

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	31A-68

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Northampton

196 Elm Street

Common Name A. Brack, Jr. House

Original residence

Present "

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Aaron Brack, Jr.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1854-1860

Source Maps

Style GREEK Revival Originally,

Architect

Exterior wall fabric WOOD
~~Asbestos siding~~

Outbuildings ---

Major alterations (with dates)

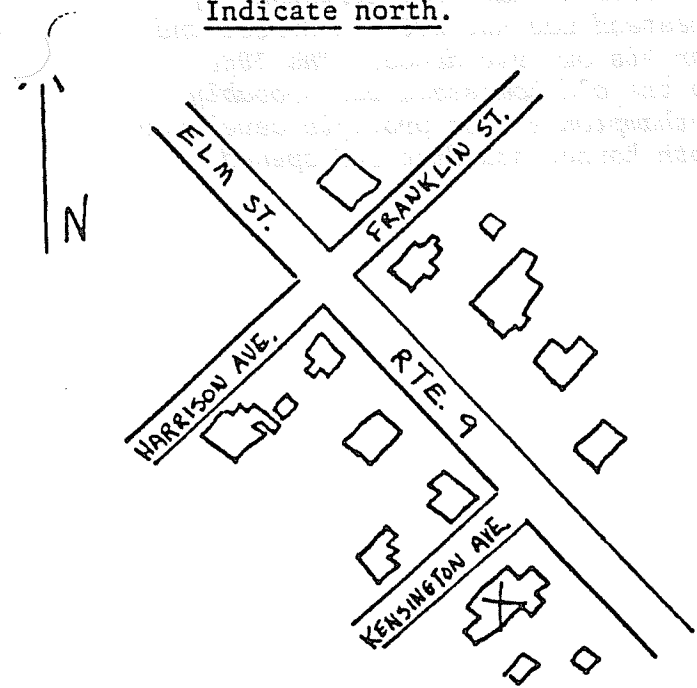
sided mid 20th C

Moved --- Date

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting

LOCATION IN RELATION TO
 cross streets and other buildings
 or geographical features.
 Indicate north.



Recorded by E. Lincoln and E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date July, 1977 and June, 1980

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

The house is 2½ stories in height with pedimented end to the street and a 2½ story gabled projection on the southern side. Both gables have an oculus located within. A one-story porch with flat roof, projecting cornice and frieze, paneled posts with small brackets, and a balustrade covers the three-bay facade and extends along the southern side to the projection. The first floor of the facade has the entrance and two French windows. The rest of the windows in the house are rectangular with two-over-two sashes and heavy cornices.

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

In 1856, Aaron Breck, a farmer, sold his son Aaron Breck, Jr. his homestead on Elm Street and 2½ acres in the "Lower Walnut Tree division" of the meadows for \$1.00. Mr. Breck, Sr.'s homestead was no. 206 Elm Street and Aaron Jr. probably constructed this house for his own residence. The 1860 directory lists Aaron Sr. on King Street, so the old homestead was probably leased out. About 1890, Charles Crouch, Northampton's most prolific developer of the 19th century, bought the farm with both houses standing and opened Knnsington Avenue between them.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 and 1860 County Maps
 1873, 1884, 1895 and 1915 Atlases
 Registry of Deeds: Bk. 358-P.410, 167-325, 47-609
 Northampton Directory: 1860-61, 1875-76