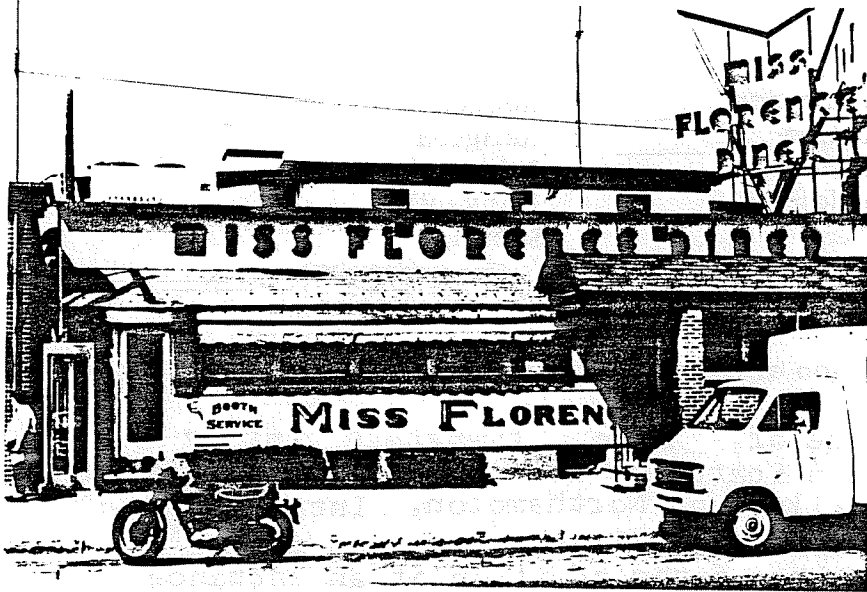


FORM B - BUILDING

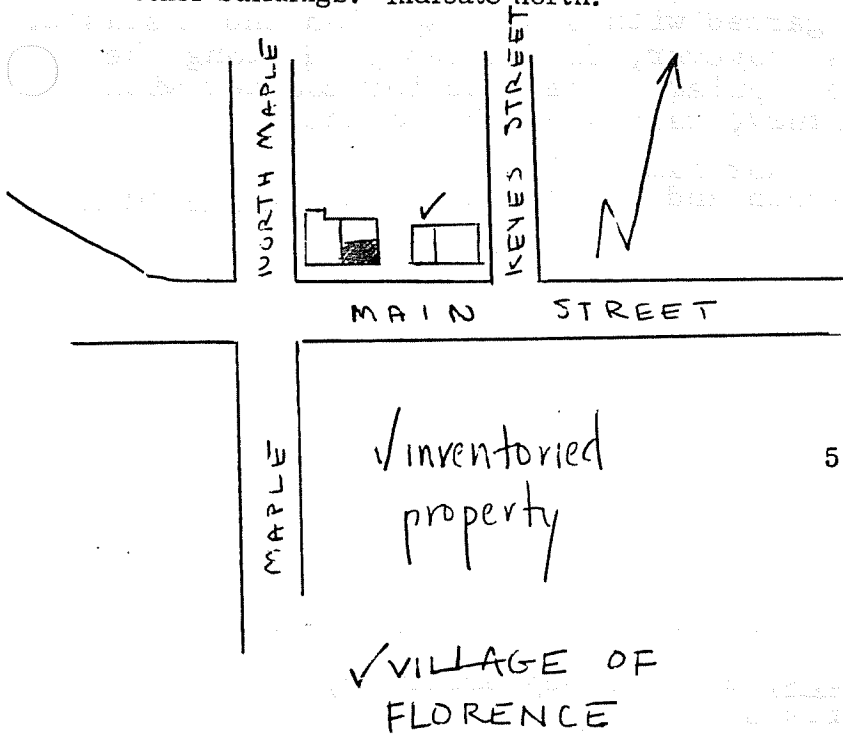
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	17C-214



Address: Northampton (Florence)
99 Main Street
 Name: Miss Florence Diner
 Present use: Diner/Restaurant
 Present owner: Maurice & Pauline Alexander
 Date of construction: c. 1930
 Source of information: visual evidence
 Condition: very little

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



Architect: unknown
 Exterior wall fabric: metal/tile/shingles
 Outbuildings (describe): none
 Other features: single story w/2 story brick structure attached; basic diner forms with additions

Altered: yes Date: _____
 Moved: no Date: _____

5. Lot size:
 Less than one acre: x Over one acre: _____
 Approximate frontage: 100 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street: 20 feet

6. Recorded by: C. Dubie
 Organization: Northampton Historical Commission
 Date: May 12, 1976

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

(over)

JUN 30 1976

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

11

Original use Diner

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Diner/Restaurant

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Humanitarian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

The Miss Florence is one of four twentieth century diners in Northampton. As indicated by its name, the Miss Florence is located in Florence, a village of Northampton. Interiors at the Miss Florence include elaborate floor tiling and marble counter. The exterior in spite of the addition of an entrance displays Art Deco lettering and the diner car form.

The ancestor of the diner was the 1880's "dog wagon", a horse drawn vehicle dispensing sandwiches and coffee. Catering to the fringes of the population awake at odd hours, these diners of the late 19th century were regarded with some suspicion and distaste. In the post-World War I years, however, diners designed along the lines of railroad cars became popular. The interior counter with stools, added in the 19th century, was joined by booths.

Perhaps not the oldest of Northampton's diners, the Miss Florence is the most widely known and was featured in The New York Times in September of 1974.

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

The New York Times, Sunday, September 15, 1974,
Travel and Resorts section, p. 1.