

FORM B – BUILDING

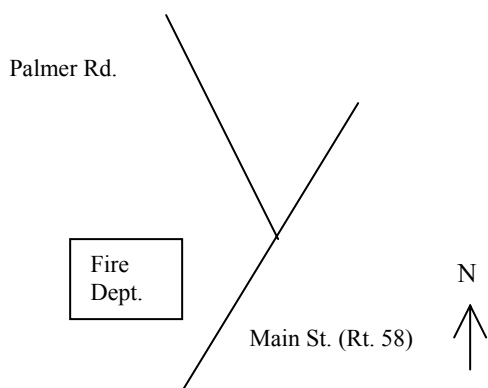
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



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 north.



Recorded by Martha H. Lyon, & Gregory Farmer

Organization Plympton Historical Commission

Date January 2005

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

Parcel C3-1-16

Plympton

B

Town Plympton

Place (neighborhood or village)

Plympton Green

Address 3 Palmer Road

Historic Name Plympton Fire Department

Uses: Present Firehouse

Original Firehouse

Date of Construction 1975

Source Town of Plympton Annual Reports

Style/Form Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder Archt: Kenneth F. Parry, Quincy
GC: Ferguson Construction,
Plympton

Exterior Material: Brick veneer & vinyl siding

Foundation Concrete

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

None

Major Alterations (with dates)

None

Condition Good

Moved ☐ no ☐ yes **Date**

Acreage approx. 4 acres (with Town House)

Setting Main thoroughfare at north end of town center, located adjacent to Town Offices.

BUILDING FORM: Plympton, MA

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

The Plympton Fire Department headquarters is a one-story hip-roofed vehicle garage with a connected one-story hip-roofed administrative annex on the north side. The main elevation (east) is faced with brick veneer around three large overhead metal garage doors. The administrative annex features two standard metal entrance doors flanking a commercial bow window. On the side and rear elevations, the building is covered with white vinyl siding with double-hung insulated glass windows with applied 6/6 muntins. The simple hipped roofs are covered with black asphalt shingles. A large paved area extending from the front of the firehouse to Palmer Road provides access for the fire equipment and other oversized vehicles.

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.

The Plympton firehouse is a modern building designed for a dedicated use. It is the culmination of almost 20 years of debate about the needs of the mostly-volunteer Fire Department, the best location for a new station and the cost of modernization. As early as 1950, the Fire Department was complaining at each annual Town Meeting that its existing facilities were too small for all of the department's vehicles and equipment to be kept inside.

In 1966, Town Meeting approved the appointment of a committee to look into the prospect of a new fire station and to consider possible locations. By 1970, it had become a joint Fire Station – Police House Study Committee and was “working for a badly needed and adequate station.” The Town's Capital Expenditures Committee recommended that the town address the need for a new elementary school first and then turn its attention to the needs of the Police and Fire Departments.

In 1971, Town Meeting rejected the idea of constructing a new combined police and fire station and directed architect Kenneth F. Parry of Quincy to evaluate the feasibility of remodeling the former elementary school on Palmer Road. When the estimated cost of converting the school to a police and fire station came in at \$73,339 that idea was rejected.

In 1973, the Fire Station – Police House Study Committee announced that they had rejected all possible sites except “the location at the rear of the paved parking area at the old elementary school.” The 1974 Town Meeting approved \$140,000 for construction of a new fire station. Architect Kenneth F. Parry of Quincy was selected as the designer and the Ferguson Construction Company, Inc. of Plympton was selected as the General Contractor.

The new firehouse was occupied in the spring of 1975 and formally accepted by the Town on August 25, 1975. The new structure was featured on the cover of the Town's Annual Report that year.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Annual Reports of the Town of Plympton, 1930-2004.

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