

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
	23A-139

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

1. Town Northampton

Address 32 Maple St.

Name H. Wells House

Present use residence

Present owner Cecile Heffernan

Description:

Approximate date c. 1850

Source Reg. of Deeds and Map

Style Greek Revival

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered rear porch Date late 19th c.

Moved -- Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_

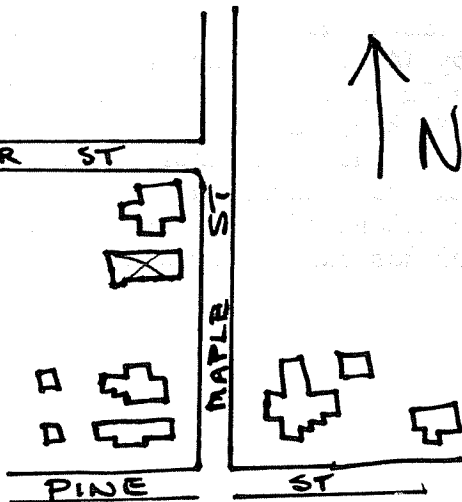
6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date June 1980



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



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Hiram Wells  
 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)

*Hiram Wells was one of the original members of the Northampton Association for Education and Industry, also known as the Community, which was established in the Florence area in 1842. Mr. Wells served as director of the cutlery department. After the dissolution of the Community in 1846 he formed a partnership with Samuel Hill, who furnished the working capital, and began a general machine business. The shop was in the basement of the silk mill, but as business expanded it was moved to the dyehouse on Chestnut St. Portable circular sawmills, pumps and grip wrenches were manufactured here. On July 11, 1859 the boiler exploded, killing Mr. Wells and badly damaging the buildings. Soon afterwards the property was bought by the newly established Florence Sewing Machine Co.*

*In 1846 Mr. Wells bought lot no. 5 of Edwin Eaton's "Village Lots". This was a subdivision of the plateau land formerly owned by NAEI. It was here that Mr. Wells established his homestead. In 1862 the property was sold to Delia Stall for \$1200. The Stall family maintained the property until the early 20th century.*

*The house is two-and-a-half stories in height with gable end to the street. A wide frieze and cornice boards provide detailing, and the windows have six over six sashes. A latticed portico covers the front entrance and the southern side has an interesting porch which has a circular projection in the rear. The porch has turned posts and ornate brackets.*

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

*1854 and 1869 County Maps. 1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.  
 Registry of Deeds: Bk. 403-P. 207, 208-200, 182-256 and 258, 117-28, 116-360.  
 Northampton Directory: 1888-89  
 History of Florence, Ed. by Chas. A. Sheffield, 1895.*