

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	23A-71

183



1 Northampton

Address 76 Main St.

Name A. Sowerby House

Present use residence

Present owner \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

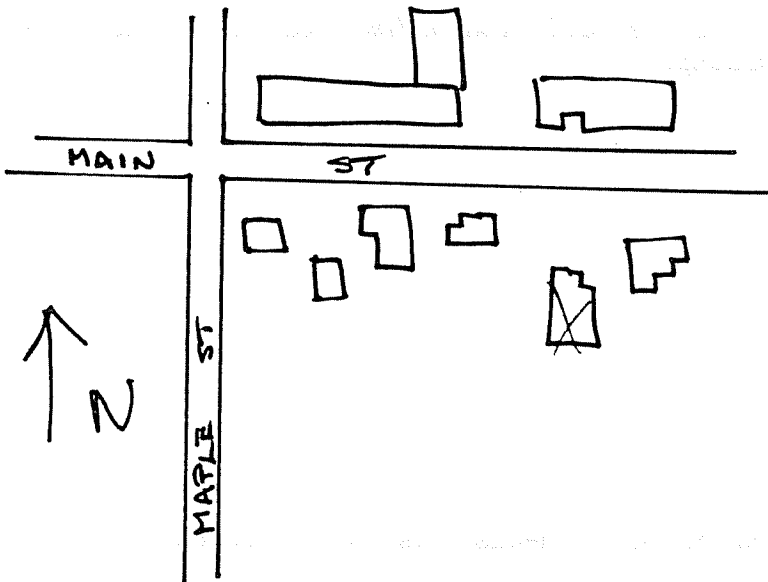
Period 1831-54

Source Maps

Style Greek Revival

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 front porches Date early 20th c.

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) Arthur Sowerby

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 1858 Anson Clark purchased an acre of land with this house thereon from Samuel Hill and Samuel Hinckley for \$2650. In the deed it is mentioned that this is the "same house built by Arthur Sowerby and part of the land formerly owned by him". Unfortunately not much is known about Mr. Sowerby, except that he was co-owner of a dye-house which later became part of the Florence Sewing Machine Co. Mr. Clark was a bookkeeper for the Nonotuck Silk Co. and was succeeded, on his homestead by his daughter and son-in-law, John Riley. Mr. Riley had a fancy goods and millinery store on the opposite side of Main St. in Florence. Around the turn-of-the-century the property was owned and occupied by Earl Thissell, treasurer and general manager of the Florence Machine Co.

The house is two-and-a-half stories tall with pedimented gable end to the street. The tympanum is clad in flush boarding.

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

1837 Town Map. 1854 and 1860 County Maps. 1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.  
 Registry of Deeds: Bk. 436-P. 383, 181-384.  
 Northampton Directory: 1873-74, 1888-89 and 1892-93.  
History of Florence, Ed. by Charles Sheffield, 1895.