

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>31D-165</u>
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792
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1. Town Northampton

Address 240 Main Street

Memorial Hall

Present use City offices, senior

City center

Present owner City of Northampton

Description:

Year 1872

Source Daily Hampshire Gazette

Style "General Grant" Mansard

Architect James McLaughlin of Cincinnati

Exterior wall fabric red brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features White stone trim,

mansard roof above elaborate cornice

large interior hall

Altered converted to offices

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 75 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

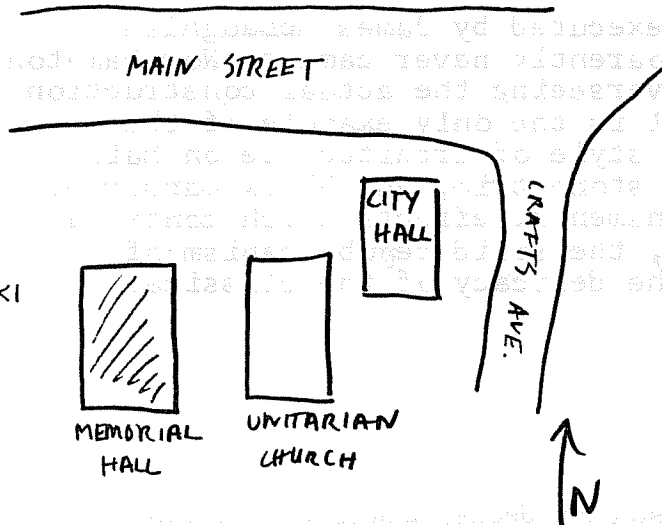
50 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date April 15, 1975

in relation to _____
other buildings. Indicate north.



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

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(over)
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7. Original owner (if known) City of Northampton

Original use Clarke Library and Museum

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

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	<u>x</u>
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

In 1871, Memorial Hall was built on the hill above the Gas Light Company buildings. Public subscription and town funds contributed equally to its construction. Books from other local libraries were consolidated at the new Clarke Library and reading rooms on the Main floor. A bequest of \$40,000 by John Clarke maintained the library. In memory of the soldiers who served the town since 1654, a list of all of the city's military men is displayed in the foyer. The second floor of Memorial Hall now houses a collection of early Northampton artifacts, maintained by the Northampton Historical Society.

The plan of Memorial Hall was executed by James McLaughlin of Cincinnati. McLaughlin apparently never came to Northampton; W. F. Pratt was charged with overseeing the actual construction of the building. Memorial Hall is the only example of the Post Civil War "General Grant" style of architecture on Main Street. Rich red brick, white stone trim, and black mansarded roof are combined to create ornamental effects which contrast with the picturesque City Hall, the solid republicanism of the Greek Revival church and the delicacy of the classical Academy of Music nearby.

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

Daily Hampshire Gazette, September 26, 1871; Northampton Directory, 1875.