

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no. 24A-175
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Northampton

Prospect Heights

c Name Outlook Place

Original residence

Present residence

Ship: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

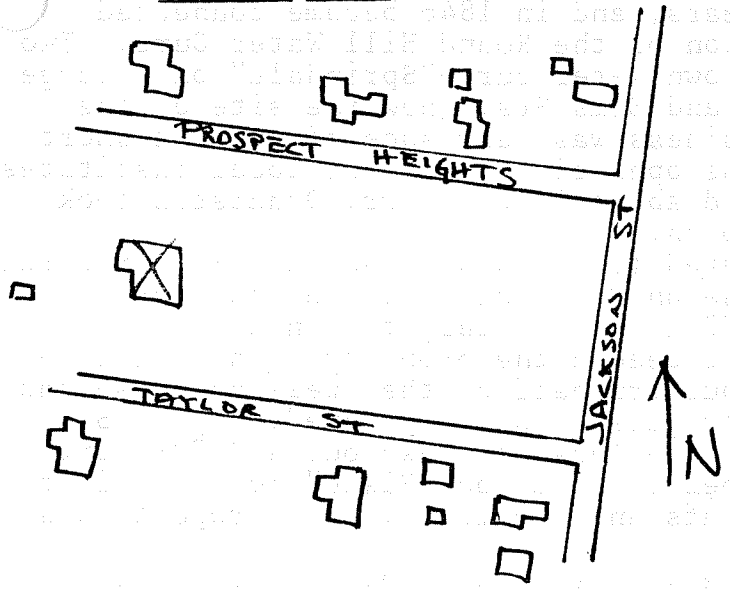
Original owner

NOTATION:

cross streets and other buildings
 or geographical features.
 Indicate north.

Date c. 1800 (?), 1853

Source Reg. of Deeds and visual evid.



Style

Architect

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) ---

enclosed porch- 20th c.

Moved --- Date

Approx. acreage over one acre

Setting

Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date June 1980

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The house is two stories in height with ridge roof and two tall interior chimneys. The symmetrical five-bay facade has a central entrance with wall gable above. Within this gable, and the two side gables as well, is a round-headed window with hood mold and label stops. The other windows on the house are rectangular, have two over two sashes and are capped by projecting cornices. The first floor of the facade is covered by a glass-
in porch surmounted by a balcony.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

This large rambling house is situated atop "Prospect Heights", an eminence with a spectacular vista easterly across the Connecticut River Valley to the hills beyond. The house in its present form dates from the ownership of Dr. Edward Denniston, a prominent local physician who acquired 15 acres between Prospect St. and the "highway from Prospect St. to Slough Hill" (now known as Jackson St.) in 1853.

Dr. Denniston originally came from Ireland early in the 19th century, after receiving his education at Edinburgh University. He practiced medicine here alone for many years, and in 1846 became connected with Samuel Whitmarsh in the operation of the Round Hill Water Cure. Two years later Dr. Denniston opened his own water cure-"Sprindale" on a large farm at the intersection of Prospect and Elms Sts, (now the site of the Cooley Dickinson Hospital). This business was very successful for a short while but the Civil War disrupted the operations, and the local institutes never recovered. "Sprindale" was sold about 1880 and Dr. Denniston took up practice in the center of Northampton.

In 1867 Dr. Denniston separated from his wife Jane and in a recorded indenture agreed to give her "his house on Prospect Hill" and two acres of land. Mrs. Denniston died in 1873 and their daughter Anna lived in the house. Two years later the doctor deeded the property to his daughter "reserving the right to occupy the southern half of the dwelling house and cellar with such patients, friends, or guests as I may have". By 1878 financial pressures forced the doctor and Anna to take out a \$6799 mortgage on their property, herein described as "out Look Place" for the first time. They were unable to make payments and the twenty acre property was foreclosed on.

The next owner of this estate was Otis Maynard, cashier of the Shelburne Falls National Bank. Mr. Maynard owned the property from 1881

cont!

179 and 1831 Town Map.

1860 County Map.

1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.

Registry of Deeds: Bk. 430-P. 163, 408-455, 388-511 and 529, 366-5, 343-77, 315-325, 246-407 and 409, 183-402, 150-230, 148-286, 105-272.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 24A-175
Property Name: Out Look Place	

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

Historical Significance

to 1887, and made it his himestone during this period. Subsequent to this Mr. Maynard kept the Prospect St. frontage and sold the rest of the land, including the dwelling house to Hiram Taylor, a sewer and railroad contractor. This division of the property changed the means of access from Prospect St. to Hinckley St. (now known as Jackson St.). During the 20th century Mr. Taylor or subsequent owners sold off small sized parcels of the homestead until today the property consists of less than two acres. However, it still has its spectacular easterly vista, referred to its title "Out Look Place".

A contract recorded the year Dr. Denniston purchased this property seems to refer to this house. It is between Asahel Abells and Joseph Haskins, on the first part, and Dr. Denniston, on the second part. Abells and Haskins agreed to make alterations in the Dr.'s house "according to plans of William F. Pratt" for the sum of \$2970. Mr. Pratt was the town's most prominent architect of the second half of the 19th century, and is responsible for a substantial portion of the Main St. commercial architecture.

From this it would appear though that the house predates Dr. Denniston's ownership. The doctor purchased his estate from William A. Hawley, a printer, who had obtained the property himself in 1844 from William Clark. Here the chain is lost but from visual evidence it would seem as if the house might date from the late 18th or early 19th century. Prospect St. appears on the first map of Northampton, dated 1794, and probably dates from the mid 18th century when the stage route was established from Northampton westwards. Prospect St. was an alternate route around Round Hill, and rejoined Elm St., the main route, about a quarter mile to the west of here.

* which around the turn-of-the-century was subdivided into residential lots,

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

100

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