

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	LOB-67

19

1. Town Northampton



Address 12 Water St.

Owner Northampton Emory Wheel Co.

Present use industrial

Present owner _____

Description: _____

late 19th century

Source Atlases

Architect _____

in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered additions Date 19th c.

Moved -- Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____

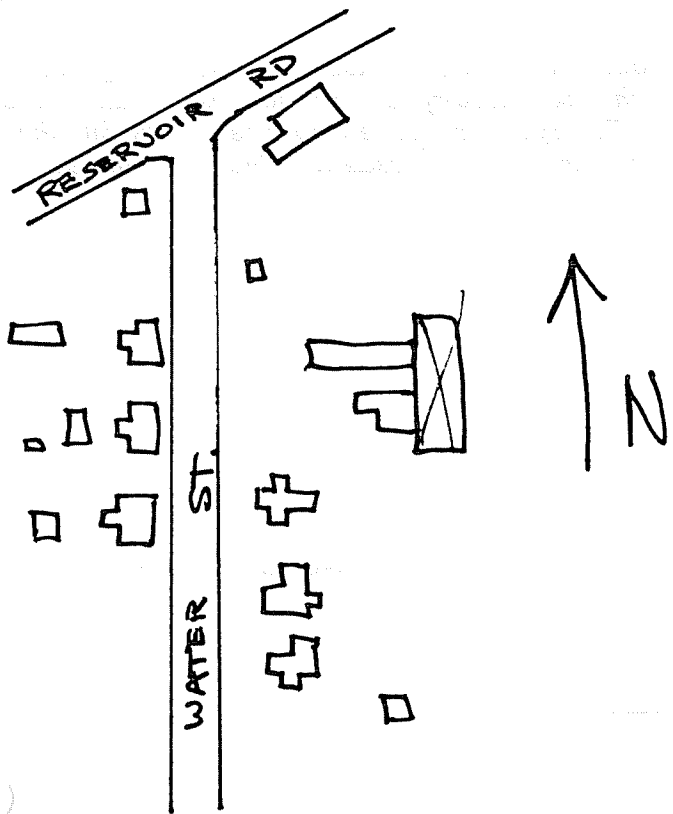
Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date May 1980



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use industrial

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 Northampton Emory Wheel Co. was organized in 1867 by some of the leading local industrialists. Called the "Florence Business Group". these men were involved in most of the Mill River businesses from Bay State to Haydenville, with their major focus being the silk mills of Florence. The Company began in Florence with \$10,000 in capital, but this was soon quadrupled in an 1870 reorganization which saw the business moved to Leeds. Here they rented one of the old woolen mills. After the 1874 Mill River flood they built the one-and-a-half story brick building, and near the end of the 19th century the two-story structure along the river was built.

Emory, a compound found only in Massachusetts, is used in polishing and buffing, two activities intimately connected with the cutlery and brassworks industries. By the 1880's the Company had a branch house in Chicago for marketing its goods in the middle west, and shipped also to England, France, Germany and Sweden. The manufactory remained in production until 1913.

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

- 1860 County Map.
- 1873, 1884, 1895 and 1915 Atlases.
- 1875-76 Northampton Directory and Historical Register, p. 48.
- "A Chronicle of History on the Mill River", Smith College Studies in History, vol. 21 pp.80-