

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>31D-150</u>
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785
V

Town Northampton
 Address 160 Main
Corner Main and Old South
 Name Columbian Building (Todd, Lee & Co.)
 Present use Commercial

Present owner Standick Trust

Description:
 Date 1871
April 11, 1871
 Source Daily Hampshire Gazette

Style Victorian Commercial

Architect Wm. F. Pratt

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features brickwork cornice,
rounded arch doorway on side
service entrance

Altered roof raised Date 1877

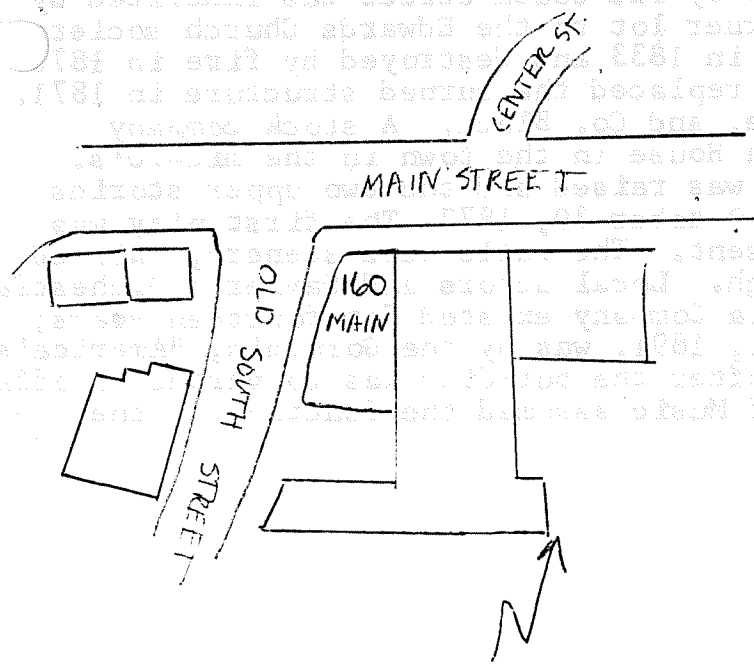
Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 50 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
flush with sidewalk

6. Recorded by C. Keith Wilbur
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date April 1, 1975



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



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

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MAY 2 1975

(over)

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7. Original owner (if known) Todd, Lee, and Co.

Original use Commercial

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates 2nd and 3rd floor opera house 10/30/1877-

8. Themes (check as many as applicable) 5/21/1891

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 checked="" 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)

Ebenezer Hunt (1675-1742) acquired land on the south side of Main Street, including this site. His son, Deacon Ebenezer Hunt (1703-1788) inherited the land and on the adjacent eastern lot built a gambrel roof house, later inherited by Dr. Ebenezer Hunt (1744-1820). The physician/pharmacist established a drug store in the house in 1769 with Dr. Levi Shepard. The lot by Old South Street was inherited by Dr. David Hunt who sold the corner lot to the Edwards Church society. Edwards Church was built there in 1833 and destroyed by fire in 1870. The Columbia Building replaced the burned structure in 1871. It was first known as Todd, Lee, and Co. Block. A stock company was organized to build an Opera House in the town in the mid-70's. the roof of the old Todd Block was raised and the two upper stories became the Opera House, opened October 30, 1877. The first play was "Our Boys" with 300 people present. The walls were scenery, painted by local artist Charles Burleigh. Local actors and Hayner's Orchestra furnished the talent. The Opera Company existed for fourteen years; the last performance, on May 21, 1891, was by the Gorman's, "America's Elite Minstrel Troupe," soon after the building was converted to offices and the newly opened Academy of Music assumed the function of the Opera House.

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

- Daily Hampshire Gazette, April 11, 1871
- March 31, 1874,
- January 2, 1945.
- Letter to editor, Gazette, August 6, 1952.
- Wyman's Genealogy of Hunt Family, 1963
- Gazette, November 6, 1877