

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	31A-295

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Northampton

86 Vernon St.

Local Name

Original residence

Present residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner

Construction: c. 1890

cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Date
 Indicate north. Source Reg. of Deeds

Style Mansard Cottage

Architect

Exterior wall fabric brick

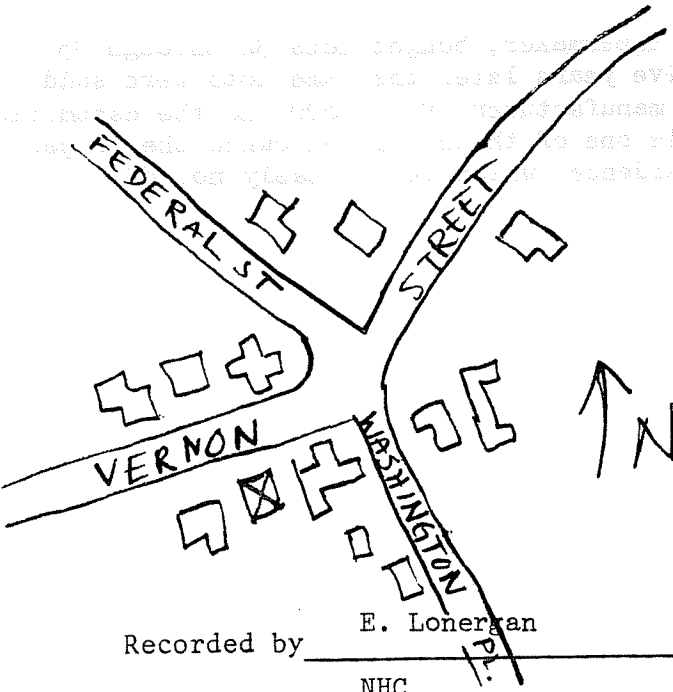
Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) --

Moved -- Date

Approx. acreage

Setting



Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date May 1980

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The house is 1 story in height with a slate Mansard roof which has shed dormers. The rear ell also has a Mansard roof with shed dormers. A one-story porch covers the two-bay facade. The northern end of the facade is taken up by a five-sided bay window with shingled panels. The other half of the porch is open, with turned posts and cut-out brackets. The arched entry way has a small transom above the doorway.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

Vernon St. was originally known as Paper Mill Rd. and led westerly down the bluffs to the Mill River site of the paper mill. This downhill section is now known as Federal St. In 1870 an extension southerly along the top of the bluff was mapped. This, along with Washington Place and Washington Ave. (now known as James Ave.), comprised the western part of James G. Ward's "Paradise" subdivision plan. Much of this still remained undeveloped when Mrs. Margaret Ward filed a plan in 1889 for a southerly extension of Vernon St. This plan also included James and Ward Avenues.

In 1884 Frank Reynolds, a papermaker, bought lots 32 through 35 and part of lot 31 for \$350 from Mrs. Ward. Five years later the same lots were sold to Stephen Belden, a market gardener and pickle manufacturer, for \$1800 and the assumption of a \$1300 mortgage. This house was built while one of these two men owned the property, but it doesn't seem to have served as their residence (which was probably no. 88).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.
- Registry of Deeds: Bk. 427-P. 465, 425-99, 390-511, 272-110 and 111.
- Northampton Directory: 1885-86, 1895-96.