

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	11A-44

1 Town Northampton



Address 58 Front Street

Name E. Ross House

Present use residence

Present owner William Turomsha

Description:

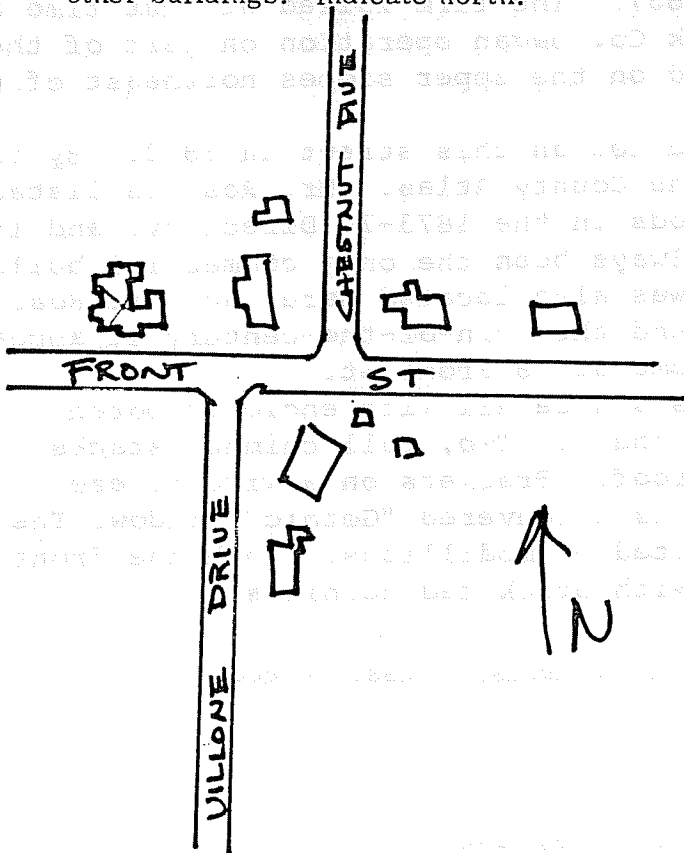
Date 1872-73

Source Atlas & Directory

Style Bracketed

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

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



Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features L-shaped with side eaves, bracketed, molded cornice with wide friezeboard, front & side bays

Altered enclosed porch 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 E. Loneragan

Organization NHC

Date March 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Edson S. Ross

Original use residence

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	_____				

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

Front St. was laid out in the early 19th century as a connector between Haydenville Rd. and the recently settled village of Shepherd's Hollow. The village acquired its names from the three Shepherds --- James, Thomas and Charles, who owned and operated the two woolen mills. In 1831, the Northampton Woolen Manufacturing Co. acquired the mills and attendant property and ran a successful business until 1857. The firm failed at that time and the business abandoned. Nonotuck Silk Co. began operation on part of the site in 1859. They also acquired land on the upper slopes northeast of village at the same time.

E.S. Ross bought an 81 square rod lot on this street in 1872. By the next year his residence is shown on the County Atlas. Mr. Ross is listed as a merchant of groceries and dry goods in the 1873-74 Directory, and is located near the Depot, in what has always been the only commercial building in the village. The Post Office was also located here, and Mr. Ross was appointed Postmaster in 1874. Around the turn-of-the-century it appears that Ross moved his business to his home at 58 Front St.

This L-shaped, 2½ story house has a side ell with enclosed porch and a semi-enclosed porch in the crook of the L. Two, tall chimney stacks dominate the ridge line of the gable roof. Brackets on a wide frieze-board are used in the gables, as well as a louvered "Gothic" window. The window heads are open pediments supported by modillions. Both the front and eastern side have one-story bays with bracketed cornices.

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

- 1873, 1884 & 1895 Atlases
- Registry of Deeds: Bk.298-P.109
- Northampton Directory: 1873-74, 85-6, 95-6, 1905-6