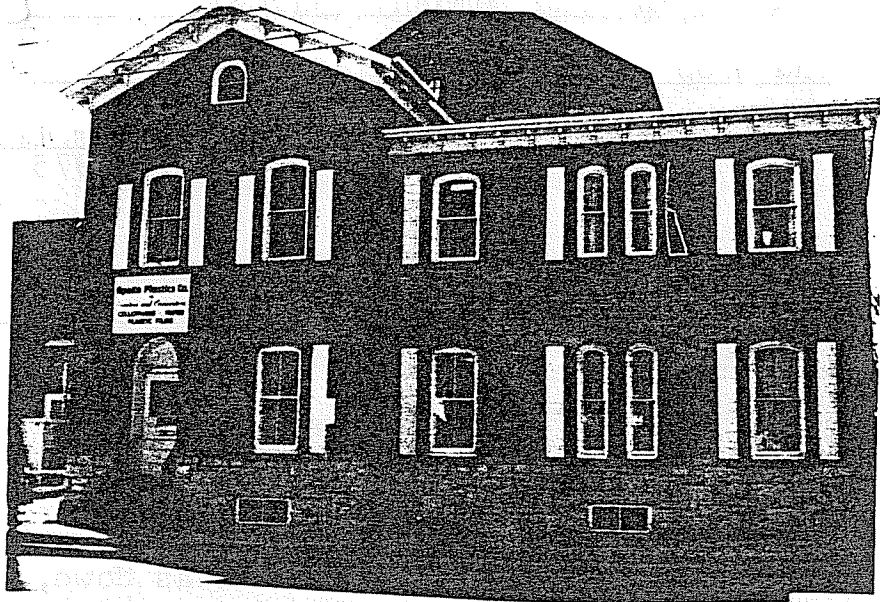


FORM B - BUILDING

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

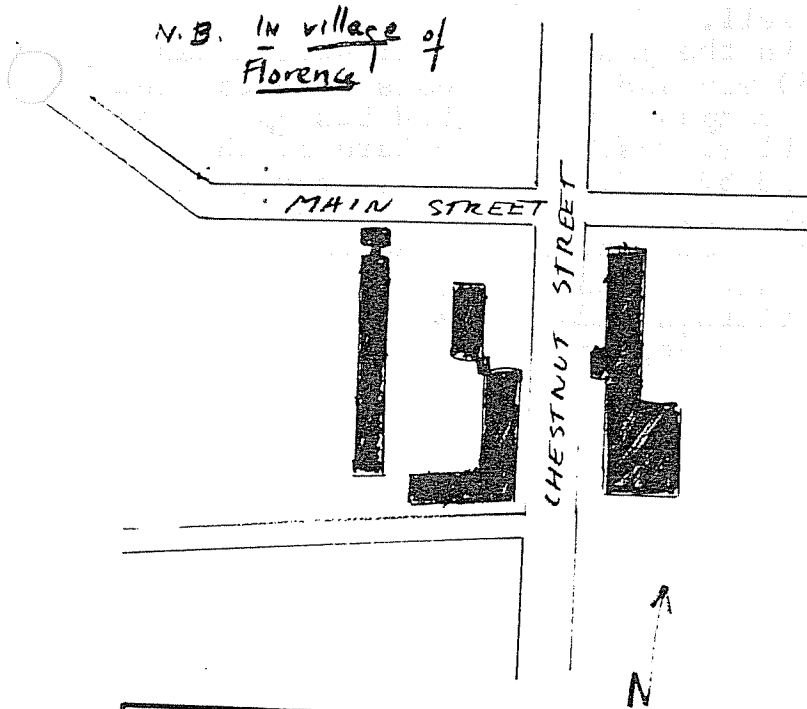
184

In Area no.	Form no. 23A-75,76
	115,303



1 Florence (Northampton)
 2 Main at Chestnut Street
 3 Florence Sewing Machine Co.
 4 Factory
 5 Artina Corporation
 6 1860 and later additions
 7 Map of Northampton, 1860
 8 Victorian Industrial *Italian*

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



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

9 Architect unknown
 10 Exterior wall fabric brick
 11 Outbuildings (describe) none
 12 Other features _____
 13 one building in original group
 14 Altered destroyed, 1960 Date _____
 15 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre x
 Approximate frontage 300 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
20 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date September 15, 1975

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Wells & Co. Machine Company (parts)

Original use Machine shop

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Sewing Machine Co. 1860-1891; various firms 1900-1975

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

Sewing machines were developed during the 1840's by Elias Howe, I. J. Greenough, G. H. Corliss; in 1851 the first patent was obtained by Isaac Singer. The first "Florence Sewing Machine" was perfected and put on the market by Leander Langdon in 1861 and at about this time the Sewing Machine Company opened in buildings of the former Wells & Co. Machine Shop. The Florence manufactory produced the entire machine and its wooden case as well.

The growth of the company in the post-Civil War period was rapid. In 1865 the company employed 150 men and three years time doubled its capacity. In the 1870's the company diversified its operation, undertaking the production of oil stoves. By the turn of the century, however, the concern was absorbed by a Connecticut concern, Central Oil and Gas Stove. In its early years local manufacturers S. L. Hill, D. G. Littlefield, and F. N. Look had controlled the company.

Two long narrow factory structures set perpendicular to Main Street and numerous small outbuildings remain. A third major element, a building set parallel to Main Street, was destroyed in the late 1960's.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Map of Northampton, 1860; Atlas of Northampton, 1873, 1884, 1895.
- "A Chronicle of Industry on the Mill River," Smith College Studies in History, Volume XXI, Nos. 1-4, p. 75-77.