

FORM B - BUILDING

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

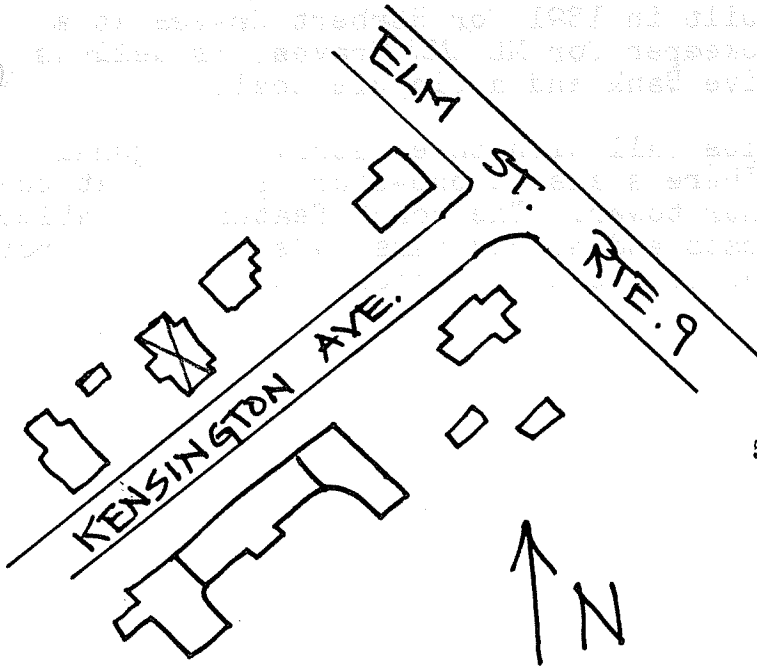
544

In Area no.	Form no.
	31A-233



n Northampton
 Address 17 Kensington Avenue
 Name H.R. Graves House
 Present use residence
 Present owner Stanley & Dorothy Elkins
 Description:
 Date 1890-92
 Source Reg. of Deeds & Directory
 Style Queen Anne

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 wrap-around porch with turned posts, spindle frieze and balustrade, 3-story corner tower with polygonal roof
 Altered --- Date _____
 Moved --- Date _____

5. Lot size:
 Less than one acre x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage _____
 Approximate distance of building from street
15'

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

6. Recorded by E. Loneragan & M. Dolin
 Organization NHC
 Date March 1980

7. Original owner (if known) Herbert R. Graves

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Kensington Ave. was laid out as Delano Ave. in 1890 by Charles Crouch. Lots were sold for residential development and by 1895 houses had been built on the 22 lots. The 1915 atlas shows both sides of the street lined with houses, however about half of the houses on the eastern side of the street were demolished for Smith College s quadrangle during the 1920s and 1930s.

This house was one of the first houses to be built on the street, if not the first, and was built in 1891 for Herbert Graves at a cost of \$5000. Mr. Graves was a bookkeeper for ML & MW Graves, as well as secretary for Northampton Co-operative Bank and a bicycle dealer.

The house is 2½ stories tall with three-story, octagonal corner tower with polygonal roof. There s also a one-story porch that covers the facade and wraps around the corner tower. The porch features a gabled entrance, spindle frieze, turned posts and turned balustrade. A small porch with shed roof, turned posts and fan brackets sits atop the main porch over the front entrance.

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

1884 & 1895 Atlases
 Registry of Deeds: Bk.558-P.339, 443-291, 442-131, 433-245
 Northampton Directory: 1891-92, 1892-93, 1895-96
Spfld Daily Republican Jan. 1, 1892.