

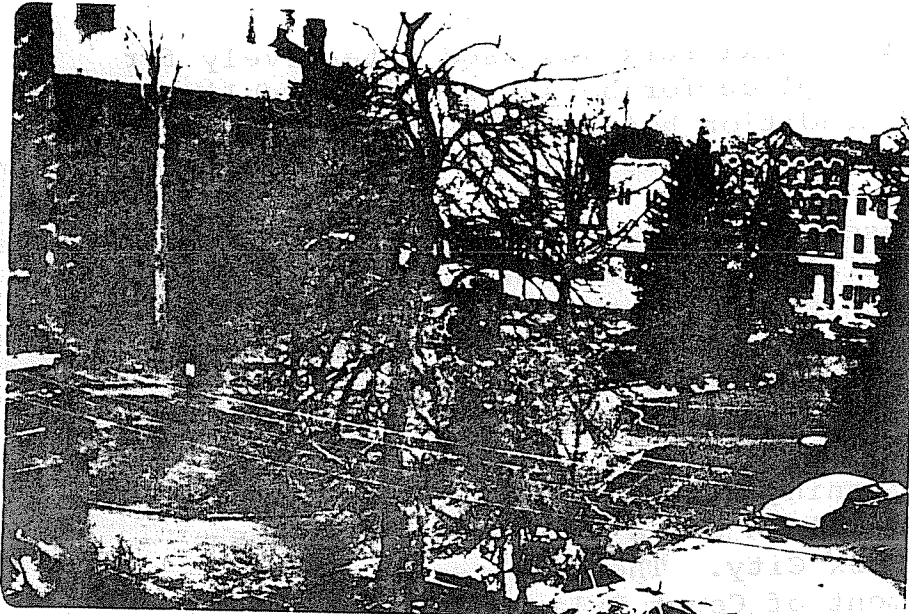
part of main +

793

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

Form numbers in this area <u>50</u> <u>82-84 + 103</u>	Area no. <u>A</u>
--------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------

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



1 Northampton 31D-166

Part of area (if any) Pulaski Park

Approximate date or period Early 1900's

Area uniform (explain):

Style? _____

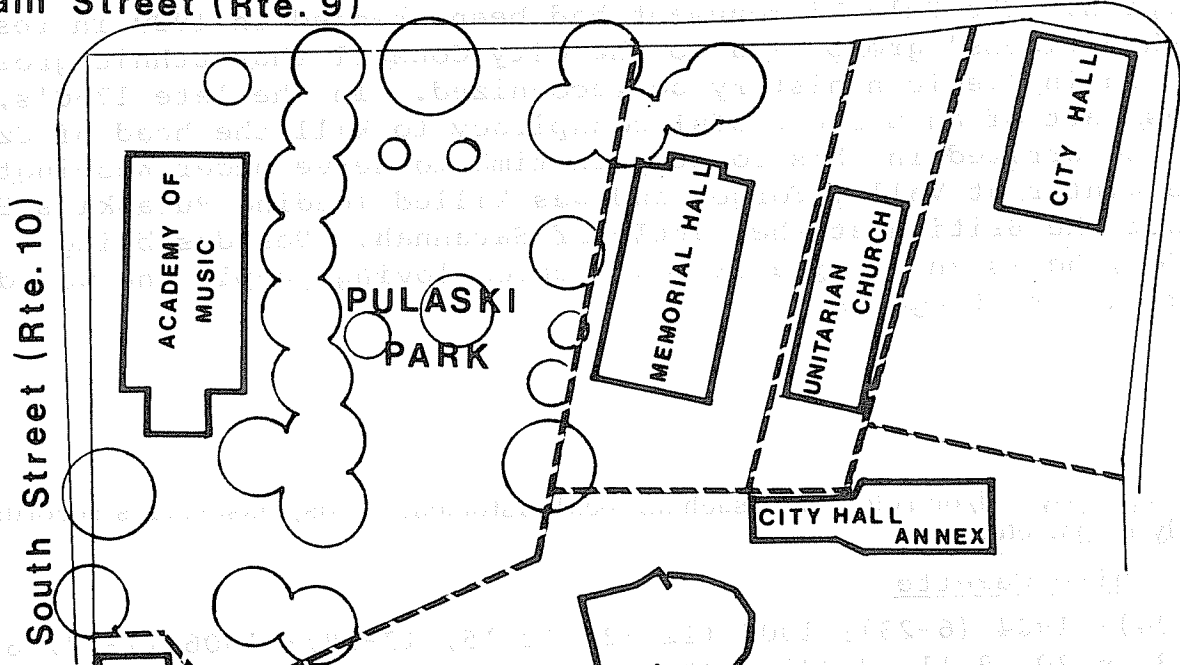
Condition? Worn

Type of ownership? City owned

Use? Public park

Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.

Main Street (Rte. 9)



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

RECEIVED

6. Recorded by C. Keith Wilbur

Organization Northampton Historical Com.

Date March 5, 1975

MAY 2 1975
(over)

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. History and Significance. Explain the Historical/Architectural importance of this area.

During the late 1700's, the site of Pulaski Park was used extensively for public auctions and as a congregating place for horse traders. Public announcements were made there, and tradition has it that news of the attack by the British on Concord and Lexington was made at the site.

Between 1905 and 1907, the land passed from private to public ownership. With the immediate threat of commercial development on the site, the City held an election to call for the acquisition of this land for a city park. The proposal passed, though by a very narrow margin in an election with very low voter turnout. Thus the City obtained the property which consisted of 150 feet of Main Street frontage and 350 feet of depth.

The fall of 1908 saw the official opening of the Main Street Park (its original name) complete with a formal lawn and a concrete pergola designed by Joseph Gabringer of New York City. The park remained Main Street Park until 1945 when a monument of Count Pulaski was moved from in front of the legion hall to the center of the park.

As the largest minority group in Hampshire County, the Polish-American population represented, and still represents, a formidable interest group in Northampton. The Pulaski monument had been erected in 1929 in response to a Polish citizens' group plea to the City Council that ethnic groups' participation in American history be recognized. In the late 1760's, Pulaski was part of an unsuccessful conspiracy to kill the head of Czechoslovakia. He arrived in this country in time to serve under Washington during the winter at Valley Forge, and was killed leading Pulaski's Brigade against the British at the Battle of Savannah. Besides being a great leader, he is an example of how freedom-loving people the world over aided in our struggles.

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

Daily Hampshire Gazette

1839 (12-24); 1904 (6-23); 1905 (12-12, 12-15, 12-19); 1906 (1-17, 6-2, 6-16, 6-18, 6-20, 8-11, 8-23); 1907 (4-15, 7-3, 7-5, 7-9, 7-16); 1908 (6-30, 5-1, 6-4); 1929 (8-13); 1934 (12-11); 1958 (5-12, 5-1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Records of City Government Meetings

for: 6/1, 1906

6/4, 1908

Records in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds

1906: Book 609, p. 319 - 8/22

1908: Book 632, p. 333-35

p. 429

1911: Book 663, p. 331