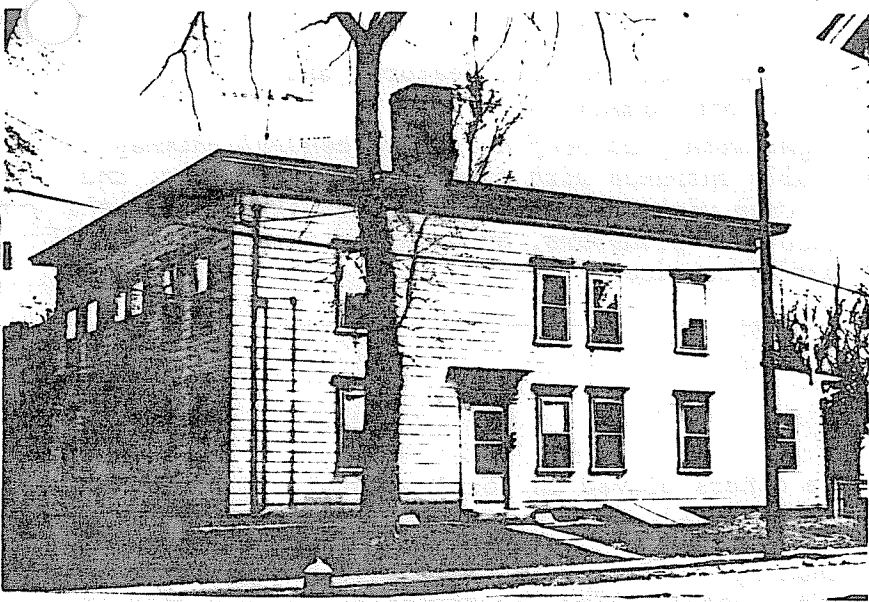


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

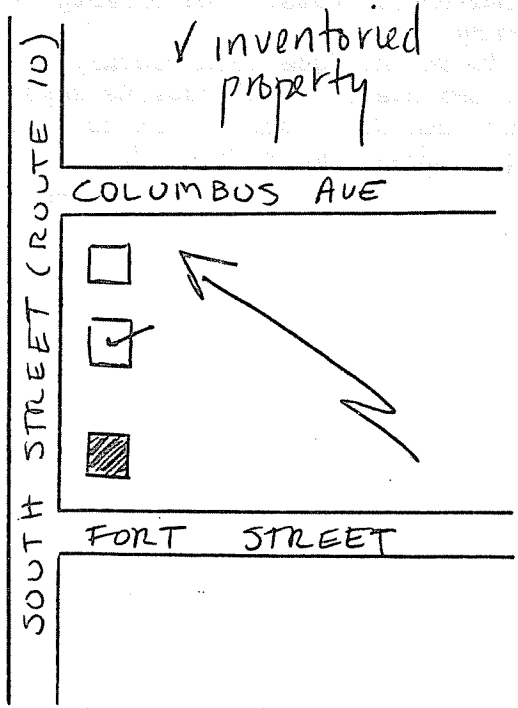
In Area no.	Form no.
	39B-160

7059



City Northampton
 Address 184 & 186 South Street
 Name Calvin Strong House
 Present use Residence
 Present owner Evans & Leah Jacoby
 Construction: c. 1830
 Source visual evidence
Federal

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect unknown
 Exterior wall fabric wood
 Outbuildings (describe) attached shed
 Other features 2 stories; flat roof; pilasters at entrance; portico
 Altered no Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 Less than one acre x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 75 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street 30 feet

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by C. Dubie
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date April 15, 1976

RECEIVED

(over)

MAY 5 1976

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The building is two stories in height with flat roof and large central chimney. The symmetrical facade has a central double entrance with transoms and pilasters, and the entrance is covered by a one-story porch with square posts and balustrade. On the Fort St. side of the house is an entrance with pilasters, transom and entablature. All of the windows on the house have projecting cornices.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

This large structure was first owned by the Phelps family. Nathaniel Phelps was one of the earliest settlers on South St., establishing his homestead on this site in 1707. Four generations of Phelps, all with the first name of Nathaniel, made their homesteads here. The last Nathaniel was born in 1757 and married in 1781. He was "remembered as an innkeeper, a blacksmith and a farmer". The youngest of his eleven children, Charles Phelps, was the fifth generation of the family to occupy the homestead. In 1831 he sold the property to Calvin Strong and moved to Illinois. The property remained in the Strong family until the early 20th century.

It appears as if this structure was probably built in the late 18th century, possibly as an expansion of an earlier house. A 1914 article on local taverns says that "An old tavern used to stand on the corner of South and Fort Sts., known as Phelps Tavern, and sometimes called-- for what reason is not known--"Ramoth Gilead". After the inn was given up the building was made into two dwellings and has since been occupied by the Strong family.

This was an excellent location for an inn, as South St. was the main highway leading to Easthampton, and Fort St. led southerly through the meadows, along the Ox Bow and then along the Connecticut River to South St.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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 1873, 1884, 1895 and 1915 Atlases.
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