

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>31D-114-117</u>
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767



1. Town Northampton

ss 257-279 Main Street

"Daley Blocks"

ent use Comercial/residential

ent owner see reverse

ription:

1886-1887

source Daily Hampshire Gazette
see bibliography

e Victorian commercial

hitect unknown

in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

Exterior wall fabric brick w/marble

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features #1,2,4,5-recessed window areas; decorative stringcourses;

bracketed cornices. #3-polychrome in facade; elaborate cornice w/vane
Altered painted Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

individually
One acre or less x Over one acre _____

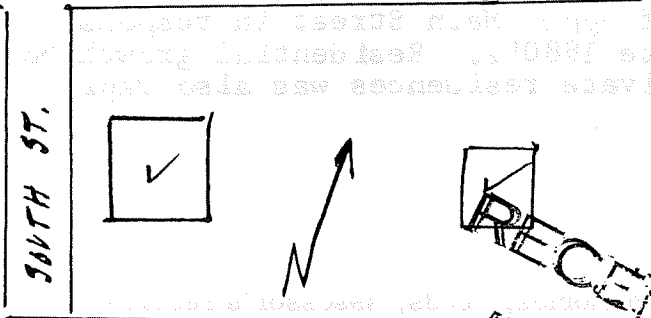
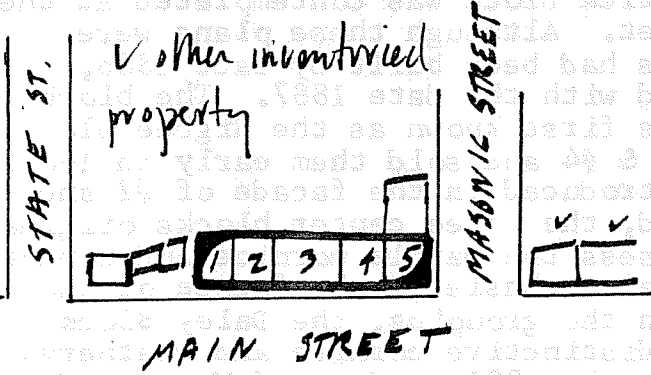
Approximate frontage 25,20,45,35,25.

Approximate distance of building from street
5 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

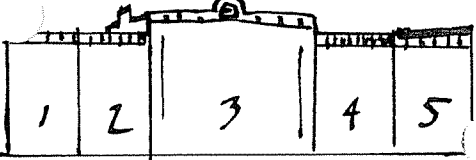
Organization Northampton Historical

Commission
Date July 20, 1975



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

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(over)

Current owners: 257 & 259- Dimiri & Pope Vissas
 261-265- Contemporary Trends, Inc.
 267-271- Jasper Danzinger
 273-279- Albert & Ruth Johnson

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7. Original owner (if known) 1, 2, 4, 5- John B. O'Donnell; 3-

Original use Commercial

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Commercial

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 series of five brick blocks was built on upper Main Street late in the 1880's. The lot was empty prior to this time. The Edwards Church had been rebuilt on the corner of Main and State in 1874. About 1886 the lot was first considered for commercial development when a four story brick block was contemplated at the corner of Main and Masonic Street. Although these plans were abandoned, several of the blocks had been built by late 1886, and the Daley Block is inscribed with the date 1887. The block adjoining the Edwards Church was first known as the Higbee Block (1); Lawyer J. B. O'Donnell owned #2 & #4 and sold them early in 1887. Although a bay has been introduced in the facade of #2 and both #2 and #4 have been painted, the three center blocks originally read as a single unit. All possess the marble cornice and window arches which provide a horizontal emphasis in the facade of the Daley Block. The focal point in the grouping, the Daley Block is larger and, by virtue of its distinctive cornice and weathervane, more ambitious. The blocks face the 1891 Academy of Music and reflect the later development of upper Main Street in response to increased commerce in the late 1880's. Residential growth both in the form of tenements and private residences was also rapid at this period.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Daily Hampshire Gazette, March 2, 1886, September 21, 1886, February 7, 1888,