

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	313-147



Northampton

Address 131 State Street

Cottage

Use Residence

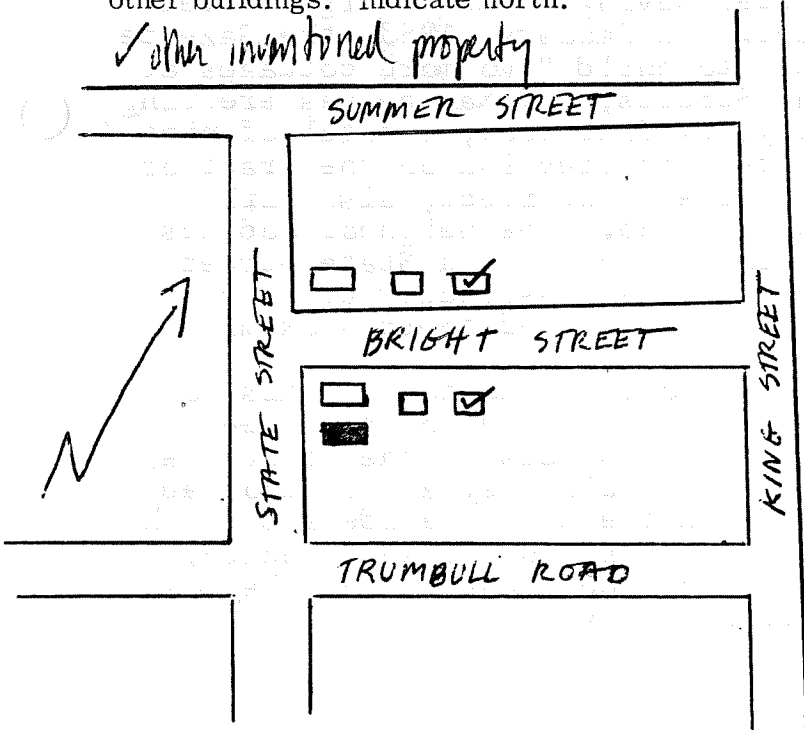
Owner Norma Leas

Description:

1883-84  
Daily Hampshire Gazette  
Reference 1/23/1883; 5/15/83; 6/17/84

Stick Style

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



Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric thin clapboards, vertical boards in gable

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features 2 story bay, front; low pitched roof; gable ends framed; eaves bracketed.

Altered porch later ? Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 68 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 20 feet

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

Aug (over) 4 1975  
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6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date July 1, 1975

1. General name of house Parker Whitcomb

Original use Residence (rented)

2. Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence

3. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	x	Exploration/ Settlement	_____	Science/ Invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	x				

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 dwellings 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.