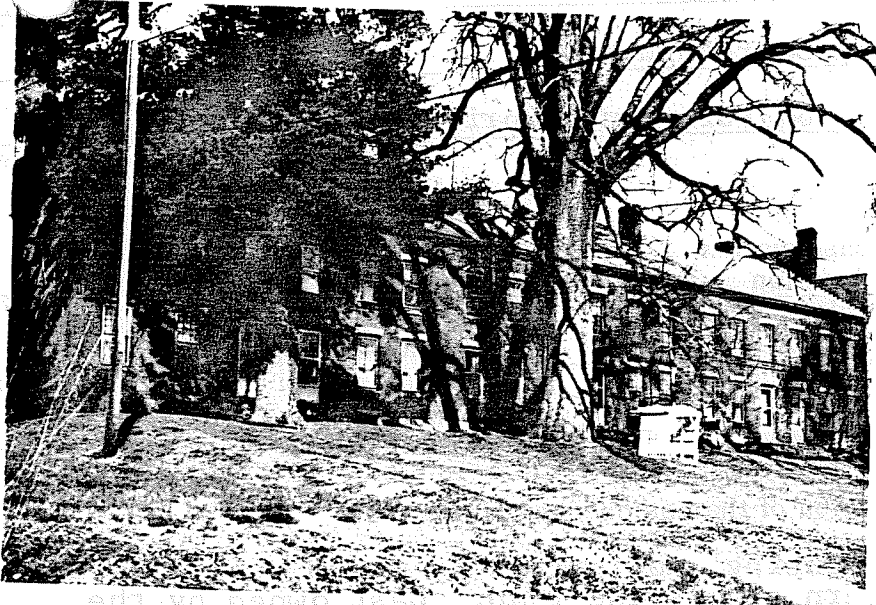


FORM B - BUILDING

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

423 8

In Area no.	Form no.
	30A-33-38



Northampton (Bay State)

Address Riverside Drive & Lexington Ave.

Use Worker's housing, Cutlery

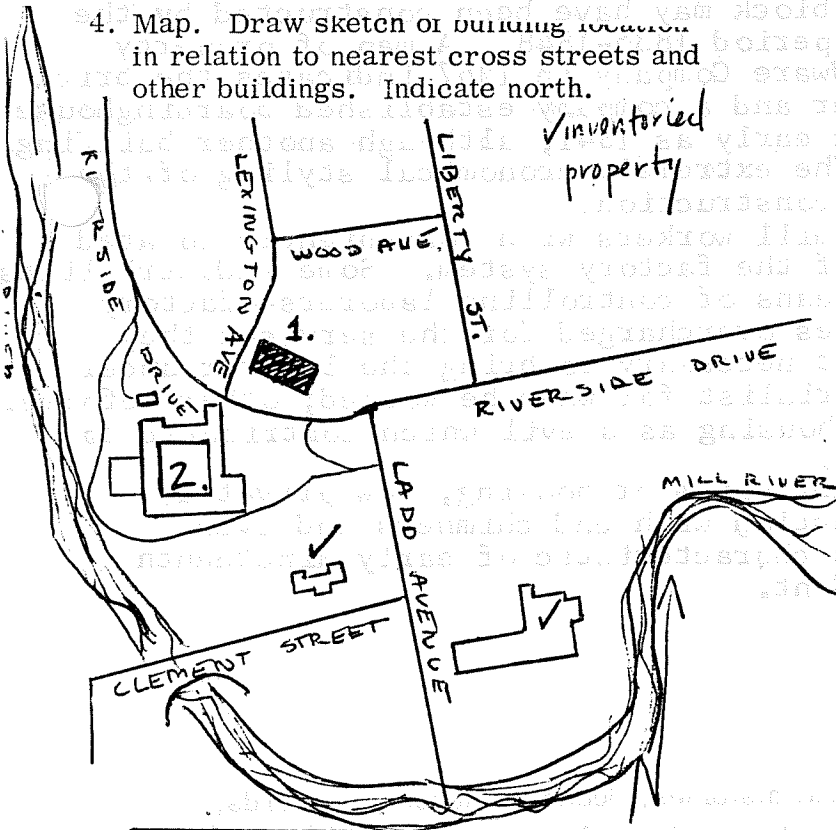
Present use Residential

Present owner various

Description: c. 1840

Source visual evidence  
Greek Revival (extremely simplified)

4. Map. Draw sketch or building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features 2 stories; end and interior chimneys; stone lintels over windows

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 150 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 100 feet

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_  
MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date September 15, 1975

- 1. Workers Housing
  - 2. Northampton Cutlery Co.
- (over)

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MAY 5 1976

7. Original owner (if known) Northampton Paper Mills(?)

Original use Factory boardinghouse

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates boardinghouse; private residences

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	<u>x</u>	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	<u>x</u>
Communication	_____	Political	_____		_____
Community development	_____				

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

This block of worker's housing, now privately owned, was long the property of the factory concern across the road. Last owned by the Northampton Cutlery, the brick block may have been constructed by the Northampton Paper Mills in the period 1835-1848. A map of property belonging to the Bay State Hardware Company in 1867 indicates the brick block overlooking the Mill River and a company established boardinghouse was mentioned in the Gazette as early as 1841, although another building may have served the purpose. The extremely economical styling of the block obscures the date of its construction.

The practice of providing mill workers with conveniently located lodgings was an integral part of the factory system. Some industrialists found this to be an excellent means of controlling laborers--factory operatives were in some instances overcharged for the services they received. Some moralists felt it necessary to bring the laborer under the paternal wing of the industrialist for whom he worked; other reformers regarded the system of factory housing as a evil which contributed to the plight of the working class.

The structure contains eight units of housing, now privately owned. Brick and stone construction with end chimneys and even distribution of window openings characteristic of early nineteenth century factory housing is evident.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Registry of Deeds, Hampshire County, 286.306, 283.317, 276.103, 240.190, 180.422, 174.312-218, 164.370, 155.115, 140.7, 130.109, 129.281. 240.190 shows plan drawn in 1867; complete plan is now the property of Northampton Cutlery.

"Chronicle of Industry on the Mill River," Smith College Studies in History, Volume XXI, Nos. 1-4, p.22, 47.  
The Northampton Book, 233-39.