

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	25C-183

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Northampton

2-4 Highland Ave.

Common Name M. Strong House

Original residence

Present residence

Ownership:  Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_

Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner Morris Strong

DESCRIPTION:

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

Date c. 1835

Source Reg. of Deeds

Style Federal

Architect Lewis Bliss- carpenter

Exterior wall fabric wood shingles

Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
 addition on east end- late 19th c.

Moved --- Date \_\_\_\_\_

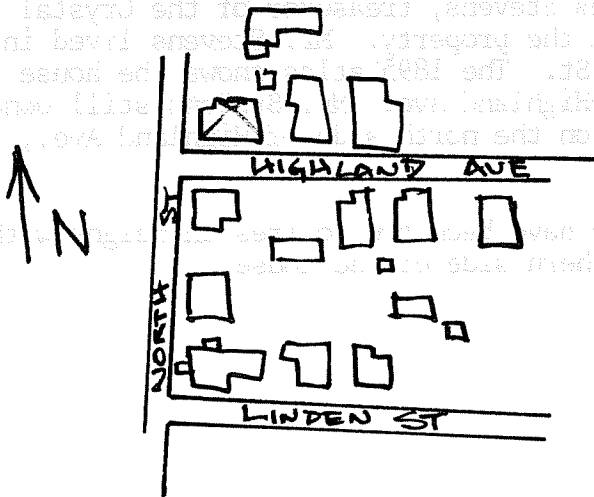
Approx. acreage one acre or less

Setting \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date April 1980



(Staple additional sheets here)

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

See Below

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

This house appears to have been built between 1834 and 1836 by Lewis Bliss, a "house carpenter". In 1836 Mr. Bliss sold 1½ acres and the house to Morris Strong, who made his homestead here and maintained the property until 1861. In that year the property was purchased by William F. Pratt. Mr. Pratt was Northampton's most prominent architect of the second half of the 19th century and had grown up in the house next north of this one, which was still owned by his father, Thomas Pratt, himself a noted "master builder" of the early 19th century. Mr. Pratt went bankrupt in the late 1870's and his homestead was foreclosed on. Walter Rodiman, the agent for the Connecticut River Railroad owned the house for a few years, and then in 1883 Charles Stevens, treasurer of the Crystal Emory Wheel Co. at Hawley and Main Sts. bought the property. Mr. Stevens lived in the house for a while, but soon moved to King St. The 1895 atlas shows the house with the eastern addition, and the new street-Highland Ave. Mr. Stevens still owned this property as well as two other residences on the north side of Highland Ave., and rented out tenements in all of them.

The house originally seems to have been two stories in height with hipped roof, and a five-bay facade on the southern side of the house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1831 Town Map. 1854 and 1860 County Maps.  
 1873, 1884, and 1895 Atlases.  
 Registry of Deeds: Bk. 378-P. 31, 347-93, 199-333, 76-549, 73-27, 67-186.