

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	23A-134

201



1 Florence (Northampton)

Address 83 Pine Street

Owner Hill Institute

Present use School

Present owner Hill Institute Inc.

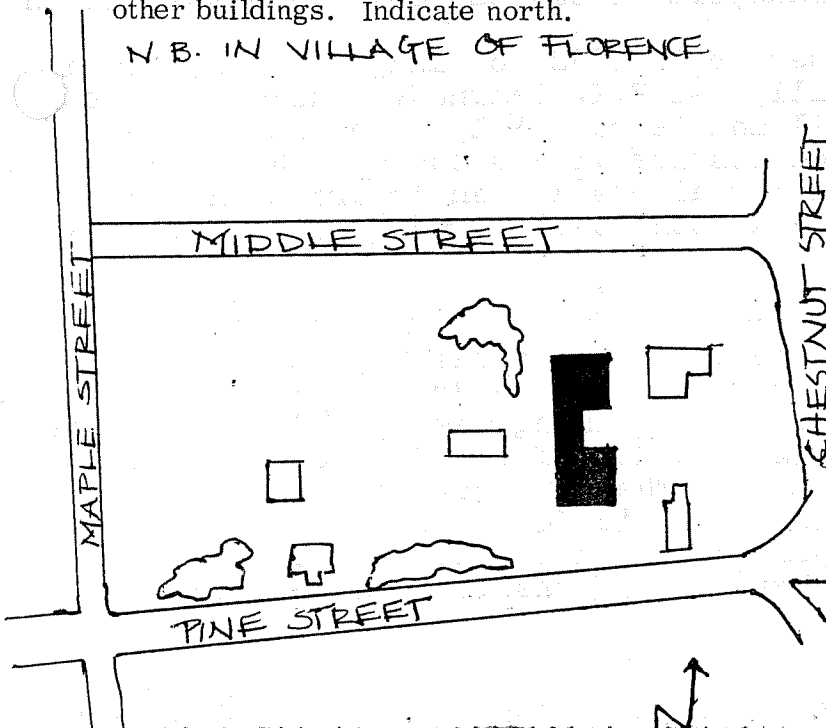
Description:

1876
Daily Hampshire Gazette
Source March 15, 1887

Mid-19th cent. Detached Housing

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

N.B. IN VILLAGE OF FLORENCE



Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Wood

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features 3 story house, gable roof, 2 front verandahs, recessed doorway

Altered yes Date 1887

Moved no Date _____

Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 225 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
75 feet

6. Recorded by L. Komaromi

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date February 26, 1976

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1976

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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use Kindergarten

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Manual Training- 1905

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u> x </u>	Religion	<u> x </u>
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	<u> x </u>
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	<u> x </u>	Political	_____		
Community development	<u> x </u>				

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

The Hill Institute was built in 1876 under the sponsorship of Samuel L. Hill. Mr. Hill may be remembered as having pioneered the Northampton Association of Education and Industry in the mid-nineteenth century; an institution providing for its members- moral, literary, scientific and agricultural instruction. He is also noted for the operation of an under-ground railway station, aiding and abetting the safe transport of slaves from one destination to another.

A Board of Trustees was set up in 1882 to manage the institute and included A.G. Hill, A.T. Lilly and E.K. Learned. The endowment can be attributed to Samuel Hill and Alfred Lilly, the latter two enabling the institute to expand its activities to meet the vital needs of the community. Mr. Hill, having always a keen interest in the affairs of Florence, established a Mothers Club and Parents Meetings at the school.

The school was set up primarily as a kindergarten affording every child in Florence from the ages of 3-7 a free education. The institute was divided into three floors- the 1st for general recreation, the 2nd for older children learning occupations and the 3rd for advanced pupils.

In 1905, a department of manual training was opened here. Both day and evening classes were held providing for endeavors in wood and metal work, weaving and dressmaking. The work produced here ranged from simplistic to rather complex artistic designs.

In 1935, more than 5000 persons attended the annual exhibition at the Hill Institute viewing individual works from the primary grades and vocational classes.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Sheffield, Charles. History of Florence, Massachusetts, Springfield, Mass., 1894. Hampshire Gazette: March 15, 1887, November 1, 1905, November 11, 1905, June 7, 1907, April 13, 1927, June 7, 1935.