

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	10D-16

27



City Northampton

Address 183-185 Main St.

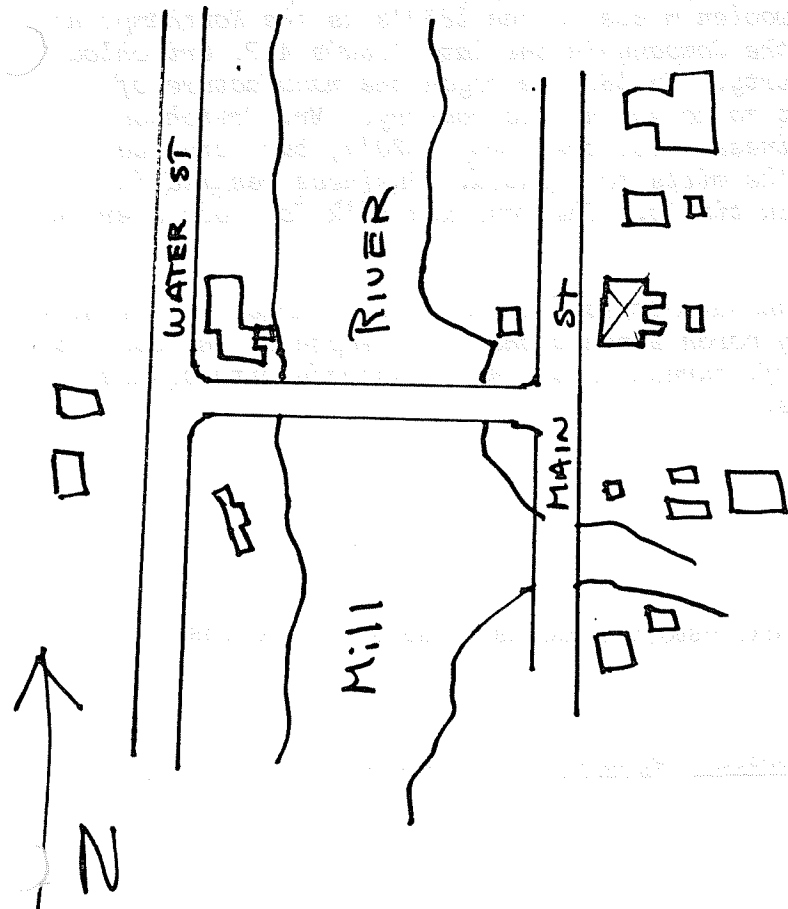
Use residence

Present owner William Mc Carthy

Description: 1895-1915

Source Atlases

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



Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric lapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered -- Date _____

Moved -- Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date May 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Nonotuck Silk Co.

Original use tenement house

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	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)

This large double house was built early in the 20th century. It was used as a tenement house by the Nonotuck Silk Co. The southernmost of the three factories owned by the Company in Leeds was located just south of this house, on the bank of the Mill River.

The site had originally been used for a small woolen mill which became consolidated with the Shepherd woolen mills in the 1830's as the Northampton Woolen Mfg. Co. After the failure of the Company in the late 1850's A.P. Critchlow bought this part of the Company's property. In 1860 he began the manufacture of buttons from vegetable ivory, the first to do so in this country. Mr. Critchlow maintained his connection with the business until the early 1870's, but returned after the flood of 1874 had destroyed the mills to rebuild. Business resumed in 1875 under the name of the Mill River Buttin Co. The Nonotuck Silk Co. took over the property in the early 1890's.

The house is two-and-a-half stories tall with gables to the side and two interior chimneys. A one-story porch extends the full length of the six-bay facade, and is composed of a hipped roof, turned posts and balustrade with square balusters. There are two central entrances.

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

1895 and 1915 Atlases.

1875-76 Northampton Directory and Historical Register, pp. 45-50.