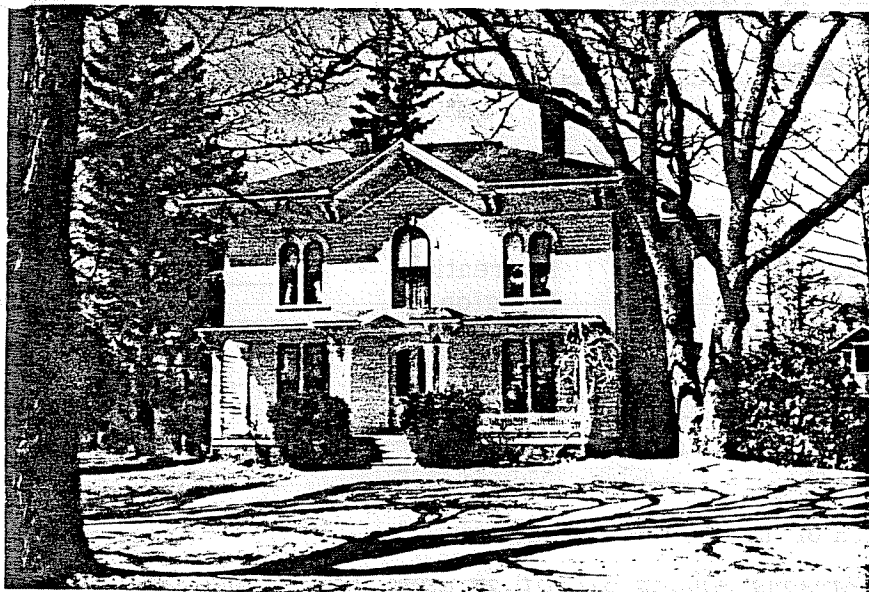


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no. 165
	23A19



1 Florence (Northampton)

Address 4 Park Street

2 Isaac Parsons House

Present use Residence

Present owner Robert Mahar

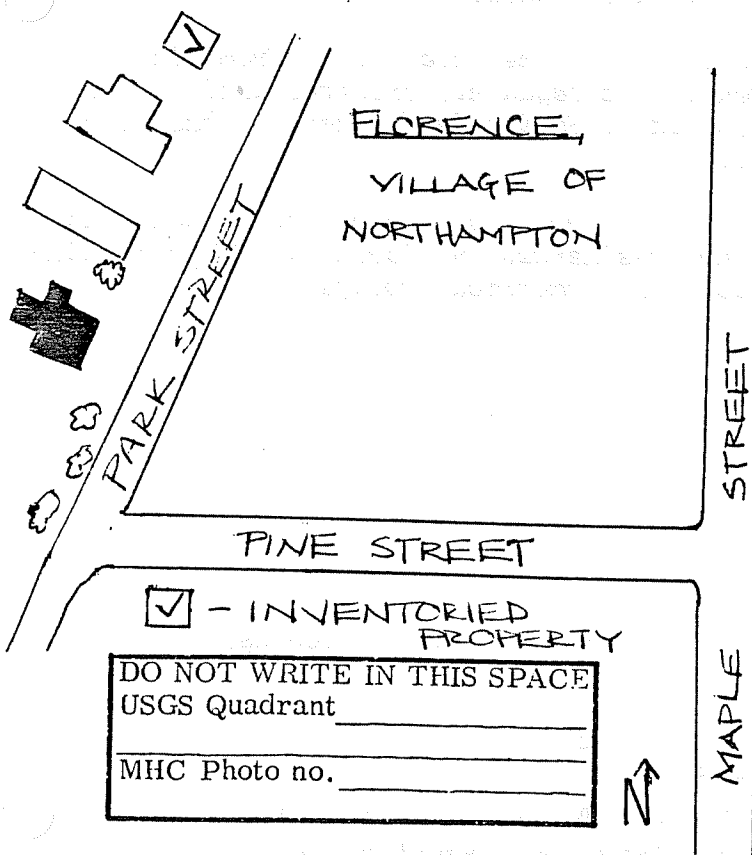
Description:

1860

Source Deed; Book 188, p. 398
1859

High Victorian Gothic

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



Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features Triangular pediment,

iron filigree, hip roof, windows

recessed by arches, front verandah

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 90 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

40 feet

6. Recorded by L. Komaromi

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date March 6, 1976

(over)

MAY 5 1976

7(original owner (if known) Isaac S. Parsons

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 1850 Curtis Parsons bought 3/4 of an acre at a bend in "Oil Mill Road" (now Park and Pine Sts.) from Samuel Hill for \$150. Mr. Parsons, in conjunction with H.K. Macomber ran the silk mill on the Mill River during the early 1850's. In 1853 he sold his homestead to Isaac Parsons (relationship unknown) for \$1300. Isaac ran a store on Nonotuck St. and was appointed the village's first postmaster in 1852, a position he held for 16 years. In the latter part of the 19th century the house was owned by Henry F. Cutler, one of the owners of the Cutler Plympton & Co. grocery and dry goods business on Maple St. in Florence.

The present house was built during the late 1860's from plans of E.C. Gardner. Mr. Gardner was a native of Florence, and began his architectural career here in the late 1860's. Shortly thereafter he moved to Springfield, where he became a most prolific and reknowned architect and writer.

The house has suffered slightly from the loss of its cupola, but remains one of the most elegant of the 19th century residences in Florence. Of particular interest is the rear barn and carriage house with its geometrical motifs.

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

- 1854 & 1860 County Maps
- 1873, 1884 & 1895 Atlases
- Registry of Deeds: Bk.151-P.105, 135-167
- History of Florence Mass., edited by Charles A. Sheffield, 1895 p.187
- Original plans - Dwelling House for I.S. Parsons (owned by R. Mahar)