

FORM B - BUILDING

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

687

In Area no.	Form no.
	31B-217



1 Northampton

Address 61 Gothic St.

Name J. Brown House

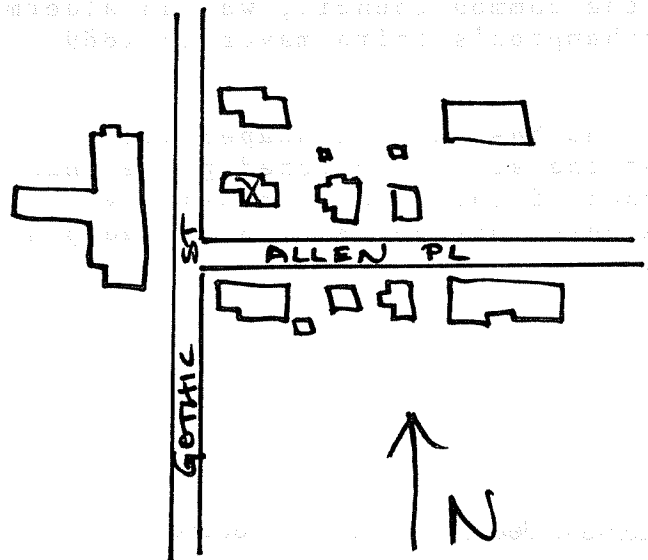
Present use residence

Present owner Gordon and Janett Clark

Description: 1872-73

Source Reg. of Deeds and Atlas  
Victorian Gothic

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



Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

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

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

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

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

5. Lot size: One acre or less  Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

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

Approximate distance of building from street  
15'

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date May 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Jeremiah Brown

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	_____				

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

In 1872 Jeremiah Brown purchased land on the corner of Gothic St. and Allen Place. Mr. Brown was a mason and builder and probably built this house himself. It is shown on the 1873 Atlas. In 1880 William Bailey became a partner of Mr. Brown, and five years later they bought the Porter Nutting brick yard property of North Elm St. and went into the brick making business. Soon they were making 3,000,000 bricks a year and employing 100 men. The firm had some of the largest contracts in the city and built Forbes Library, the High School, Belding's Silk Mill and the South St. School among others. Mr. Brown was also prominent in local politics, serving two years in the common council, was an alderman three times, and served two terms as Northampton's third mayor in 1889 and 1890.

The house is two stories tall, and basically L-shaped with a one-and-a-half story rear ell. Both of the steeply-pitched gable ends have one-story bay windows, while the crook of the L has a two-story tower with polygonal roof and finial. A one-story porch with turned posts and brackets frames the base of the tower.

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

- 1860 County Map.
- 1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.
- Registry of Deeds: Bk. 292-P. 171, 212-243.
- Northampton Directory: 1868-69, 1873-74, 1895-96.
- Northampton of Today: 1902, pp. 66-67.