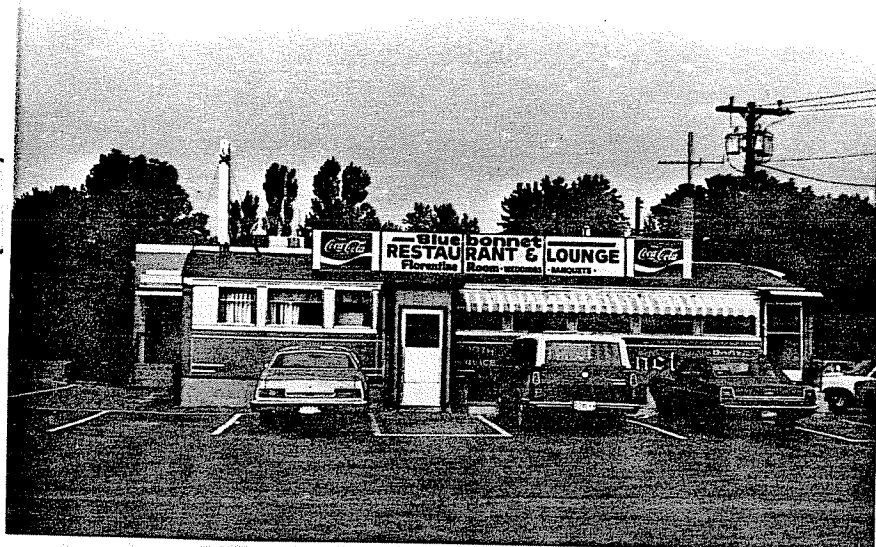


FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	24B-33



Northampton

Address 324 King Street

Bluebonnet Diner

Present use Diner/Restaurant

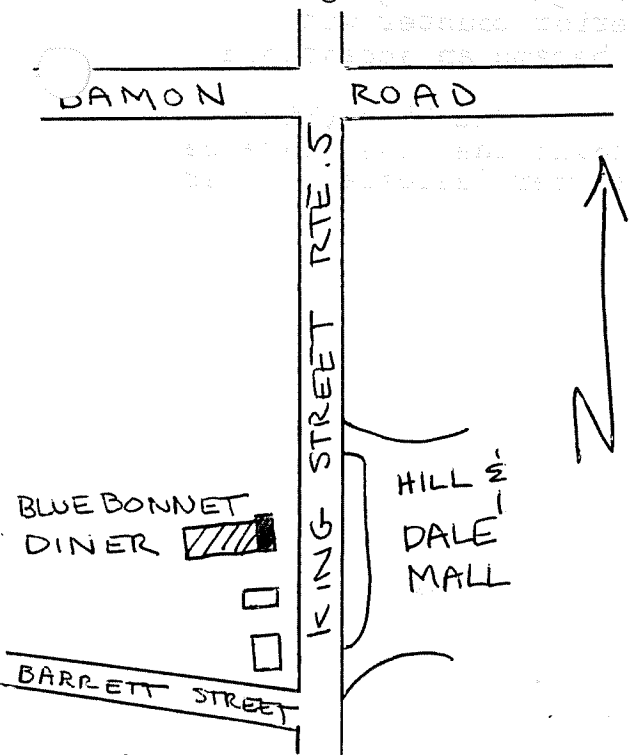
Present owner Phillip & James Greco

Description: c. 1940 (?) or earlier

Source visual evidence

Diner/Art Deco

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric metal

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features railroad car form with large window areas, aluminum trim, awnings; large rear addition

Altered no Date _____

Moved no? Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 75 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 75 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date June 15, 1976

(over)

JUN 30 1976

7. Original owner (if known) unknown (not researched)

Original use Diner

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Diner

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 type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Humanitarianism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

The Bluebonnet on 324 King Street is one of Northampton's four diners and one of the least altered. The basic diner form-- the railroad car--is unchanged. Large windows surrounded by metal trim and lettering on the base of the diner suggest that it is of later date than Northampton's other diners.

The ancestor of the 20th century diner was the 1880's "dog wagon," a horse drawn vehicle dispensing sandwiches and coffee. Catering to the fringes of the population, these late 19th century diners were regarded with some suspicion and distaste. In the post-World War I years, however, diners designed along the lines of railroad cars became popular. The interior counter with stools was joined by booths and the diner became an acceptable eating place for the general population.

Other diners in Northampton include: The Red Lion (Miss Northampton) on Strong Avenue in the downtown; the Miss Florence on route 9 in downtown Florence, and the former Beardsleys Diner on Button Alley.

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

The New York Times, Sunday, September 15, 1974,
Travel and Resorts section, p. 1.