

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	16D-4

56



Location Northampton

Address 202 North Main Street

Name B. Gardner House

Present use residence

Present owner William & Marie Emerson

Description:

Date 1863-68

Source Registry of Deeds & Maps  
and Directory

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features steeply pitched gable

with wide frieze board and oculus  
in gable, 6 x 6 windows & full  
length front porch w/posts

Altered --- Date ---

Moved --- Date ---

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 110'

Approximate distance of building from street

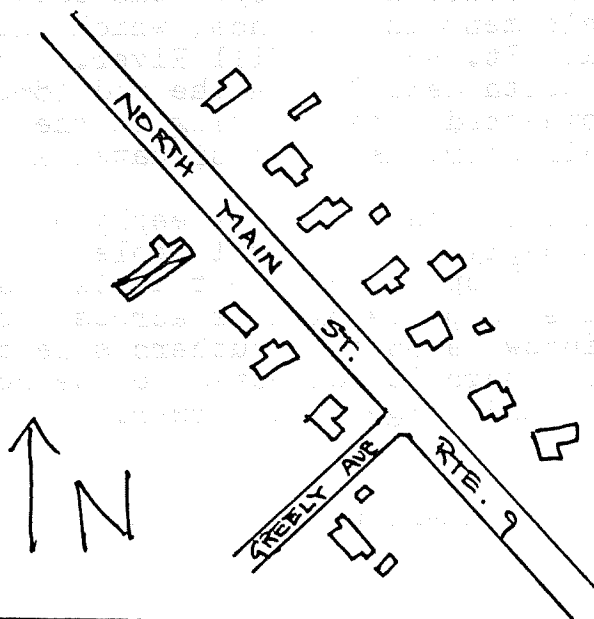
15'

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date January 1980

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Bela Gardner

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)

During the early 1860's Bela Gardner, a farmer, bought seven acres of land on the southern side of North Main St. in Florence. His land extended westerly over the terrace drop-off and into the meadows to the Mill River. This was prime agricultural land. The street had long been known as the road to Williamsburg, but hadn't been developed until the 1860's. In 1867 the Williamsburg division of the New Haven and Northampton Railroad opened. This connected the mill villages of Williamsburg and Northampton to the main north-south line in the center of Northampton. The tracks ran parallel to and just north of Main and North Main Sts. in Florence and a depot was established on North Maple St. This spurred development in Florence, which until that time had been located between Main St. and the Mill River. Mr. Gardner established his homestead on North Main St. in the mid 1860's and over the next two decades sold homestead lots fronting on the street. His house was described in the 1873 directory as being situated at the end of Main St.

The house is one-and-a-half stories tall, with steeply-pitched gable facing the street and a small steeply-pitched wall gable on the southern side. An oculus is located high up in the front gable and a one-story hipped roof porch with chamfered posts extends across the three-bay facade. A one-story bay window is on the southern side of the house, beneath the wall gable. A large barn is connected to the house through a rear ell with recessed porch and large shed dormer.

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

1873, 1884 & 1895 Atlases  
 Registry of Deeds: Bk. 234-2, 25, 210-254  
 Northampton Directory: 1868-69.