

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	39A-52

Northampton

Address 88 Lyman Road

Name G.S. Lee House

Present use residence

Present owner Gary and Anne Arnold

Description:

1883-95

Source Reg. of Deeds and Atlas

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved -- Date --

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____

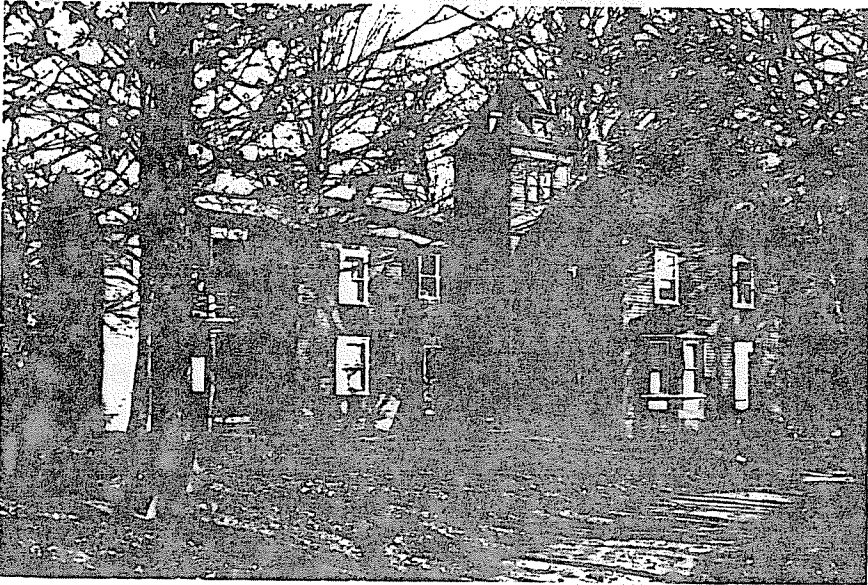
Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

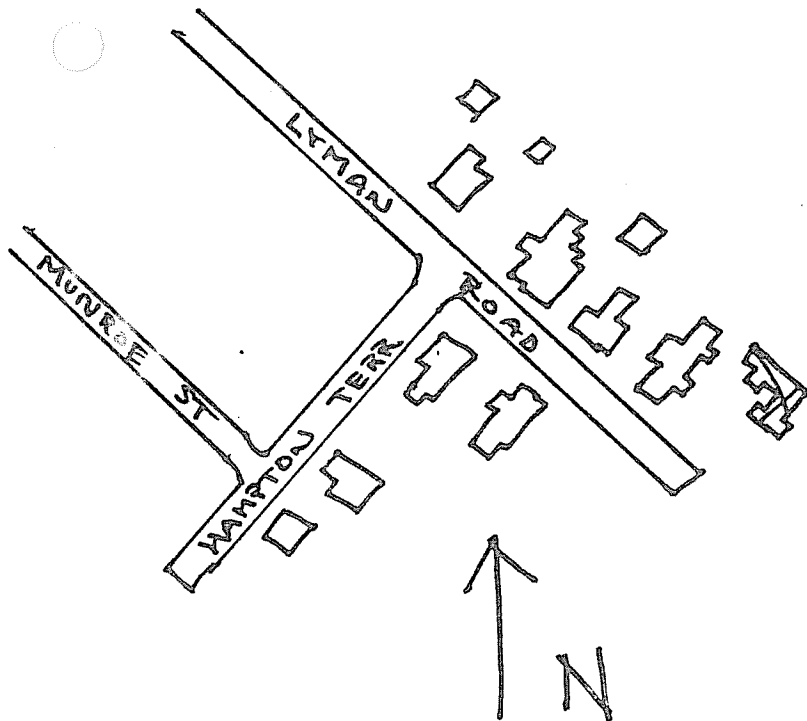
6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date February 1980



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



(over)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 39A-52
Property Name: G.S. Lee House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9. Historical Significance.

This is a large rambling house set back from the street, and at the brow of Fort Hill. To the east and south the land drops about fifty feet into the meadows, providing a long vista across the meadows and Connecticut River to the Holyokre Range. Basically there are two houses joined together, both of which are shown on the 1895 atlas. The more imposing part is a cube, two stories high with a hipped roof. A three story tower with pyramidal roof and hipped dormers serves as the entrance, and also joins the hipped cube to the part of the house. This is two stories high with a gable roof to the side.

7. Original owner (if known) Esmeriah Roberts

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

The exact dating of this house is difficult as the 1884 Atlas doesn't cover all of High St. (now Lyman Rd.). In 1883 Russell Roberts bought a large lot of land on the north side of the street at the brow of Fort Hill. Mr. Roberts already owned a house at 68 High St., so in 1885 he sold the large lot to Esmeriah Roberts. However a house is mentioned on the lot at that time, and one is mentioned five days later when Esmeriah sells the western half of the lot to Alphonso Witherell. Esmeriah was a local jeweler and lived on Olive St. In 1895 this house is shown on the atlas and a Mrs. Roberts is listed as owner.

The first known occupant of the house is the Rev. Dr. Gerald Stanley Lee, who is listed here in 1898. The Rev. Lee maintained this house until his death in 1944. He was a prolific author and lecturer and spent much of his literary career in New York, where, with his wife Jeanette, a former Smith College professor, he conducted the Lee School for Co-ordination and Balance. This school was continued in Northampton when the Lees made this city their permanent residence. Rev. Lee wrote on many subjects, including: war, democracy, social problems and mental health. In 1905 he founded and edited "Mount Tom" magazine, "an all outdoors magazine devoted to rest and worship and a little look off on the world". This was published until 1918.

continued

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

- 1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.
- Registry of Deeds: Bk 380- P455, 369-252.
- Northampton Directory: 1885 through 1900, 1922.
- Daily Hampshire Gazette, April 4, 1944.
- Forbes Library- Photo Collection: Gerald Stanley Lee House.
- Card Catalog: Gerald Stanley Lee.

