

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	31B-3

Northampton



Address 66 Bancroft Rd.

O'Donnell House

Present use residence

Present owner John and Natalie Hurley

Description:

c. 1895

Source Atlas and Directory

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

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

Exterior wall fabric \_\_\_\_\_

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

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved -- Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

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

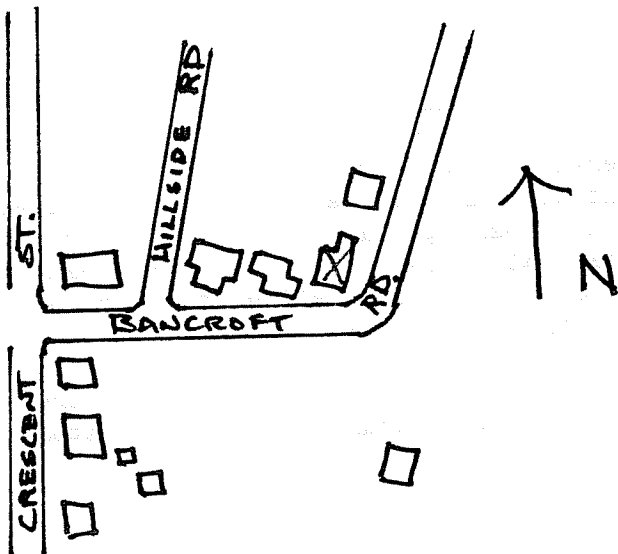
Approximate frontage \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date March 1980



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John B. O'Donnell

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/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/<br>invention   | _____ |
| The Arts              | _____    | Industry                   | _____ | Social/<br>humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce              | _____    | Military                   | _____ | Transportation          | _____ |
| Communication         | _____    | Political                  | _____ |                         |       |
| Community development | _____    |                            |       |                         |       |

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

During the late 1880's John O'Donnell bought the northern part of Round Hill (above the Clark School) from Col. Mark Spaulding. Col. Spaulding, in partnership with Enos Parsons had bought the Round Hill Hotel and grounds in 1870 and had attempted to keep the hotel operating. In 1874 they issued a prospectus for 100 building lots to be located on the northern slopes of the hill. Ultimately, the hotel proved a failure, and their development plans came to naught.

In 1885 a sub-division plan for the "relocation of Round Hill Lots" was filed. This included Round Hill Rd. First (now Crescent), Second (now Hillside), and Third (now Bancroft) Aves. and part of Franklin St. Development began soon afterwards and has continued until recent times providing an interesting mix of 20th century residential architecture.

This was one of the first houses to be built on Bancroft Ave. and is mentioned in 1895-96 directory listing for John O'Donnell. Mr. O'Donnell and his son George were lawyers, located on Main St. until April 1, 1896, after which date, one should enquire at 66 Third Ave. Mr. O'Donnell had served as Northampton's fifth mayor in 1892 and 1893 and was responsible for the development of Round Hill as a fine residential section. A 1909 Gazette article described this process "and feeling that the hill was not appreciated as it should be, he had kept it almost intact all these years. He often had the opportunity to sell small lots for small houses, but he refused, feeling that the Hill was by nature the handsomest and most desirable building spot in America".

This house is located on the inside of the curve of Bancroft Ave. and is mostly hidden by tall evergreen trees. The house features a 3 and 1/2 story tower

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

- 1884 and 1895 Atlases.
- Northampton Directory: 1895-96, 1900 1905, 1915, 1922.
- Registry of Deeds: Bk. 394-P. 90 add 9.
- Daily Hampshire Gazette May 7, 1909.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

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Community: Northampton	Form No: 31B-3
Property Name: O'Donnell House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9. Historical Significance

with flaring pyramidal roof at the corner, and porches at the front and rear of the house.

James W. Cole.

In the early 20th century the house was sold to the Rev.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

