

FORM B - BUILDING

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

520

In Area no.	Form no.
	31A-201

Town Northampton

Address 40 Washington Avenue

M.L. Graves House

Present use residence

Present owner Ronald & Andrea Bittel

Description:

1870-81

Source Reg. of Deeds

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric asbestos shakes

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features pedimented gable, full-length windows on first floor of facade side bay

Altered sided Date mid 20th C.

Moved --- Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 75'

Approximate distance of building from street

15'

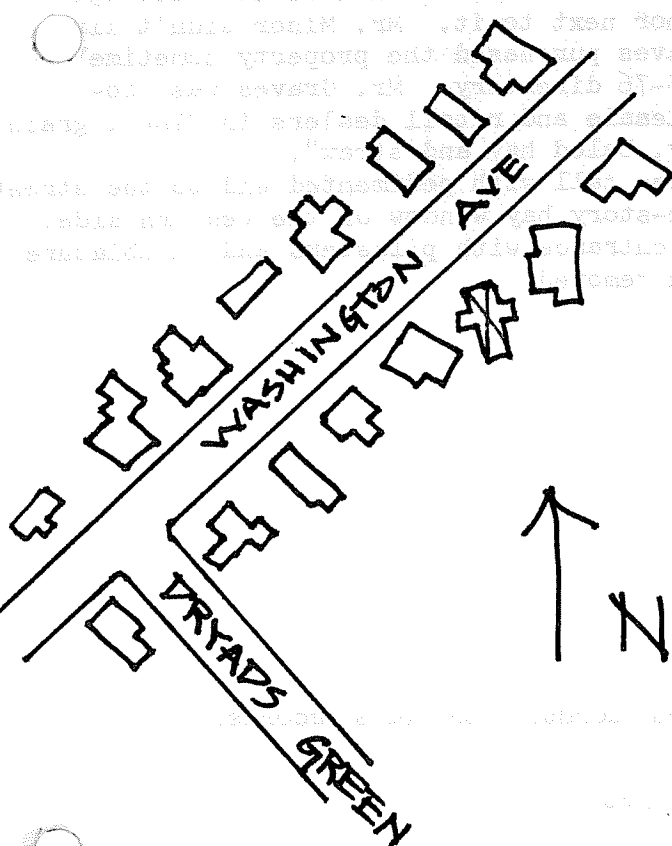
6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date March 1980



in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) J.M. Miner & J.H. Searle

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)

Washington Ave. was opened in 1870 by James Searle and John Minor for residential development. The next year they divided their property in half with Mr. Minor taking the lots on the southern side of the street and Mr. Searle those on the northern side. In that transaction a house is mentioned on this lot, no. 15. The 1873 atlas shows this house and lists J. Minor next to it. Mr. Minor didn't live here, but was leasing the house out. Melvin Graves purchased the property sometime before 1884 and is first listed here in the 1875-76 directory. Mr. Graves was co-owner of a Mian St. business described as "wholesale and retail dealers in flour, grain, meal and feed, lime, cement, fire brick and clay, baled hay and straw".

The house is 2 and 1/2 stories tall with pedimented end to the street and a 2 and 1/2 story gabled projection with one-story bay window on the western side. The three-bay facade has two French windows and entrance with pilasters and entablature on the first floor. The original porch has been removed.

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

- 1860 County Map 1873, 1884 & 1895 Atlases
- Registry of Deeds: Bk.282-P.5, 272-149
- Northampton Directory: 1895-96, 1885-86, 1875-76