

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	17C-223

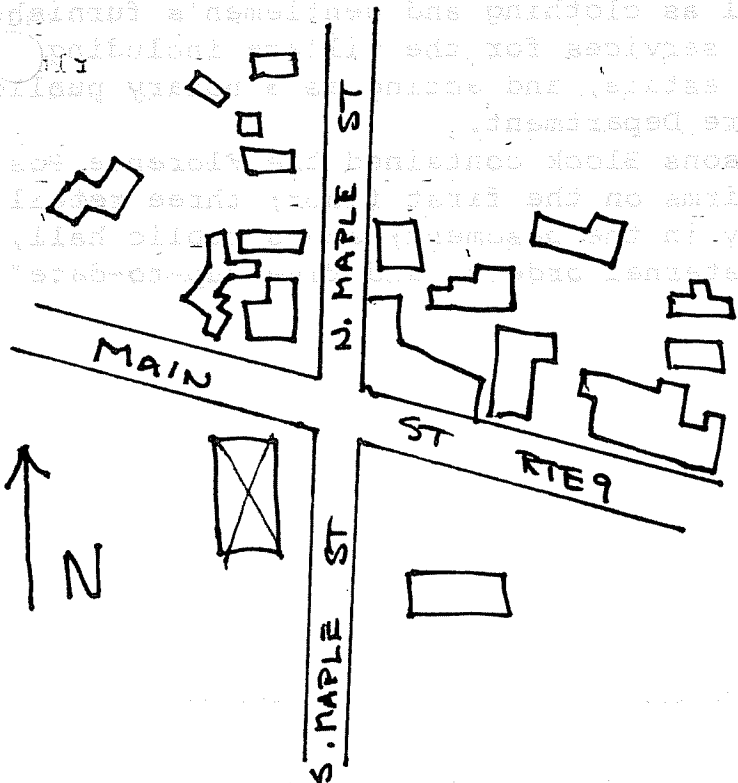
224



1 Northampton  
 Address 76-96 Maple St. + 2-4 North Main St.  
 Name Parsons Block  
 Present use commercial & residential

Present owner Timothy J. & Timothy E. Shea  
 Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date c1900  
 Source Atlases

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



Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exterior wall fabric brick  
 Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 February 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Charles O. Parsons

Original use 1st floor - commercial 2nd floor - flats and public hall

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

"This was the most important and commodious business block in Florence, and it accordingly was at once appropriated by the leading local growing lines of trade." It was built by Charles Parsons, who bought the land from his father, Horace K. Parsons. Horace Parsons was a prominent Florence businessman, and Charles took over his father's concerns, which included selling hay, grain and coal, as well as clothing and gentlemen's furnishings. He also performed many legal services for the village including the drafting of wills, settling of real estate, and acting as a notary public; and was the head of the Florence Fire Department.

When originally built, the Parsons Block contained the Florence Post Office at the corner, four retail firms on the first floor; three retail firms, a pool room and bowling alley in the basement; and a public hall, set for lodge rooms of the different fraternal orders, and five "up-to-date" flats on the second floor.

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

1895 & 1915 Atlases  
Representative Families of Northampton, vol. 1, 1917 p. 375