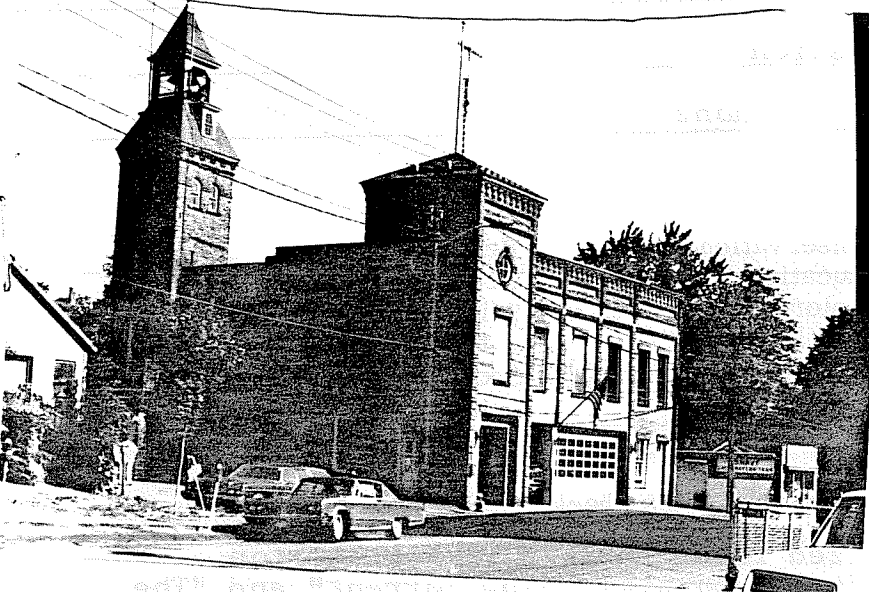


FORM B - BUILDING

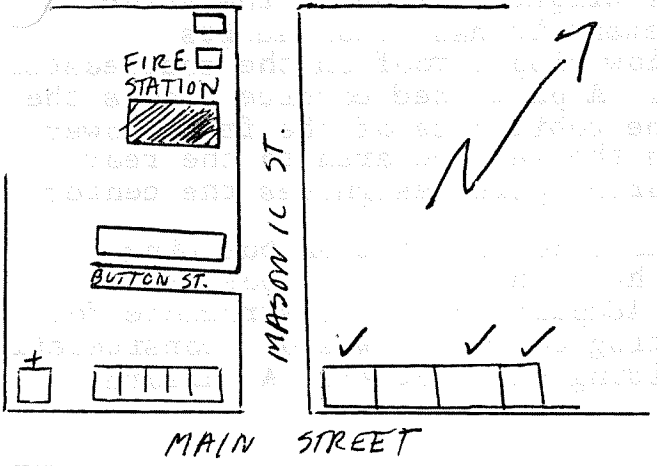
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

769

In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>31D-122</u>
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4. Map. Draw shown in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Address Northampton
60 Masonic Street
Fire Station
 Present use Fire Station
 Present owner City of Northampton
 Description:
c. 1870 (1872)
Daily Hampshire Gazette,
 Source Romaneque
Victorian firestation
 Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features low tower, front facade,
tall bell tower, rear; five bays
wide.
 Altered numerous additions
& renovations Date _____
 Moved no Date _____
 5. Lot size:
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 70 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
15 feet

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

6. Recorded by C. Dubie
 Organization Northampton Historical
 Commission
 Date June 10, 1975

RECEIVED
 SEP 30 1975 (over)

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Original owner (if known) City of Northampton

Original use Fire Station

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates none

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Architectural | <input type="checkbox"/> | Exploration/
settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/
invention | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/
humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Community development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

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

The history of organized fire fighting in Northampton began with two volunteer fire companies, "The Torrent" and "The Deluge". Competitions between these fire companies were held on Main Street; the steeple of the old church served as the height standard against which streams of water were measured.

In 1857 the town fire department was organized; in about 1870 the core of the present stationhouse was constructed on Masonic Street, on land purchased from Ansel Wright. Although the structure has undergone alteration and enlargement it has retained its distinctive features--a tower with low hipped roof on the southeasterly corner and a bell tower to the rear. A patterned cornice frames the front facade and quoining defines the cubic base of the front tower. The rear tower serves as a marker in the service area to the rear of Main Street just as the First Church spire designates the center of downtown Northampton.

Substantial improvements were made to the station building in 1893 and several times early in the 20th century proposals for a new stationhouse were set forth. Adaptation of the structure for newer and larger models of firefighting equipment was one consideration, the structural soundness of the building was another. A mansard once graced the front tower.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Daily Hampshire Gazette, 1/25/1876, 3/31/1893.