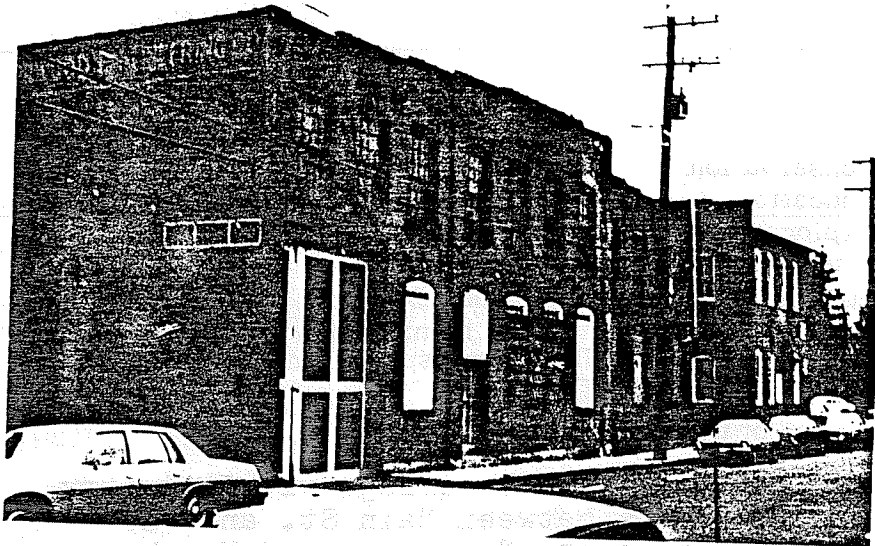


FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	17C-
	229-232

117



City Northampton

Address 28-30 North Maple St.

Owner Norwood Engineering Co.

Present use commercial and

industrial

Present owner multiple ownership

Description:

1870-1915

Source History of Florence & Atlase

Address

Architect

Other buildings. Indicate north.

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe)

Other features

Altered many additions Date

Moved -- Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre X

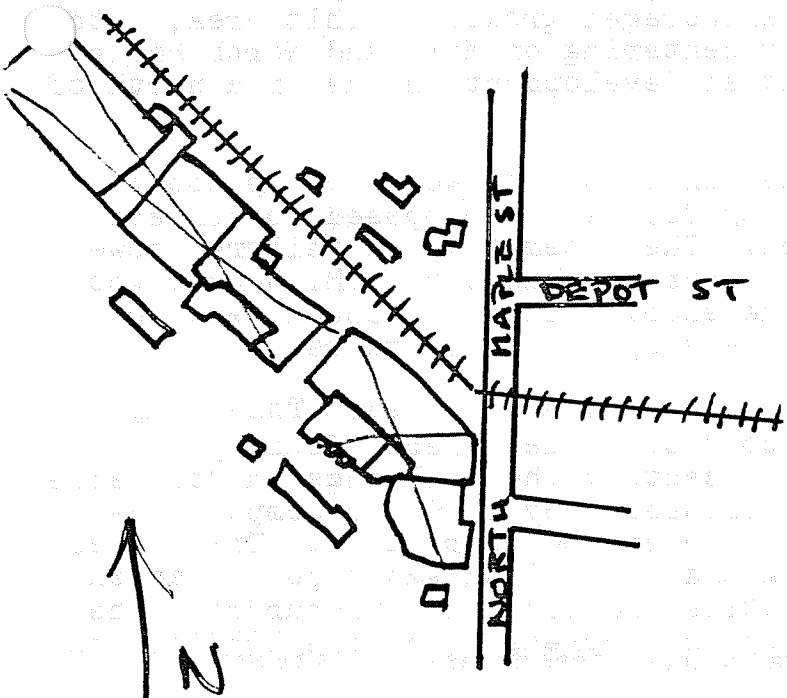
Approximate frontage

Approximate distance of building from street

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date June 1980



(over)

Original owner (if known) Sheffield Manufacturing Co.

Original use industrial

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	<u>x</u>	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

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

The 1860 map of Florence shows a small village with industry on the Mill River and a residential area between Main St. and the river. In 1867 the Williamsburg line of the New Haven and Northampton Railroad opened, connecting mill villages of Williamsburg and Northampton to the main north-south railroad in the center of Northampton. The tracks ran parallel to, and just north of, Main and North Main Sts. in Florence, and a freight house and depot were built on North Maple St. The railroad encouraged growth in this area, with industries and commercial activity centering on Main and North Maple Sts. near the tracks, and residential development in the area north of the tracks.

The first buildings erected on this site were put up about 1870 for the Sheffield Manufacturing Co., which proposed to convert iron into a metal resembling steel. The attempt was a failure, however, and the buildings were soon after purchased by B.M. Couch, who used them for a foundry and machine shop. After Mr. Couch went out of business, A.G. Hill continued the shop for a few years.

In 1892 the Norwood Engineering Co. was formed. This Company took over the existing works and continued the general foundry and machine business. Early in the 20th century the buildings on No. Maple St. were added for the expanding business. By 1929 the Company occupied nearly fifteen acres and employed 200 operatives. Their specialty was designing, manufacturing and installing water purification or filtration plants for towns, cities and large manufacturers. The Company went out of business during the Depression of the 1930's, and

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

- 1860 County Map.
- 1873, 1884, 1895 and 1915 Atlases.
- History of Florence, ed. by Charles A. Sheffield, 1895.
- "A Chronicle of Industry on the Mill River", Smith College Studies in History Vol. 21, 1935-36.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 17C- 229-232
Property Name: Norwood Eng. Co.	

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

9. Historical Significance

the buildings are now used for a variety of industrial and commercial activities.