

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	23A-57

178



1 Northampton

Address 62 Middle St.

Name J. Bird House

Present use residence

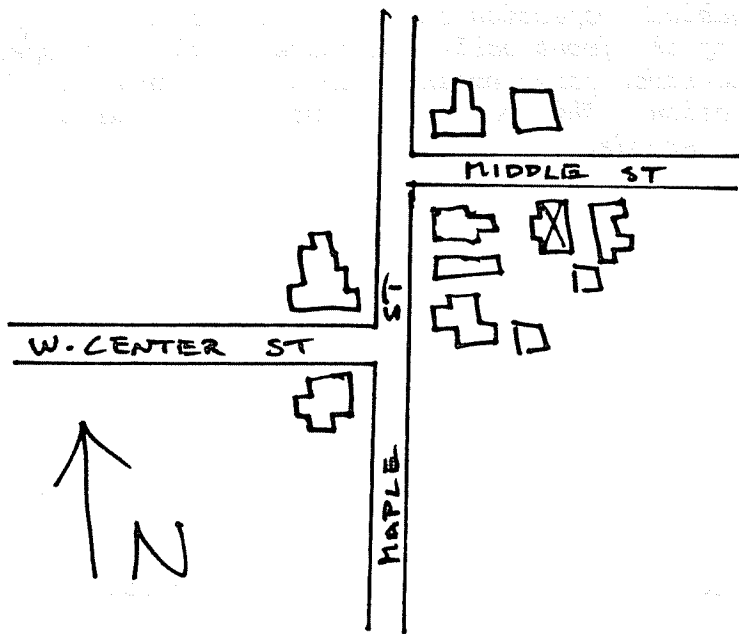
Present owner _____

Description: _____

Date c. 1885

Source Atlas and Directories

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



Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered -- Date _____

Moved -- Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date June 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

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	_____				

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

This large, late 19th century house was built on a small lot separated from a larger lot that faced Maple St. The first known owner was John W. Bird, who had a "news office" with "books and periodicals" at the corner of Main and Maple Sts. in Florence. Mr. Bird is first listed in Center St. (now known as Middle St.) in the 1885 directory, but no specific number is given. The house doesn't appear on the 1884 atlas, but is represented on the 1895 atlas.

The house is two-and-a-half stories in height with gable end to the street and a two-and-a-half story gabled projection on the western side. Decoratively-cut shingles are used in the very peak of the front gable and there is also a projecting triple window with heavy cornice. A one-story porch extends across the three-bay facade and along the western side to the projection. This porch has hipped roof, turned posts with arched "brackets" and a simple balustrade.

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

*1884 and 1895 Atlas.
Northampton Directory: 1875-76, 1885-86, 1895-96.*