

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	10B-93



1 Leeds (Northampton)
Grove Hill—off Florence
ess ST. & Front Street

2 Colonel Shepherd House

ent use residence

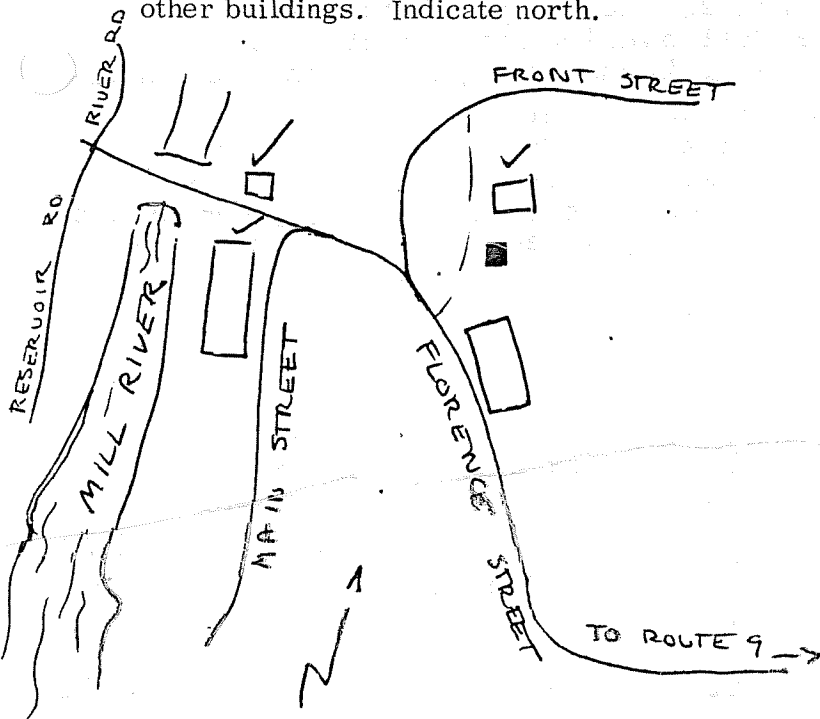
ent owner Samuel Goldman

ription:

1812
The Northampton Book
ource p. 353

Federal/Greek Revival

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



Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) tool house, etc

Other features 2 stories; 5 bays wide;

interior chimneys; enclosed gable

ends; porch and portico supported
by pillars

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 400 ft on Front
Street

Approximate distance of building from street

50 feet from Florence Street

6. Recorded by C. Dible

Organization Northampton Historical
Commission

Date August 30 1975

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

✓ inventoried property

(over)

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APR 5 1976

7. Original owner (if known) Colonel James Shepherd

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Reputed to be the second oldest house in Leeds, the Shepherd house was built in 1812 by Colonel James Shepherd. Shepherd was responsible for the early growth of industry in Leeds, erecting the first cotton mill in the village in 1809. James, Thomas, and Charles Shepherd carried on manufacture of cotton and wool from that time through mid-century, at which time the silk industry and button industry surpassed spinning and weaving in the valley.

The Shepherd House on Grove Hill overlooked the cluster of factory structures and worker's boardinghouses grouped on the banks of the Mill River. In addition to the Shepherd concern, the Mill River Button Company and the Nonotuck Silk Company owned factory property in the heart of Leeds village. These industries came later, however, and the economic effects of their operation were not considerable until later in the nineteenth century. At one period, in fact, lack of population and activity in Leeds resulted in the closing of the Post Office in the village.

The Shepherd concern prospered as a result of the ingenuity of its owners. Like many early industrialists, the Shepherds relied somewhat on European skill and industrial techniques. The family experimented in importation of several breeds of sheep in an effort to improve the quality of wool available for spinning. The brothers also experimented with power looms soon after the first patent for a power loom for woolen goods was granted in 1816 to two Taunton men.

The structure is typical of many rural residences of the period. Window openings are set flat in the clapboarded facade; The enclosed gable and simple entranceway details are indicative of a modest

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) "A Chronicle of Industry on the Mill River," Smith College Studies in History, Vol. XXI, Nos. 1-4, p. 32-40.

The Northampton Book, Forbes Library.

residence from the early nineteenth century to which were later added some refinements of the Greek Revival style.