

= First Ward Wardroom =

The First Ward Wardroom is a historic meeting hall at 171 Fountain Street in Pawtucket , Rhode Island . It is a single @-@ story red brick building , with a low @-@ pitch gable @-@ over @-@ hipped roof . Basically rectangular , an enclosed entry pavilion projects from the main block . The building , designed by William R. Walker & Son and built in 1886 , is one of only three ward halls ( structures built by the city and used as polling places and meeting halls ) to survive in the state . Since about 1920 it has been the Major Walter G. Gatchell Post No. 306 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars . The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 .

= = Design = =

Designed by William R. Walker & Son and constructed by S. Mason & H. A. Smith in 1886 , the one story red brick Queen Anne style building is basically rectangular with a low @-@ pitched gable @-@ over @-@ hipped roof . The red bricks are laid in dark red mortar and is contrasted by the granite sill course and the now painted grey brownstone stringcourse , window sills and lintels and the lintels of the doors . The enclosed entry pavilion projects from the main block with two porches oriented to face Fountain Street and Blake Street . Three arched double hung windows with two @-@ over @-@ two sash run along the sides of the building with three smaller windows are in the entry pavilion . At the time of the National Register of Historic Places nomination , these smaller windows were boarded up and the porch oriented to Fountain Street was bricked in with the buildings original materials . One original eight @-@ panel door remained on the Blake Street entry porch , but the rest of the exterior details were extant , including the boarded pavilion pediment with " 1st Ward " in raised lettering .

National Register of Historic Places nomination states that the interior of the building originally opened into a large meeting hall with some auxiliary service rooms at the rear of the building , but did not disclose any alterations made to the interior .

= = Use = =

The Fifth Ward Wardroom was constructed and used as a polling place and meeting hall in a critical time when Pawtucket was incorporated as a city before becoming the Major Walter G. Gatchell Post No. 306 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars . Since about 1920 , the Gatchell Post has occupied the First Ward Wardroom , but the property is owned by the City of Pawtucket . In 2013 , the building was in need of significant roof repairs and the Gatchell Post reached out to the community to help raise the necessary funds .

= = Significance = =

The First Ward Wardroom is significant as a historical reminder of the pivotal time in which Pawtucket was incorporated as a city and gave up its town @-@ meeting form of governance . The building is also architecturally significant as a rare type of building , wardrooms , and is one of three extant examples in Rhode Island . William R. Walker & Son constructed three such structures in Pawtucket with the Fifth Ward Wardroom being extant and the third example having been demolished . Though both constructed by William R. Walker & Son , the two Pawtucket wardrooms are related , but not identical in construction and show variations by the firm . Another wardroom , with a bungalow style , is located in the Cato Hill Historic District in Woonsocket , Rhode Island . The First Ward Wardroom was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 18 , 1983 .