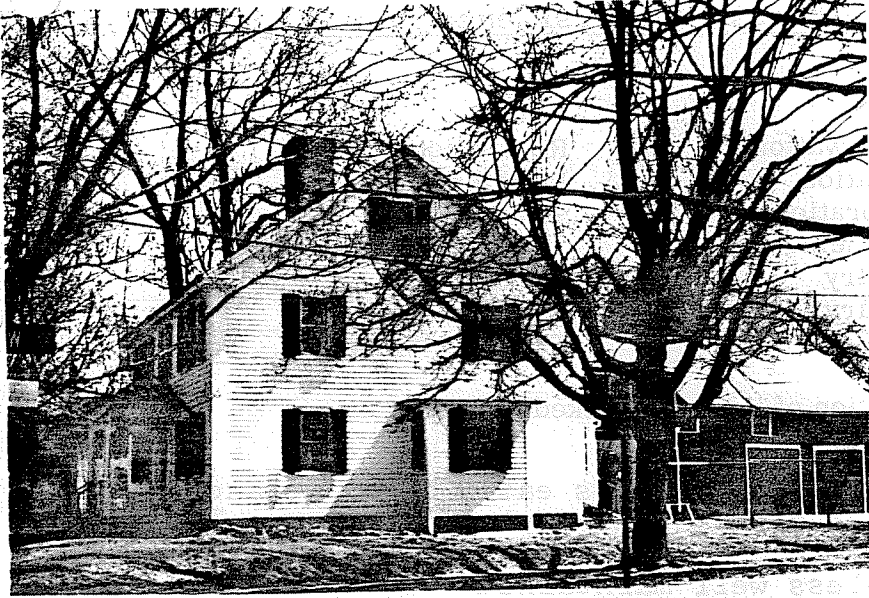


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FORM B - BUILDING

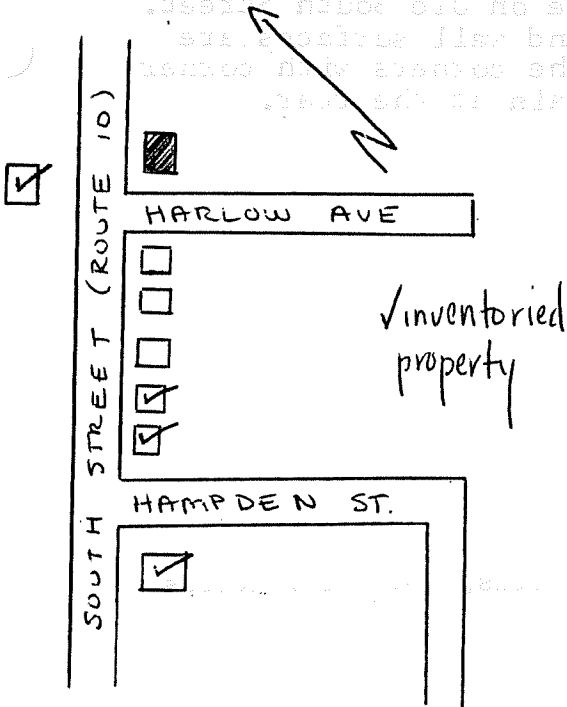
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	39B-299



City Northampton
 Address 278 South Street
 Type Colonial Residence
 Present use Residence
 Present owner Elizabeth McKnown
 Description: 1751-on chimney; slightly later?
 Source visual evidence
 Style Colonial vernacular

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



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

Architect unknown
 Exterior wall fabric clapboards
 Outbuildings (describe) shed, barn
 Other features 2 1/2 stories; central chimney in front slope of roof; 5 bays wide, 2 deep; 19th cen. porch
 Altered additions, rear Date _____
 Moved no? Date _____

5. Lot size:
 Less than one acre x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 130 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street 30 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date April 9, 1976

RECEIVED

(over)

MAY 5 1976

7. Original owner (if known) unknown (not researched)

Original use homestead

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates homestead; residence

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u> </u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ Humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> x </u>				

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

South Street was one of Northampton's early highways and still exhibits a large number of colonial style dwellings. The structure at 278 South faces an earlier saltbox at 283 South. Two other early dwellings—less well maintained—are located at the corner of Hampden and South Streets.

278 South Street is a two and one-half story wooden structure with low brick foundation and a massive central chimney located well forward in the front slope of the roof. It does not appear, however, that the dwelling is a converted saltbox like that at 283 South Street or the 1755 Parsons House on Old South Street. The dwelling is five bays wide, 2 deep, and wall surfaces are covered with clapboards and finished at the corners with cornerboards. Several additions and a barn remain at the rear.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

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

The house is two-and-a-half stories tall with slate ridge roof and central chimney. The side gables each have a six over six sash window within, while the rest of the windows in the house have two over two sashes. The facade is five bays wide and has a central entrance with sidelights. A one-story porch with hipped roof, spindle frieze, turned posts with fan brackets, and turned balustrade covers the entrance. In the rear of the house is a large barn connected to the house by a one-and-a-half story ell.

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

This house was built on the Strong homestead on South St. which had been established in 1730 by Sgt. Jonathan Strong. According to the Rev. Clark's essay on the homestead Sgt. Jonathan's grandson, also named Jonathan and born in 1773, lived on the homestead until his marriage in 1799 when he had this present house built. The present owner Elizabeth Mc Kown is a descendant of Jonathan Strong.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 and 1860 County Maps.
1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.
Antiquities, Historical and Graduates of Northampton, S. Clark (1882) pp. 135-37.

