Funds sought to renovate former Westford Academy -- fire station

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD — With one of the projects, the restoration of the original Westford Academy building to its former appearance as planned by the bicentennial committee for the town's celebration in 1975, in its initial stage, proper financing has to be arranged in advance if federal and state funds are forthcoming.

Some matching funds are available, according to Chalrman Allister F. MacDougall, and application already has been made for \$7,000 through the Massachusetts Bicenten-

nial Commission.

The trustees of the academy have pledged \$3,000 and the historical society a n o t h e r \$2,000. Without solicitation, a local family has pledged an

additional \$2,000. It is hoped that outside funds will match this amount.

THE LOWEST estimate as to the cost of restoring the two-century old building is \$20,000, which some have indicated would be only a start. The ground floor of the two-story structure was extensively remodeled in 1917 to be used as the center fire station.

The upstairs portion remains in much the same state as when Levi Hedge, the first principal, called classes together in 1792. Even the small cupboard, which concealed the end of the rope used to ring the Paul Revere bell in the belfry, is intact.

When plans are finalized, an intensive fund raising campaign will be undertaken in addition to asking local craftsmen to help in reconstruction work on a volunteer basis.