

FORM B - BUILDING

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

14

In Area no.	Form no.
	10B-25



Northampton (Leeds)

ss Mulberry Street

Leeds General Store

nt use Awning Company

nt owner Francis P. Maynard

ription:

c. 1840

urce visual evidence

Greek Revival

itect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features 2 stories; 3 chimneys; additions; high foundation; bays.

Altered yes-additions Date

Moved no Date

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre x Over one acre

Approximate frontage

Approximate distance of building from street

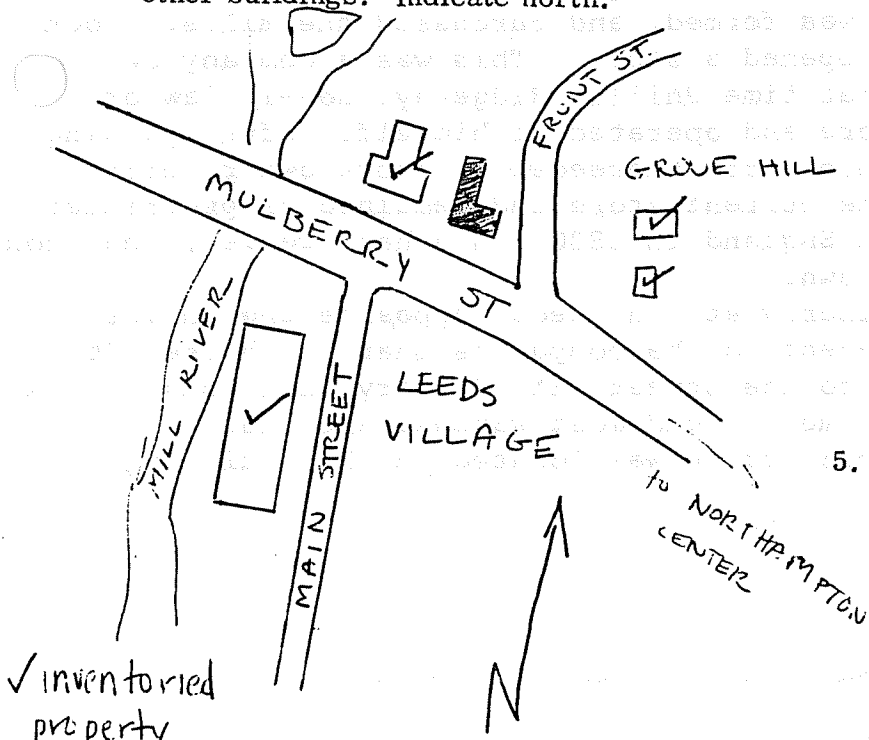
30 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dible

Organization Northampton Historical

Date Commission
APR 19 1976

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



✓ inventoried property

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

(over)

MAY 5 1976

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Original owner (if known) Benjamin North

Original use store

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	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

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

The narrow and deep gorge of the Mill River 4½ miles from the center of Northampton was first settled in the first decade of the 19th century. By 1814 there were two woolen mills, a cotton mill, subsequently changed to a woolen mill, a school house, several residences and a boarding house. Two of the mills were owned by Col. James Shepherd and his cousins. In 1831 the Northampton Woolen Co. was formed, and purchased the mills. Soon after they began business, they opened a store. This was a company owned and run store until 1827. At that time Phillip Ridgeway, son-in-law of Col. Shepherd, purchased the store and operated it himself. After passing through two other owners, Benjamin North succeeded as store owner during the 1830's. In 1842 he built the current store and remained as proprietor until 1862. Mr. North came from England in 1820, as a hand weaver, and soon became a valued citizen in the town.

The store is located on Mulberry st. in Leeds, opposite the former Nonotuck Silk Co. mill, and adjacent to the company's boarding house. It is 2½ stories in height, gable-end to the street with 2-story additions to the side and rear. The gable is pedimented and most windows are 6x6.

For many years the Leeds Post Office was located in this building.

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

1875-76 Northampton Directory and Historical Register pp 48-49