

FORM B - BUILDING

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

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|-------------|----------|
| In Area no. | Form no. |
| | 31A-281 |



Town Northampton

Address 96 Washington Ave.

Name C. Oefinger House

Present use residence

Present owner Constance Wyckoff

Description:

1901

Source Atlases & S.D.R.

Architect

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

Exterior wall fabric clanboard

Outbuildings (describe)

Other features wide frieze, corner pilasters, half porch with piers.

Altered attached garage Date mid 20th c.

Moved — Date —

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre —

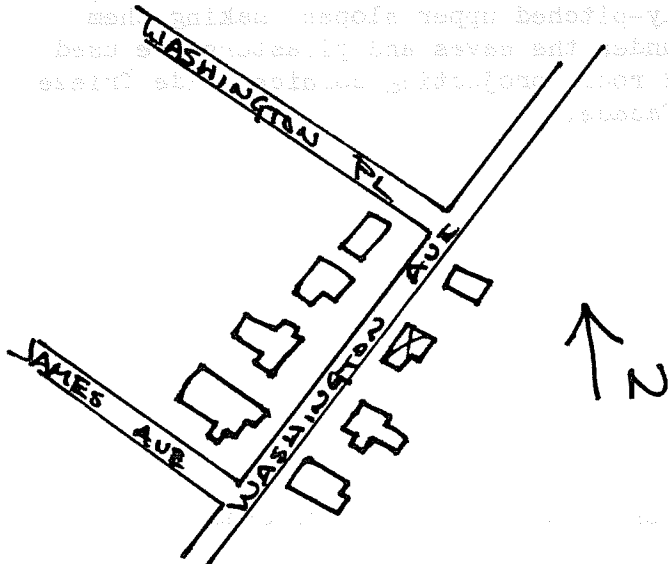
Approximate frontage —

Approximate distance of building from street 20'

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date March 1930



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Christian Oefinger

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)

Washington Ave. was opened from Elm St. by J.H. Searle and J.M. Minor in 1870. In the same year J.C. Ward filed a subdivision plan for the western part of his "Paradise Lot". This was to include residential lots on Paper Mill Rd. (now Federal St.), Vernon St., Washington Place and the western end of Washington. It was Mr. Ward who had begun development here in the late 1860's with his plan for Paradise Rd. Later, in 1889, his widow filed a plan for the remaining area's subdivision--Ward and James Ave. and the western end of Vernon St.

This house was built in 1901 at a cost of \$2000. for Christian Oefinger, an employee of the Northampton Cutlery Co., at Bay State. The house is 2 and 1/2 stories high with gambrel roof, and a 2 and 1/2 story gambreled projection on the facade. Both of the gambrels have steeply-pitched upper slopes making them very close to gable roofs. A wide frieze runs under the eaves and pilasters are used to define the corners. A half-porch with hipped roof, projecting cornice, wide frieze and square posts covers the eastern end of the facade.

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

- 1895 and 1915 Atlases.
- Northampton Directory: 1918, 1915, 1905.
- Springfield Daily Republican Dec. 30, 1901.