

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
	25C-62

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



1 Northampton

Address 262 Bridge St.

Present use residence

Present owner David Vanasse

Description: c. 1700

Source Garrison with added lean-to

Architect

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

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) attached garage

Other features

Altered attached garage Date 20th c.

Moved -- Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less ___ Over one acre ___

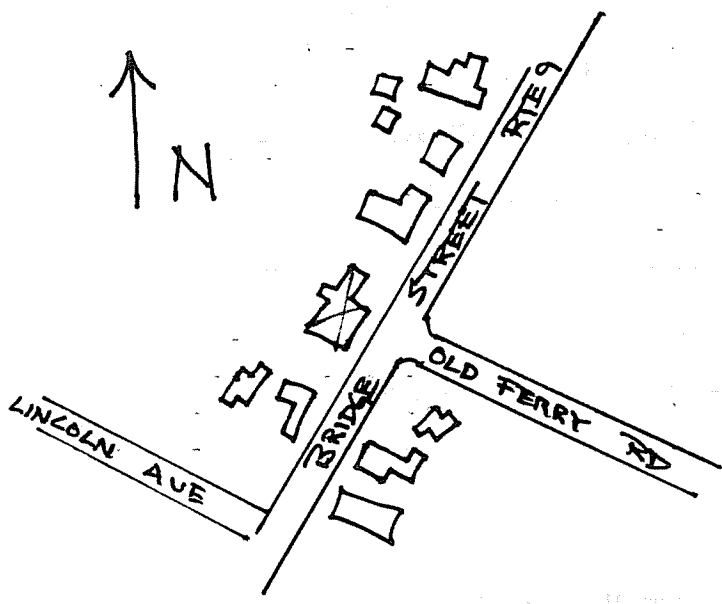
Approximate frontage

Approximate distance of building from street

6. Recorded by M. Peters and E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date 1970 and May 1980



(over)

		200-67
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2. Town NORTHAMPTON
 Street address 262 Bridge Street
 Name "Griffin House"
 Use: original & present Home
 Present owner David L. Vanasse
 Open to public no
 Date c 1700 Style saltbox
 Source of date see Bibliography
 Architect unknown

Architectural reason for inventorying:
 age and style (especially interior)

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

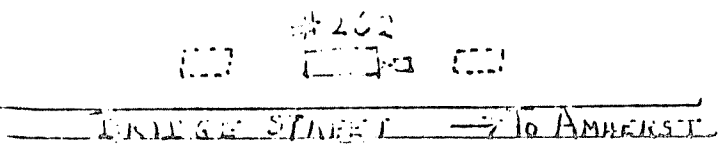
4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material brick
 WALL COVER: Wood clapboards Brick Stone Other _____
 ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard _____
 Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____
 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate
 STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed saltbox- also garage _____
 PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 none PORTICO _____ Balcony _____
 FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament overhang
 Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: side pilasters and small side windows
 Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied
 Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 45
 Property has 111 feet frontage on street

Recorder Miriam E. Peters
 For Northampton Historical Society
 Photo # _____ Date 1970



RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

385

1. Outbuildings

Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
Predominant features walled garden
Landscape architect

3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

This house contains a ship's staircase and five old fireplaces, one of a very unusual type. The library is panelled. Massive beams run straight through the house, upstairs and down. The ship's staircase leading from the second to the third floor is a feature rarely found except in houses near the sea.

" This is an early 18th Century house. The exact date is not known but when in 1883 it was bought by Timothy Griffin it was said to be at least 125 years old." An article in the Hampshire Gazette (May 20, 1936) states "The dwelling is one of the oldest houses in Northampton, having been built before 1720."

A walled-in garden is a feature of the grounds.

Owners of the house have included: Luther Clark and his wife Wealthy (Wilder) married in 1820. Timothy Griffin- in the 1890's
Dr. Joseph D. Collins and family
Mrs. Mina Curtiss (a professor at Smith College) - until 1936
Prof. Ernst Mensel (professor of German at Smith College) 1936-
The Putnams- an inn 1956

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

- The Hampshire Gazette May 20, 1936
- Nov. 7, 1953
- Feb. 27, 1956 (advertisement for sale)

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:
Record Information: Book Number Page

Registry of Deeds

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 house is undoubtedly one of the oldest structures still standing in Northampton. Its early form can be seen in the second story overhang in the front, and in the second story and attic overhangs on the sides. A later, one and a half story, rear lean-to transformed the Garrison form into a "saltbox" and the modifies entrance updated it even more.

The house is located on Bridge St., about 3/4 of a mile east of the center of town. As is obvious from its name the street led to the bridge across the Connecticut River. The first bridge had been constructed in 1805, but before that there had been a ferry on the site. This was not the only easterly crossing point of the river. Goodman's Ferry, the first to cross the river in 1664, was located in Old Rainbow, and the road leading to this ferry left Bridge St. directly opposite this house. The first map of Northampton, "made from a Survey taken in the months of Oct^r and Nov^r 1794", while unfortunately not showing any houses, shows these two roads: the first, the "Stage Road (to) Clark's Ferry", and the second, the "Stage Road (to) Goodman's Ferry".

The interior of the house has been modified over the years but still contains many features of interest. Among these are the chamfered cornerposts and beams, transverse summer (cased) and large fireplace with "double beehive" oven in the hall. The stairs to the upper floor are set against the geography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, cont^a early maps, etc.)

- 1794 and 1831 Town Maps.
- 1854 and 1860 County Maps.
- 1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.

continued.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: NORTHAMPTON	Form No: 25C-162
Property Name:	

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

9. Historical Significance.

against the massive central chimney and are directly opposite the front entrance. From the second floor the stairs lead to a landing and then split to either side, to ascend to each "half attic". The rafters are numbered, but are not in order, and have cut-outs for other beams, bringing up the question of re-use, of re-roofing.

Throughout the 18th century, and for most of the 19th century the house was in the Parsons family. The first known owner of the house was Jacob Parsons (1719-1795). Jacob married Beulah Hunt in 1746 and raised a family of twelve children here. A deed from his father Josiah in 1761 transfers title to the homestead on which Jacob was already living for the price of "Natural love, good will and affection which I have and do bear to my son". Josiah Parsons (1682-1768) lived on Bridge St., (on the site of the present Bridge St. School) and the title to the property farther out on Bridge St. becomes lost here. However, in the Parsons family genealogy there is mention of John (2) Parsons (1650-1728) who "some years after" obtaining a homestead lot near his father's in the vicinity of Bridge and Market Sts., sold this lot to Noah (3), not, apparently his son, "and removed to a lot marked A where he lived and died". A map in the Genealogy (p. 5) show lot "A" to be on the north side of the street, out towards the river. Possibly this is that lot and Josiah Parsons obtained title from his "uncle" John.

10. Bibliography.

Antiquities, Historical and Graduates of Northampton, S. Clark, 1882.
Registry of Deeds (Hampshire Co.): Bk. 322-P. 131, 310-43, 293-175, 264-25.
Registry of Deeds (Hamden Co.): Bk. 7-P. 171.
Registry of Probate: Bk. 233-P. 45, 109-56, and 109-57.
Parsons Hunt and Clark Genealogies.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Inventory number:

8

Name:

Griffin House
c. 1700

Address:

262 Bridge Street
Northampton, Mass.

The central vertical element of the chimney of the Griffin house is balanced by three equal horizontal sections: the first story, the overhanging second story, and the broad mass of the roof. The second story windows are tucked up under the overhang of the steep ridge roof; the line of the roof of the saltbox is broken in the rear by the less steep incline of a lean-to addition. The entranceway consists of a slightly recessed door with sidelights and plain pilasters. A flat architrave unites these elements,