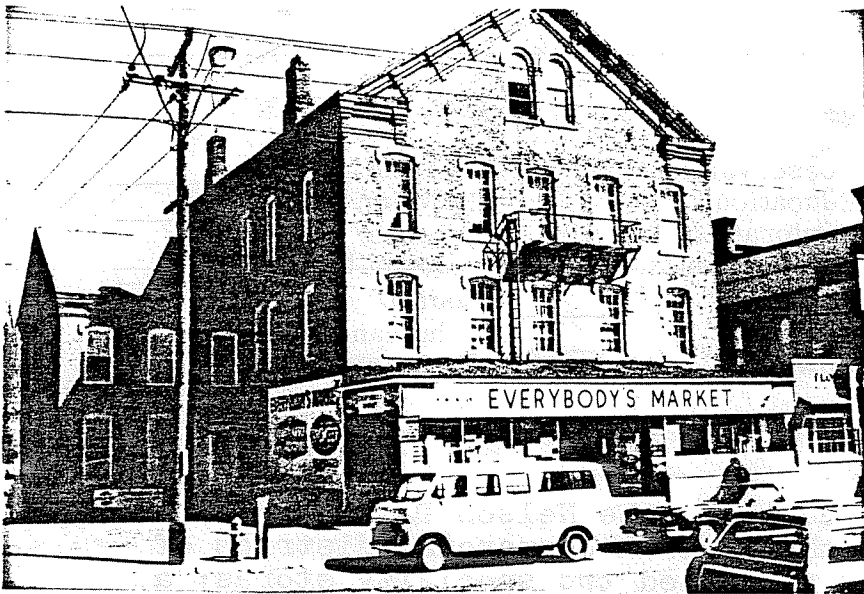


FORM B - BUILDING

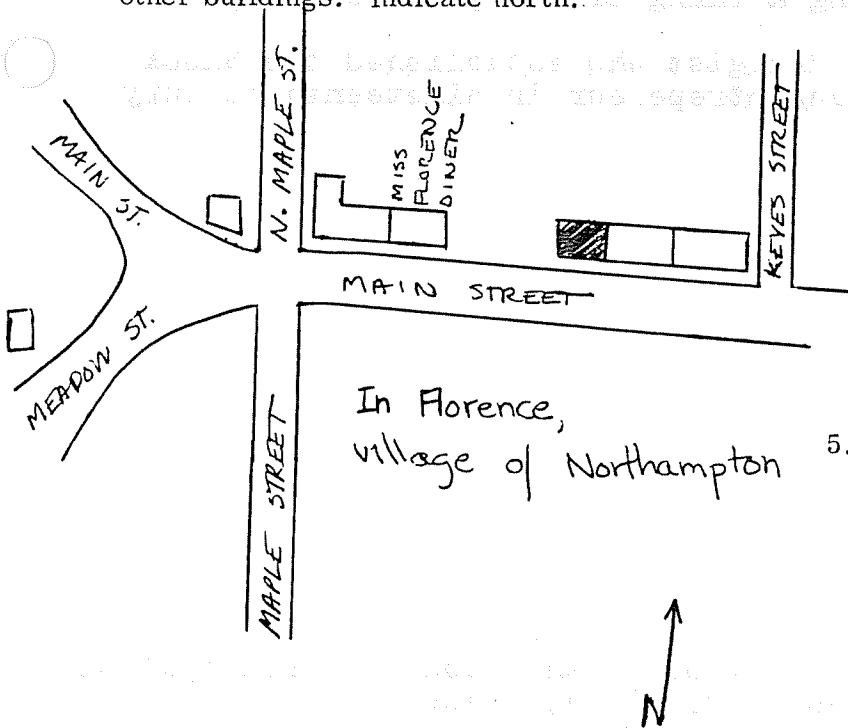
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	17C-213



1 Florence (Northampton)
 Address Main and Keyes Street
 Block N. Davis Block
 Present use Commercial
 Present owner Francis Rauch
 Description:
1860
 Source 1884 Atlas of Northampton
Late Victorian Industrial

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



Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric brick
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features Dormer windows, gable roof, dentiled pediment
 Altered ground floor altered Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 160 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
20 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date October 15, 1975

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

(over)

MAY 5 1976

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7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use Ground floor- drug and newspaper stores.

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

In the mid-nineteenth century, the Nelson Davis Block served a vital function to the central commercial district of Florence. Its ground floor contained two specialty stores; a drugstore and a newspaper shop. It was here that local citizens would come for a soda or such and discuss pertinent affairs of the village. It still retains this distinctive capacity in the community; a feature becoming a thing of the past for many downtown districts.

It was Nelson Davis, a druggist who established the block and was a leading businessman/entrepreneur in nineteenth century Florence.

10. Bibliography and/or references (Such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) 1884 and 1895 Atlas of Northampton and principalities, Charles Stark, local historian of Florence, Mass.