior chimney rises from the middle of the southeast elevation.

The West Street façade contains five symmetrical bays of paired, 1/1 double hung sash on the second floor. The asymmetrical first floor has two bays of paired windows on its eastern end. A long, shallow, rectangular bay window rises off-center on the facade from a concrete base to metal jalousie windows along the front and sides. Its flat roof stretches westward to encompass a recessed main entrance; perched on the roof are free-standing metal letters reading "BEVERLY FARMS". The main entrance is comprised of a single leaf steel and glass door with full height sidelights accessed by concrete steps with an aluminum railing. At the western corner of the façade, a large metal plaque framed in concrete records the names and date associated with construction of the building.

Both side elevations are asymmetrical. The southeastern elevation of the fire station is largely blank. The taller front section contains a single-leaf doorway near the street, accessed by concrete steps and sheltered by a polygonal, flat-roofed canopy. A large, slightly recessed panel above at the second floor contains a basketweave brick pattern. A horizontal window opening at the back of this elevation contains five small vertical sash.

The front portion of the Hale Street (northwest) elevation features another horizontal window opening at the first floor, with two small vertical sash framing a brick infill panel, and one double-hung window centered above. The one-story, rear portion of this elevation contains two vehicular bays of different heights with soldier course lintels. The plane of its brick veneer overlaps the front section of the building in a bay that features a recessed pair of small vertical sash, surmounted by wall-mounted metal letters announcing "CITY OF BEVERLY / FIRE DEPARTMENT". The rear (northeast) elevation has four symmetrical, horizontal window openings, each with a group of three small sash.

Well-preserved, the Beverly Farms Fire and Police Station is a modest but rare example of mid-20th century modern design in Beverly. The building is notable for the decorative brick patterning of its walls, the main entrance/bay window composition on the façade, and the canopied side entrance.

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.

The first fire station (an engine house) in Beverly Farms was built in 1836 on Hale Street, near the present Dix Park. In 1872 it was moved to the corner of Hale and West streets and apparently remodeled in the Italianate style. In 1887, fire fighting

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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operations were moved to a new structure next door on West Street. The stylish new building consisted of a large, 2 story, wood frame block featuring a high hip roof and a three-bay façade with a gabled center pavilion. According to one local history, it “was authorized by a Beverly town meeting in an attempt to placate divisionists who wanted the Beverly Farms neighborhood to secede from the town” (*Beverly Revisited*: 72). (In 1887, the state Senate and House of Representatives voted to approve the separation of Beverly Farms, but the governor vetoed the bill.) An historic photo shows the 1887 fire station along with its predecessor, a much smaller, two-story high, L-shaped building that was repurposed as a GAR hall; it housed a one-story police station in a rear extension.

Both wood frame buildings on the site were demolished, and the present building was constructed in 1956, incorporating both fire and police services in one structure. The construction cost was \$100,000. Five hundred people attended the dedication ceremony in December 1956, including John Fitzpatrick, a representative of the architect; Richard Walsh of the construction company; ministers of the three churches in Beverly Farms, three fire chiefs from nearby communities; and the city’s mayor and state representative. The new fire station housed a Seagrove aerial ladder truck.

Little is presently known of the architect, John J. Mahoney (ca. 1916-1960). MACRIS identifies 10 properties with him: three in Boston, four in Brookline, and three in Salem, all constructed between 1939 and 1962. Most of these properties are residential and employ plain, traditional styles. A fire station in Salem Willows, built in 1952 (SAL.3863), displays a mid-20th century modern style that is similar to the Beverly Farms Fire and Police Station. Practicing as John J. Mahoney and Associates, Mahoney had an office in Salem in the 1950s and also designed at least three public elderly housing projects in that city in the late 1950s and 1960s (Lee Fort Terrace, SAL.IK; Colonial Terrace, SAL.IM; and Bertram Terrace).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Hepler, Margaret. *Beverly; Historic Cultural Resources Survey, 1992-93; Final Report*. June 1993.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Southeast and northeast elevations

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by Wendy Frontiero

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Beverly Farms Fire and Police Station is a prominent civic building in the village of Beverly Farms, representing the continuum of development in this wealthy summer community through the 20th century. Well-preserved, the Beverly Farms Fire and Police Station is a modest but rare example of mid-20th century modern design in Beverly. The building is notable for the decorative brick patterning of its walls, the main entrance/bay window composition on the façade, and the canopied side entrance. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the Beverly Farms Library is eligible for the National Register as a contributing building within a potential historic district for the village center of Beverly Farms.

As stated in the National Register criteria statement form for that area in 1993,

“Commercial and institutional buildings clustered in the Beverly Farms Village center reflect the development of this eastern, distinct part of Beverly from the Federal period to the present; it is particularly rich in early 20th century buildings, reflecting the national prominence of the North Shore as a fashionable summer place in the years before World War I. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the village center district meets Criteria A and C of the National Register at the local level.” (Hepler, BEV.U)