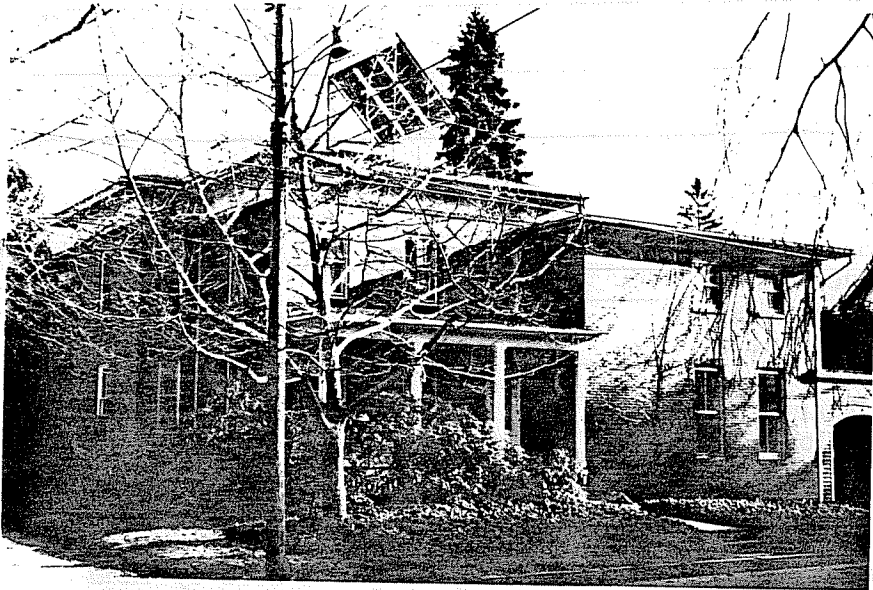


FORM B - BUILDING

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

463

In Area no.	Form no.
	31A-32



Northampton

Address 21 Franklin St.

Name Mather House

Present use residence

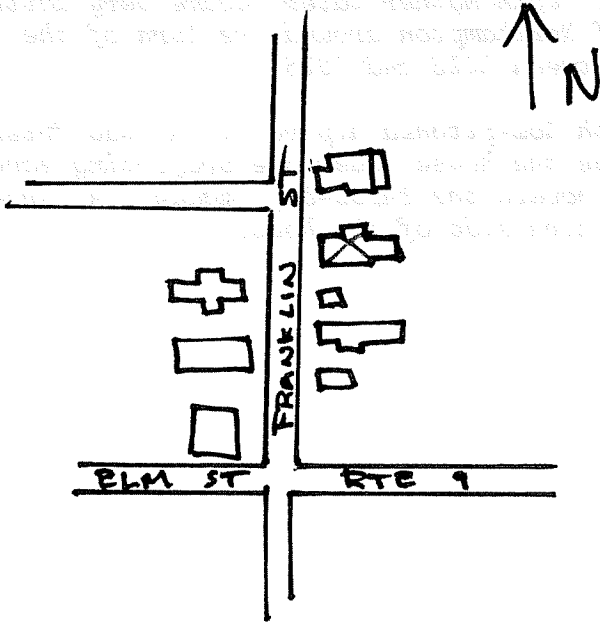
Present owner Oscar and Miriam Chrisman

Description: 1871-73

Source Reg. of Deeds and Atlas

Architect _____

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



Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered side addition Date mid 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. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date March 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Henrietta H. Mather

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 | _____ | | | | |

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

In 1871 Henrietta Mather, the widow of William Mather, bought 1/4 acre of land from Jared Clark for \$800. Mr. Clark owned a large homestead on Elm St. that had originally included much of the land that Franklin St. cuts through.

Mrs. Mather had two sons, Dwight, a carpenter and John, a mason. John Mather learned the mason's trade with Daniel R. Clark, beginning in 1868. Mr. Clark lived at the corner of Franklin and Elm Sts. in a house very similar to this one, and both houses were probably built by these masons. John Mather later became very active in politics serving three terms as mayor of Northampton around the turn of the century and three terms in the State Legislature between 1913 and 1915.

The house is two stories in height with low-pitched hip roof. A wide frieze with decorative ventilator grilles encircles the house under the projecting eaves and a one-story porch with flat roof and posts covers the three-bay facade. A large addition has recently been made to the southern side of the house.

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

1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.
Registry of Deeds: Bk. 373-P. 347, 286-187.
Northampton Directory: 1873-74, 1885-86.
Daily Hampshire Gazette Jan. 16, 1922.