

FORM B - BUILDING

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

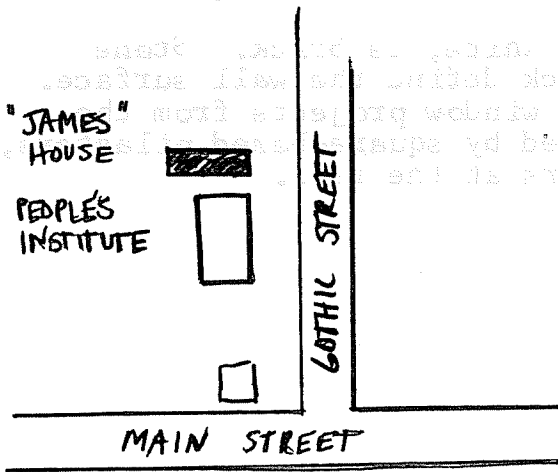
In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>31B-261</u>
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713



Northampton
 ss 42 Gothic Street
Justus Boies House - James House
 nt use part of People's Institute
James" House
 nt owner The People's Institute
 iption:
c. 1850
 rce The People's Institute
Greek Revival

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



Architect William F. Pratt
 Exterior wall fabric wood
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features portico with free-standing
Ionic columns; pedimented windows,
French windows in front facade.
 Altered additions to rear Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 50 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
5 feet

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by C. Dubie
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date May 1, 1975

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7. Original owner (if known) Ansell Abell
 Original use Residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence

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)

This residence in the Greek Revival style was built at the junction of Tappan Lane (Gothic Street) and Lyman Lane (Trumbull Road) in 1838. On January 1, 1839, Ashahel Abell sold to Ansell Abell "all that certain part of Tappan Place on which he has recently erected a dwelling house." Miss Dwight's Gothic Seminary abutted the lot to the south; later in the century Tappan Lane became Gothic Street, the name reflecting the architectural style of the seminary building.

The body of the structure, painted white, is brick. Stone lintels and pilasters fashioned of brick define the wall surface. An enclosed wooden pediment with later window projects from the brick body of the house and is supported by square-based pilasters, also of wood. A wooden addition appears at the rear.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)
 Registry of Deeds, 1540.379, 227.81, 205.278, 163.387, 96.329, 84, 13.
 Atlas of Northampton, 1884.

7. Original owner (if known) Justus Boies

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence, part of People's Institute

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u> x </u>	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)

This fine Greek Revival residence was designed by W. F. Pratt and constructed prior to 1850. It is now known as the James House and is part of The People's Institute.

The People's Institute was incorporated in 1876 as the Home Culture Clubs; in 1909 the name was changed to The People's Institute. The Institute has long been a vehicle for self-improvement in Northampton.

"Work among the immigrants was a special pursuit of the People's Institute...George Washington Cable, the author, was the moving spirit of this charitable venture which was largely supported by his friend Andrew Carnegie. The Home Culture Clubs were designed to improve living and home-making conditions among the poorer families of the city. In 1905 Mr. and Mrs. Carnegie came to Northampton to dedicate a new building for which Mr. Carnegie gave \$70,000. (This large brick structure adjoins the James House.)"

-The Northampton Book

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

The People's Institute, file of clippings on James House.
The Northampton Book.
Daily Hampshire Gazette, December 26, 1865.

