

FORM B - BUILDING

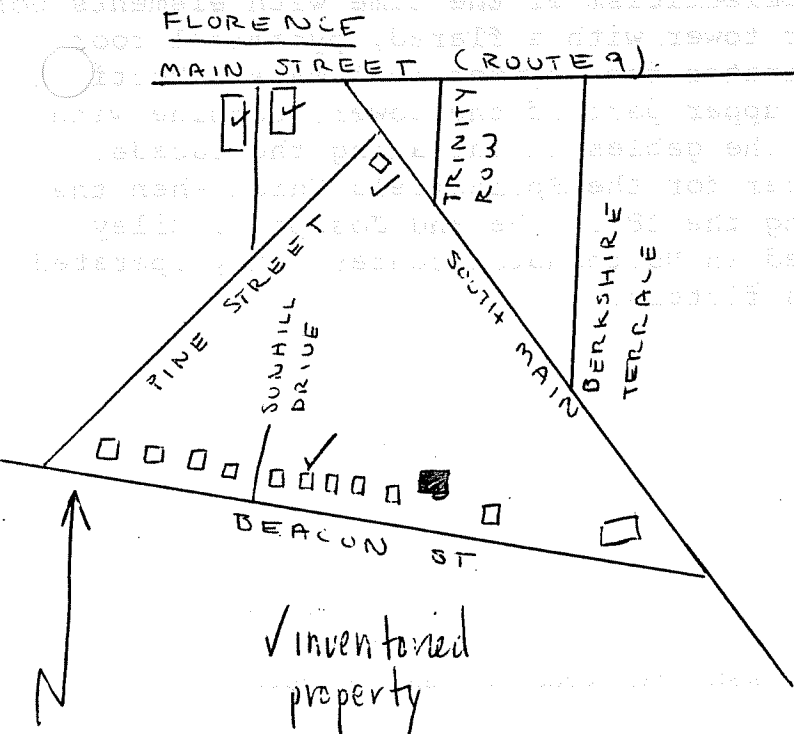
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	23A-194



Northampton (Florence)  
 Address 33 Beacon Street  
 Present use Residence  
 Present owner Michael & Cynthia Gagnon  
 Construction: c. 1875  
 Source Atlas of Northampton, 1873  
general style  
Stick/gothic revival

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. \_\_\_\_\_

Architect unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric wood  
 Outbuildings (describe) garage  
 Other features two stories; corner tower and curved porch; wood framing of gables; round headed windows  
 Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:  
 Less than one acre x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 100 feet  
 Approximate distance of building from street 75 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie  
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission  
 Date MAY 5, 1976

(over)

JUN 4 1976

7. Original owner (if known) William H. Riley

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	_____				

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

This is one of the earlier houses built on Beacon St. The street had been laid out during the 1860's and George Burr, a Florence industrialist, had bought most of the land on both sides. In 1882 William H. Riley bought a lot east of Burr's homestead on the northside of the street and had this house built. It is well set back from the street and surrounded by large trees. The styling reflects the eclecticism of the time with elements borrowed from many sources. A corner tower with a flared, pyramidal roof pierced by triangular windows dominates the asymmetrical mass. Vertical boarding in the gables and on the upper part of the tower, combine with the king posts and collar ties in the gables in animating the facade.

William H. Riley was a reporter for the Springfield Union when the house was originally built. During the 1890's he and Joseph H. Riley formed their own company. Situated in Northampton center, they operated as stove dealers, plumbers and gas fitters.

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

- 1873, 1884 & 1895 Atlases
- Registry of Deeds: Bk.376-P.121
- Northampton Directory: 1882-83, 1895-96