

FORM B - BUILDING

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

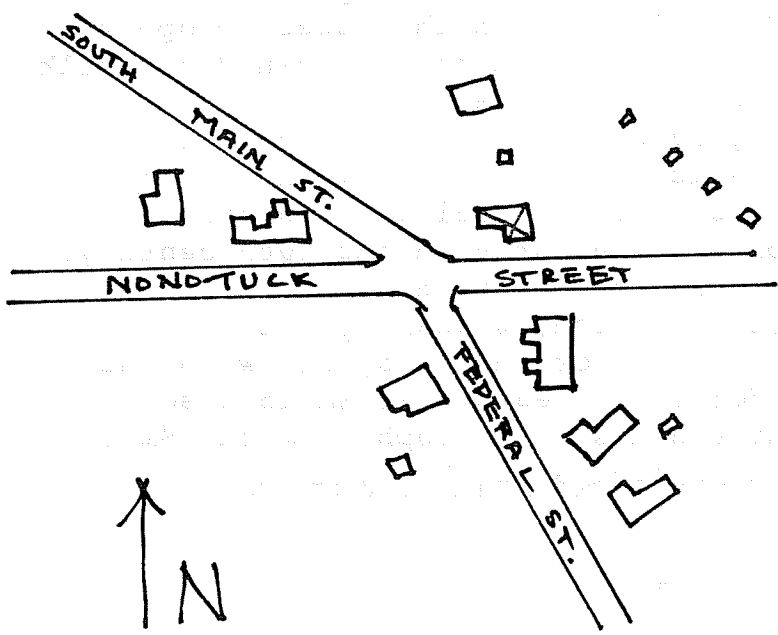
In Area no.	Form no.
	23B-47

238



Northampton
 Address 593 Elm Street
 Name Silk Mill Boarding House
 Present use residence
 Present owner _____
 Description: _____
 Date c. 1843
 Source The History of Florence
and visual evidence
Greek Revival

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



Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features _____

Altered enclosed porch Date 20th c.
 Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre x
 Approximate frontage _____
 Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan
 Organization NHC
 Date April 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use boarding house

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)

In 1822, Enoch Jewett bought land on both sides of Boughton Meadow Brook. Soon afterwards (before 1830) he built a dam across the brook and raised the pond which became "Holland's", and later, "Warner's" pond. The water power was used in a small shop to manufacture spools and bobbins for the area's wollen and silk mills. Mr. Jewett's house was also located on this property.

The 80 acres of land with house, shop, dam and water privilege were sold to Joseph Conant, Earle Swift and Orwell Chaffee in November of 1842. These three men had recently withdrawn from the Northampton Association for Education and Industry, or "The Community" as it was known, and they immediately erected a silk mill on the Jewett property. They were succeeded by Joseph Warner, who is known to have owned the silk mill as early as 1859, and his son Luther. In the mid 1880's, John Leonard took over the property and operated the silk mill until it burned down in the mid 1890's. The site was purchased by the Nonotuck Silk Co., but they never rebuilt. The pond was drained, and the property acquired by the city of Northampton early in the 20th century. Smith's Agricultural School was built on the northern part of the lot, fronting on Locust St., in 1908. Oliver Smith, a wealthy citizen of Hatfield, left \$30,000 in his will in 1844 for this project, with the proviso that the money not be used for sixty years. Mr Smith also established Smith Charities, and through his niece Sophia Smith, Smith College and Smith Academy. The Smith School still has the entire

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

1831 Town Map; 1845 and 1860 County Maps.

1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.

The History of Florence, C. Sheffield, editor, 1895.

"A Chronicle of Industry on the Mill River", Smith College Studies in History, vol. 21, 1936.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 23B-47
Property Name: Silk Mill Boarding	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

House

9. Historical Significance

property.

The boarding house was probably built during the early 1840's for the silk mill established by the three members of the NAEI. It is the only structure still standing from the site's industrial past, although part of the foundation of the silk mill is still visible on the western side of the brook just north of Elm St.

The house is two and a half stories in height, with gable end to the street and a long two and a half story ell on the western side. It featured pedimented gables, wide friezeboard and wide cornerboards. The entry is flanked by smooth pilasters and capped by an entablature with molded cornice.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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