

FORM B - BUILDING

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

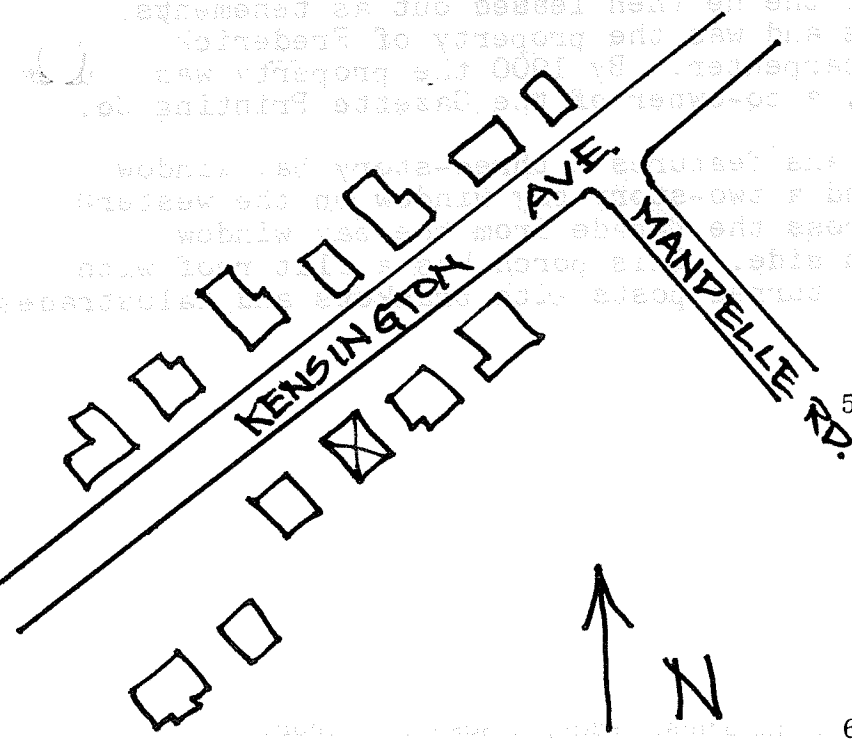
In Area no.	Form no.
	31A-251-3

559



City Northampton
 Address 62 Kensington Avenue
 Name G. Gere House
 Present use residence
 Present owner Smith College
 Description: _____
1890-95
 Source Reg. of Deeds & Atlas

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 3-story corner bay with bay roof, 2-story front half-porch with turned posts, bracketed cornices, spindle friezes and balustrades
 Altered --- Date _____
 Moved --- Date _____
 5. Lot size:
 One acre or less X Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage _____
 Approximate distance of building from street
15'
 6. Recorded by E. Lonergan
 Organization NHC
 Date March 1980

(over)

. Original owner (if known) Frederick A. Crouch

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 1890 Kensington Ave. was opened through the Elm St. homestead of Aaron Breck. The street was developed by Charles Crouch, Northampton's most prolific builder of the 19th century. Mr. Crouch built houses on contract or built houses for himself then he then leased out as tenements. This house appears on the 1895 atlas and was the property of Frederick Crouch, probably Charles son and a carpenter. By 1900 the property was owned and occupied by George S Gere, a co-owner of the Gazette Printing Co.

The house is 2½ stories tall and features a three-story bay window with polygonal roof on the facade and a two-story bay window on the western side. A two-story porch extends across the facade from the bay window and wraps halfway around the eastern side. This porch has a flat roof with bracketed cornices, spindle friezes, turned posts with brackets and balustrades.

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

- 1884 & 1895 Atlases
- Northampton Directory: 1895-96, 1900, 1918 & 1922
- Registry of Deeds: Bk.442-P.131