

Area	Form no.
	25C-199

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Northampton

53 North St.

Historic Name W. Allen House

Original residence

Present residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner unknown

Construction:

Date 2nd half of 18th century

Source visual evidence

Style Colonial

Architect

Exterior wall fabric vinyl siding

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) siding and enclosed entry-

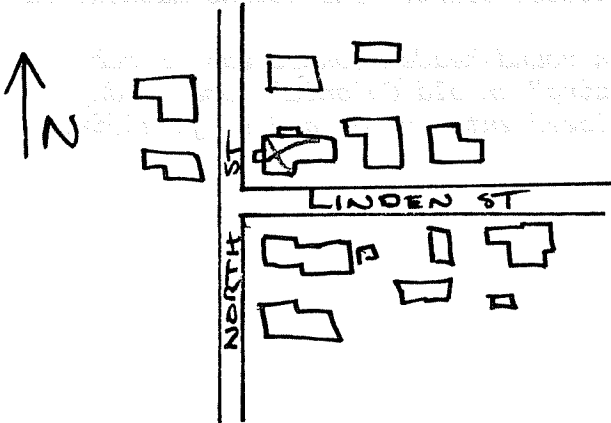
mid 20th c.

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage one acre or less

Setting

Location in relation to
 cross streets and other buildings
 or geographical features.
 Indicate north.



Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date April 1980

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 large residence was probably constructed in the second half of the 18th century. The symmetrical five-bay facade with central entrance, second story windows under the eaves and two interior chimneys on the ridge attest to this date as does the remnant of earlier window types in the upper sash of the window in the southern gable, which has twelve lights. Deed research is confusing before the early 19th century, but the property is described as the homestead of Phinaz Clark in 1819. The house passed through several owners in the early 19th century before being bought by Ruth Champlin Tenney in 1842. After her death the property passed to her sister, who was the wife of William Allen Jr. Mr. Allen was a local attorney who rose to become a judge on the State Supreme Judicial Court. The Allens maintained the property for the rest of the 19th century.

The steeply-pitched central wall gable with round-headed window was probably added by Mr. Allen c. 1850, as a means of "modernizing" an old Colonial home. Today the house has been further "modernized" by the enclosed entry porch and vinyl siding.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1831 Town Map. 1854 and 1860 County Maps. 1873, 1884, 1895, 1915 Atlases.
Registry of Deeds: Bk. 96-P. 394, 84-421, 82-524, 50-591, 46-441, 45-123.
Northampton Directory: 1860-61, 1868-69, 1873-74, 1882-83, 1891-92, 1899.