

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	24D-259



1. Town Northampton

Address 135-37 Crescent St.

Present use residence

Present owner James and Jeanne Watson

Description: c. 1895

Source Atlas

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered -- Date _____

Moved -- Date _____

5. Lot size:
One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

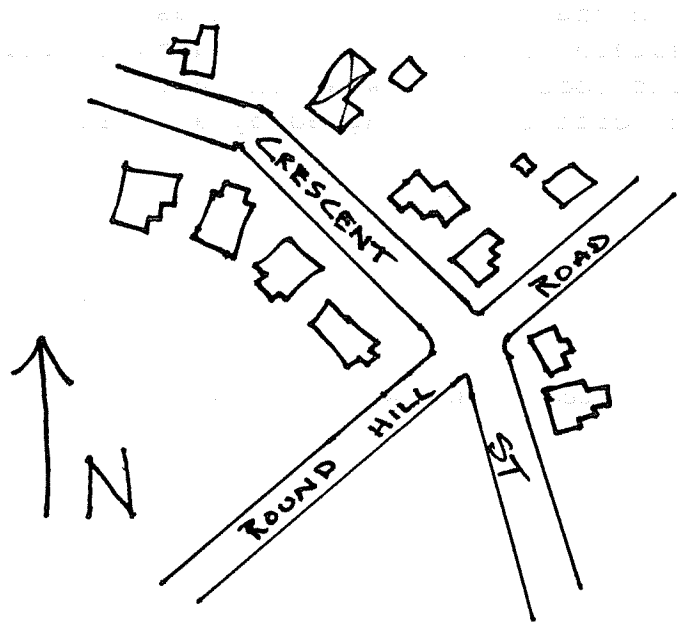
Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date April 1980

2. Map. _____ in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use residence

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)

This is one of the first dozen or so houses to be built on Crescent St. west of Round Hill Rd. As early as the 1870's plans were made for the subdivision of Round Hill into building lots. There would be three avenues, First, Second and Third (now known as Crescent, Hillside and Bancroft), wrapping around the western and northern slopes of the hill, while the hotel occupied the famed eastern slope with its commanding view. Over one hundred building lots were advertised for sale in an 1874 advertisement. However development didn't get started until the 1880's. John B. O'Donnell, a prominent Northampton lawyer, later to be mayor, bought the property in the mid 1880's. Crescent St. was opened in 1886 and quickly became one of the most fashionable places to build in town.

This is the earliest double house on the street, and features a three story tower with polygonal roof at the eastern end and a two and a half story three sided bay capped by a gable with pent roof at the western end. A central entrance is sheltered by a Tuscan portico, and capped by a three-sided bay.

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

- 1884, 1895 and 1915 Atlases.
- Northampton Directory: 1895-96, 1915.
- Daily Hampshire Gazette: May 7, 1909, p.8.