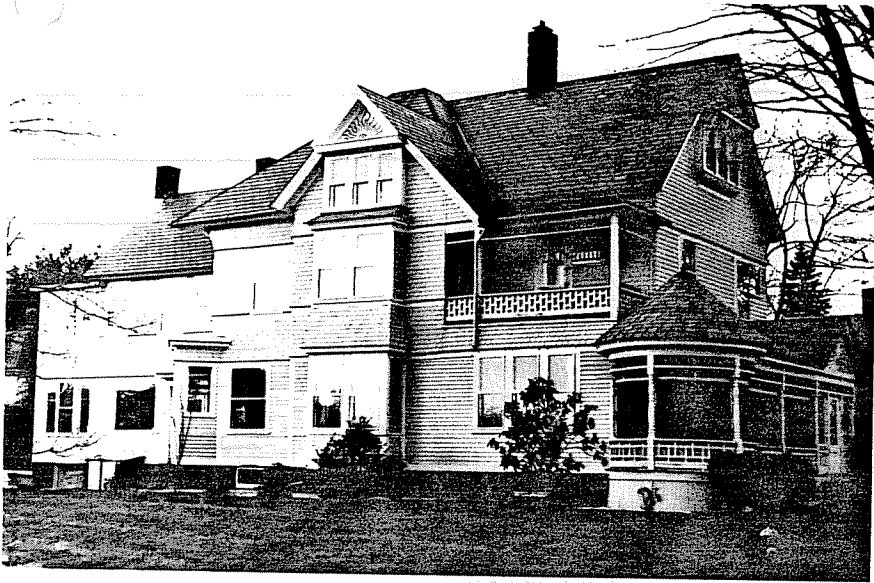


FORM B - BUILDING

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

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| In Area no. | Form no. |
| | 39A-64 |



in Northampton
 address 75 Lyman Road
 name H. Gere House
 present use residence
 present owner Raymond & Allyn Dargis
 description:
 date 1884-88
 source Atlas & Directory
 style Queen Anne

Architect Charles H. Jones

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) ---

Other features _____

Altered --- Date _____

Moved --- Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre 1.18A

Approximate frontage 460'

Approximate distance of building from street

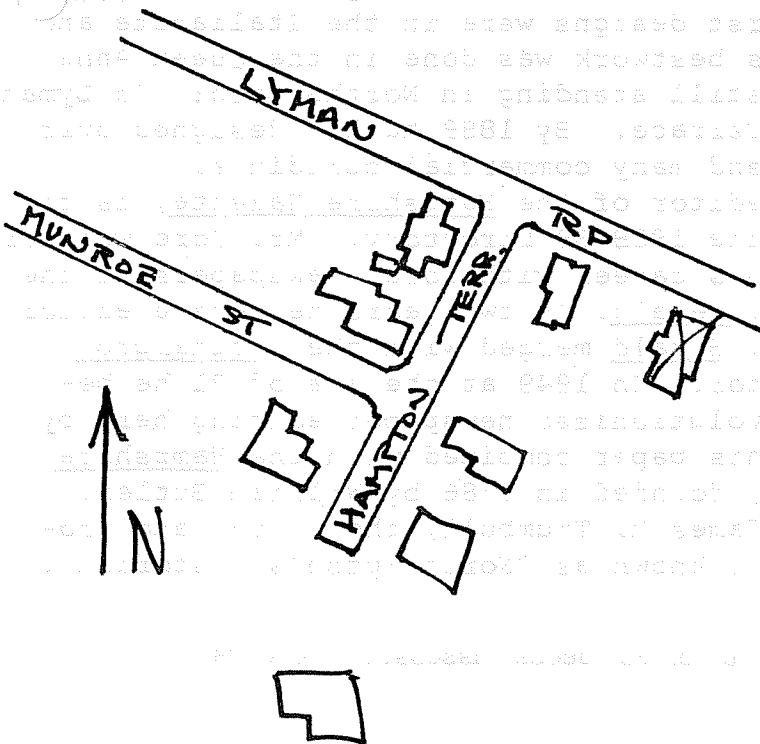
15'

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date February 1980

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



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Henry S. Gere
 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 | <u>X</u> | Political | _____ | | |
| Community development | <u>X</u> | | | | |

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

This Queen Anne styled house was built from designs of local architect Charles H. Jones. Mr. Jones learned the trade of house painter in Boston, and was first associated in business with his brother, Isaac R. Jones, in Ashfield, Mass. Charles moved to Northampton in 1868 and remained here until his death in 1897 at the age of 59. He continued his painting and interior decorating business here, but received encouragement to engage in architectural practice. His first designs were in the Italianate and Second Empire styles. However, his bestwork was done in the Queen Anne mode. This includes three houses still standing in Northampton: 75 Lyman Rd., 152 South St. and 28 Pomeroy Terrace. By 1889 he had designed over Fifty residences, three churches, and many commercial buildings.

Henry S. Gere, the owner and editor of the Hampshire Gazette, is first listed as living in this house in the 1888-89 Directory. Mr. Gere was born in Williamsburg in 1828 and began his career with local newspapers at the age of 17 working for the Hampshire Herald. In two years he became editor of the weekly, and in 1848 when the Herald merged with the Northampton Courier he was named assistant editor. In 1849 at the age of 21 he became editor and proprietor. He revolutionized newspaper editing here by emphasizing local news. In 1858 this paper combined with the Hampshire Gazette, Northampton's first paper, founded in 1786 by William Butler. Mr. Gere served as co-editor with James R. Trumbull, the editor and proprietor of the Gazette who was later known as "Northampton's historian".

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

1884 & 1895 Atlases
 Registry of Deeds: Bk.389-P.167
 Northampton Directory: 1887-88, 1888-89
Representative Families of Northampton, vol.I, C.Warner, 1917 P.55
 Hampshire Gazette & Courier 1-15-89
 The Northampton Book, ed. by Tercentenary History Committee, 1954, pp.377-8

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Community: Northampton | Form No: 397-64 |
| Property Name: H. Gere House | |

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

(Continued from Page 1)

The weekly paper changed to the Daily Hampshire Gazette in 1890. At a banquet given in his honor on his 80th birthday by the editors of western Mass., Mr. Gere was acclaimed as the editor of longest service in New England. Two years later, after 63 years as an editor, he was succeeded by his sons Collins H. and Edward C. Gere.

Henry Gere was also prominent in civic affairs. In 1852 he was chosen County Treasurer, a position he held for 18 years. He was chairman of the Republican County Committee for 25 years, and served 6 years on the Northampton School Committee.

The house is 2½ stories in height, clad in clapboard on the first floor and shingles on the upper floors. A fairly simple rectangular mass with gable end to the street and two story rear ell, the house is enlivened by large amounts of late Victorian decoration. The side cross gables, the front gable, and the porch's entrance gable are decorated with sun-bursts and rosettes. The one-story front porch as a conically-roofed side projection and gabled entrance. Turned posts, a frieze of spindles, and balustrade of sticks in geometric pattern compose the porch. The eastern side has a three-story bay and recessed porch on the second floor, while the western side has a triangular dormer, a two-story oriel and an oriel capped by small porch. Wide boarding is used for string courses between the floors. This combined with cornerboards and the window surrounds help to delineate the structure's component parts. A variety of window forms are used and several of the windows contain stained glass, most notably the stepped row of three on the western side.

The house is located at the brow of the terrace above the old bed of the Mill River. Meadows stretch easterly from the old bed to the Connecticut River, and beyond that to the Holyoke Range in Hadley. Thus a spectacular panoramic vista is opened up to the east and south from this house.

