

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	17C-251

119



1 Northampton

Address 41 North Main Street

Name J.L. Otis House

Present use residence

Present owner Janis & Mabel Vitols

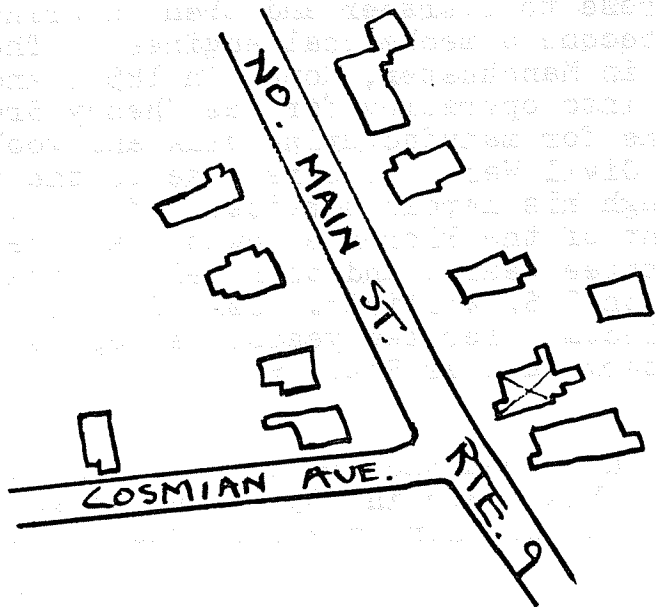
Description:

Year 1850-70

Source Atlases

Architect _____

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



Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 100'

Approximate distance of building from street 25'

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date January 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Florence Sewing Machine Co.

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)

In 1862 D.G. Littlefield and Isaac Graves filed a subdivision plan for North Main and North Maple Sts., bound by Graves St. (later Myrtle St., now Bardwell St.). Mr. Littlefield was one of the founders of the Florence Sewing Machine Co. and kept this one acre lot, most likely for the superintendent of the Company.

John L. Otis was born in Connecticut and spent his early years working in cotton factories. He rose to overseer and then superintendent, while studying at night to become a mechanical engineer. The Manufacturing Co. was established in Manchester, Conn. in 1851, and while in charge here Mr. Otis put into operation for the Cheney Brothers of So. Manchester the first machine for manufacturing silk and woolen knits in the country. During the Civil War, Mr. Otis rose to the rank of Brevet Brigadier General, through his heroic service. After the war Gen. Otis became superintendent of the Florence Sewing Machine Co. He remained in this position for three years, and then helped establish the Northampton Emory Wheel Co. with L.B. Williams. Gen. Otis was active in politics, serving as selectman for two years, as representative to the Legislature for one term, and as State Senator for two terms.

General Otis bought this house from the Florence Sewing Machine Co. in 1877, and resided here until his death in 1894. He probably also lived here earlier in his role as superintendent of the Company.

continued

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

- 1860 County Map 1873, 1884 & 1895 Atlases
- Registry of Deeds: Bk. 206 - p. 292
- Representative Families of Northampton, Vol I, (1917) p.407

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 17C-251
Property Name: J.L. Otis house	

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

9. Historical Significance

The house is two-and-a-half stories in height with pedimented end to the street. A one-story porch extends across the three-bay facade and half way along the eastern side. The porch has chamfered posts and a balustrade. The first floor of the facade has two full-length windows and an entrance with sidelights.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom