

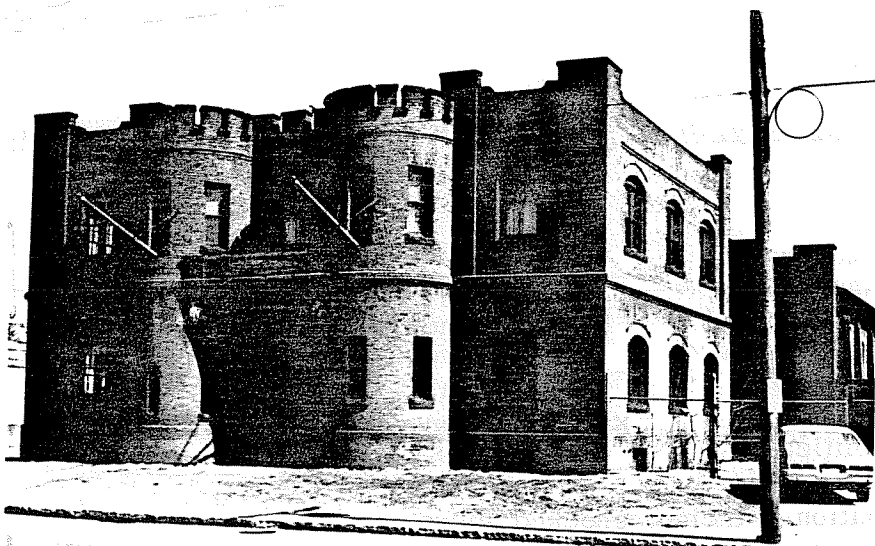
FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

31B-81



Northampton

Address King Street

Armory Building

Present use vacant

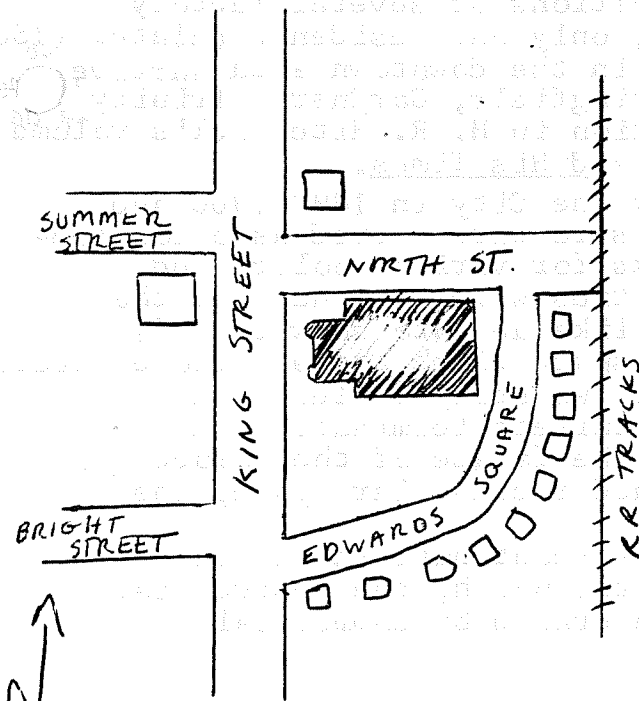
Present owner City of Northampton

Description:

1900

Source Daily Hampshire Gazette
August 28, 1900

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



Architect Gardner, Pyne & Gardner

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features main section 45 X 57,
drill shed 77 X 98; arched entrance;
2 corner turrets

Altered no Date

Moved no Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre

Approximate frontage 81 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
15 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical
Commission

Date July 19, 1975

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

(over)

APR 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Original owner (if known) City of Northampton
 Original use Armory
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Armory/Recreation center. vacant at present

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

Gardner, Pyne & Gardner. The Springfield architectural partnership consisting of E. C. Gardner, his son, George C., and George Pyne, formed in 1889. Gardner was a native of Ashfield who began to practice architecture in Florence in 1858. Gardner relocated in Springfield in 1870 after having designed a number of commercial buildings in Northampton. Although portions of several factory complexes designed by Gardner remain, only one residence (a later (1880) design on Elm Street) and the Armory in the downtown area survive in Northampton. An early work in Springfield, Gardner's Trinity Church (1870) received mention in H. R. Hitchcock's volume The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times.

The Armory building was built by the City in 1899-1900 and purchased by the state in 1912. The structure served as a constabulary headquarters and as the barracks for various police and military groups. Recreational activities were also held at the Armory and an occasional civic event like an auto show in 1931 took advantage of the large interior space which the structure offered.

Fashioned entirely of brick, the two story building has a decidedly defensive character. Twin turrets terminating in battlements are the main features in the facade of the structure. To the rear, a functional and unadorned rectangular space, the drill hall is located.

The Armory is now the first significant building which one encounters on entering the City from the north, the residential charm of King Street having long been erased by commercial development.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Daily Hampshire Gazette, August 28, 1900.