

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NR

In Area no. A	Form no. 31D-130
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772



Northampton

Address 245-249 Main Street

Block Wright Block

Present use Commercial

Present owner _____

Description: _____

1871

Source Daily Hampshire Gazette
April 11, 1871

Style Victorian Commercial

Architect Wm. Fenno Pratt

Exterior wall fabric brick

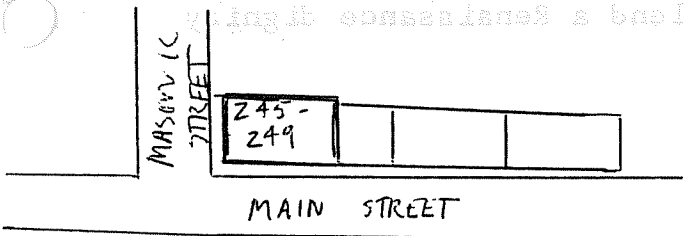
Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features brickwork cornice,
brownstone window pediments

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

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



PULASKI
PARK



MEMORIAL
HALL



5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 50 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
flush with sidewalk

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

RECEIVED

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical
Commission

Date April 1, 1975

MAY 2 1975
(over)

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Original owner (if known) Ansel Wright

Original use Commercial; Masonic Order used upper floors

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates commercial

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 checked="" 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 Wright Block was an almost total reconstruction of the old Masonic Hall, erected by Isaac Damon in 1825 on this site. When the new block opened in 1871, the Masons once again occupied the upper stories.

The block was designed by Wm. F. Pratt, and represents one of his better and later commercial blocks. The cornice is decorative yet less intrusive than that of the earlier Rust Block. The window pediments are delicate and lend a Renaissance dignity to the structure.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Daily Hampshire Gazette, April 11, 1871.