

FORM B - BUILDING

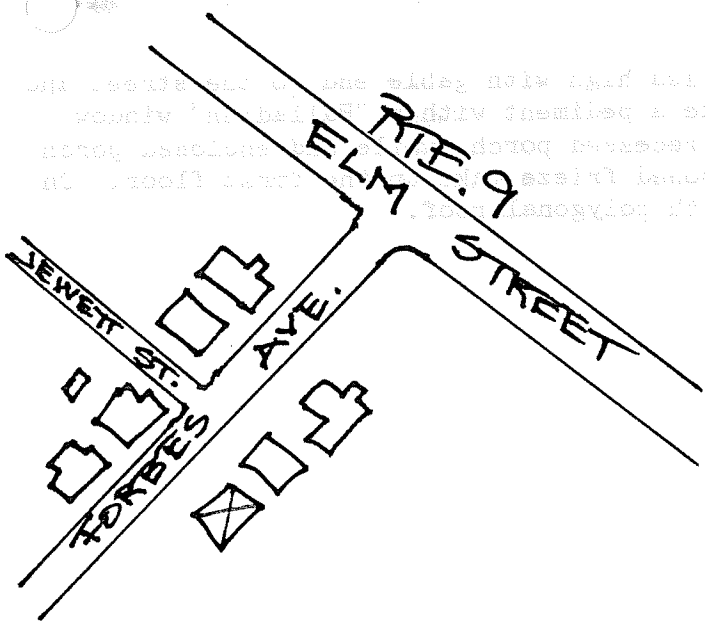
In Area no.	Form no.
	31A-146

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



n Northampton
 Address 20 Forbes Avenue
 Name J. O'Brien House
 Present use residence
 Present owner Chester & Agnes Sadowski
 Description:
 Date 1895 - 1900
 Source Atlas & Directory
 Date

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



Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features _____

Altered porch enclosed Date mid 20th C.
 Moved --- Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage _____
 Approximate distance of building from street
20'

6. Recorded by E. Loneragan
 Organization NHC
 Date March 1980

(over)

Original owner (if known) James W. O'Brien

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	<u>x</u>				

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

Forbes Ave. was opened in 1887 by the prominent local developers J.C. Hammond and J.A. Sullivan. Development was slow and by 1895 there were only four houses constructed. This house was built in the latter part of the 1890's for James O'Brien, a partner with Edward Barrett in a general insurance and real estate agency. Barrett and O'Brien also played an influential part in the turn-of-the-century development of Northampton.

The house is 2 and 1/2 stories high with gable end to the street and a small pentroof enclosing the front gable like a pediment with a "Palladian" window within. The second floor of the facade has a recessed porch, while an enclosed porch and triple window with molded cornice and festooned frieze take up the first floor. On the western side is a two-story bay window with polygonal roof.

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

- 1895 & 1915 Atlases
- Northampton Directory: 1905, 1915
- Registry of Deeds: Bk. 427-P. 541.