

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	31B-136



1 Northampton

Address 135 State St.

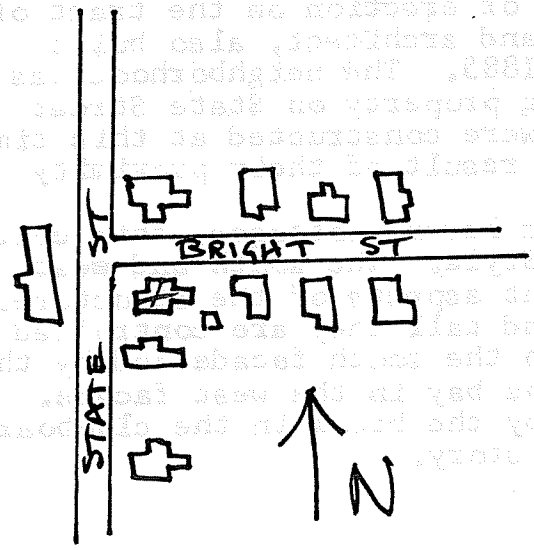
Present use residence

Present owner Anna Keller

Description: 1882-84

Source Reg. of Deeds and Atlas

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



Architect Wm. F. Pratt and son

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features L-shaped with polygonally roofed, 2-story bay windows at end of each gabled side.

Altered sided 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 _____

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date May 1980

(over)

616
620
621
629
630
631
633

7. Original owner (if known) Parker Whitcomb

Original use Residence (rented)

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Aboriginal | _____ | Conservation | _____ | Recreation | _____ |
| Agricultural | _____ | Education | _____ | Religion | _____ |
| Architectural | _____ | Exploration/ | _____ | Science/ | _____ |
| The Arts | <u>x</u> | settlement | _____ | invention | _____ |
| Commerce | _____ | Industry | _____ | Social/ | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Military | _____ | humanitarian | _____ |
| Community development | <u>x</u> | Political | _____ | Transportation | _____ |

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

Parker R. Whitcomb purchased a large tract of land known as the Bright Estate (between State and King Streets) from Dr. Blodgett about 1881. Whitcomb proceeded to erect a number of cottages on the property after having opened "Bright Street" through the center of the tract. In January, 1883, the Gazette commented that Whitcomb planned to build "two more cottages at the corner of State and Bright Streets;" by May he was erecting his sixth house on the property; by June 1884, a total of nine cottages were rented or in process of erection on the tract of land. C. H. Jones, local painter and architect, also built three houses on the new street in 1885. The neighborhood was rapidly developed (as was adjoining property on State Street where a series of brick dwellings were constructed at this time) and the dwelling were popular as a result of their proximity to the center of Northampton.

One of several stylistically coherent cottages, this cottage on State Street is a modest Stick Style. The south and west facades present thoroughly different aspects of the structure. While the masses are very narrow and tall they are controlled by the framing of the gable ends in the south facade and by the extension of the roofline beyond the bay in the west facade. The horizontal is also emphasized by the break in the clapboard surface at the level of the second story.

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

Daily Hampshire Gazette, January 23, 1883; May 15, 1883; June 17, 1884; December 8, 1885.
Registry of Deeds, Hampshire County, 551.131, 579.111.

7. Original owner (if known) Parker R. Whitcomb

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)

In 1881 and 1882 Parker Whitcomb bought land on the east side of State St. from Benjamin Blodgett. Professor Blodgett owned the Bowers House on Prospect St. and the original grounds extended easterly to King St. Whitcomb and Blodgett agreed to each open half a street, connecting King St. and State St., to be called Bright St. Mr Whitcomb owned the half nearest State St., and between 1882 and 1884 had eight houses built on Bright St. and State St. The Whitcomb family maintained ownership of these houses into the 20th century, leasing them to tenants.

The designs for the houses were by William F. Pratt and Son. William F. Pratt was Northampton's most prominent and prolific architect of the mid 19th century. He began working with his father, Thomas Pratt, in the early 1830's, and through the years designed many fine residences and commercial buildings in this area. A large portion of Northampton's Main Street was built from designs of Mr. Pratt. In 1882 his son, William F. Pratt Jr., was made a partner, and it's possible that he was responsible for the design of these houses.

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

1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.

Registry of Deeds: Bk. 370-P. 345, 367-85, 385-31.

Leading Manufacturers and Merchants of Central and Western Mass. (1886)
p. 303.

