

# MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B - BUILDING

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BLVD  
BOSTON, MA 02125

### Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll	Negative(s)



### Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate

**Town** Provincetown  
**Place** (neighborhood or village)  
**Address** 281-283 COMMERCIAL ST  
**Building ID** 837  
**Parcel No. (PID)** 11-3-018-0  
**Mapbase #** 11-3-018  
**Building Area** 1706.715  
**Historic Name**  
**Present Use** Commercial  
**Original Use** Commercial  
**Date of Construction** 1880  
**Source** Tax assessment  
**Style/Form** Italianate, Vernacular  
**Architect/Builder**  
**Exterior Material** Wood shingle  
**Foundation** brick  
**Wall/Trim** wood  
**Roof** Front Gable

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

1 of 2 Greek Revival commercial buildings. on lot

### Major Alterations (with dates)

Side shed addition; storefront alterations. Connects this building to 281

**Condition** Good  
**Moved**  no  yes **Date**  
**Acreage** 0.123  
**Setting**

**Recorded by** Vanessa Zeoli  
**Organization** Kise Straw & Kolodner  
**Date (month/year)** September 2003  
**Form Status**  new  update

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

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

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### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

Address in field: 283 Commercial Street; 283 Commercial St. is a 2-story, 3-bay, commercial building; gable-front roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, full cornice return, interior brick chimney on rear roof ridge; exterior is clad in clapboard siding on 1st story of one side and in front gable end, with diamond and staggered shaped wood shingles on remaining facades; slight wall flare between 1st and 2nd stories; building sits on a brick foundation; fenestration includes single-pane wood-framed storefront windows, 2/1 wood DHS; bracketed 1st-story storefront cornice; 1-story side shed section connects this building to 281 Commercial Street.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheet

*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.*

As per Tom Boland (1994): The earliest known structures of the area are 250 and 280. 250 Commercial is listed as the office of Dr. John L. Lothrop, who also had a pharmacy here, in the 1858 atlas. By 1875, the building had become Adams Pharmacy which still exists to this day and is the oldest business in continuous operation. The building in 1880, however was still owned by a J.M. Croker. By 1901-1907, the site was owned by John D. Adams himself. Historic photographs from the turn of the century indicate that the storefront remains unchanged in form.

299 Commercial Street was constructed between 1858 and 1880. In 1880, it is listed as the property of F. Small. By 1901, M.J. Davis is noted as owning and operating a small business from here and in 1907, the site is listed as Manuel J. Davis, hairdresser. The site of 277 Commercial Street was owned by D.D. Smith in 1880. In 1901, the current building was run as a restaurant by Emma F. Howes. 283-289 Commercial Street was owned by S. Nickerson in 1880. As of 1901-1907, these buildings were operated as a livery by James Campbell. Mr. Campbell is noted in 1890 as working as a teamster or jobber. 280 Commercial Street was owned by S. Nickerson in 1880. By 1901-1907 the property was owned by Angus McKay, a dealer in dry goods, boots, etc. In 1880, 269 Commercial Street was owned and operated by D. Conwell. The shop, in 1886, is listed as a millinery, and in 1890, a millinery run by Miss Lucy Paine is noted to exist across from Town Hall.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable County Atlas., 1880.  
Barnstable County Atlas., 1907.  
Cape Cod Directory, 1901.  
The Extremity of Cape Cod. Map, 1836.  
H.F. Wallings Co. Map of Provincetown Village. Atlas, 1858.  
Jennings, Herman A. Chequocket or Provincetown. 1893.  
Jennings, Herman A. Provincetown. or Odds and Ends from the Tip End. 1890.  
Resident Directory. W.F. Richardson & Co., 1886.  
Resident Directory. W.H. Hopkins, 1889.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*