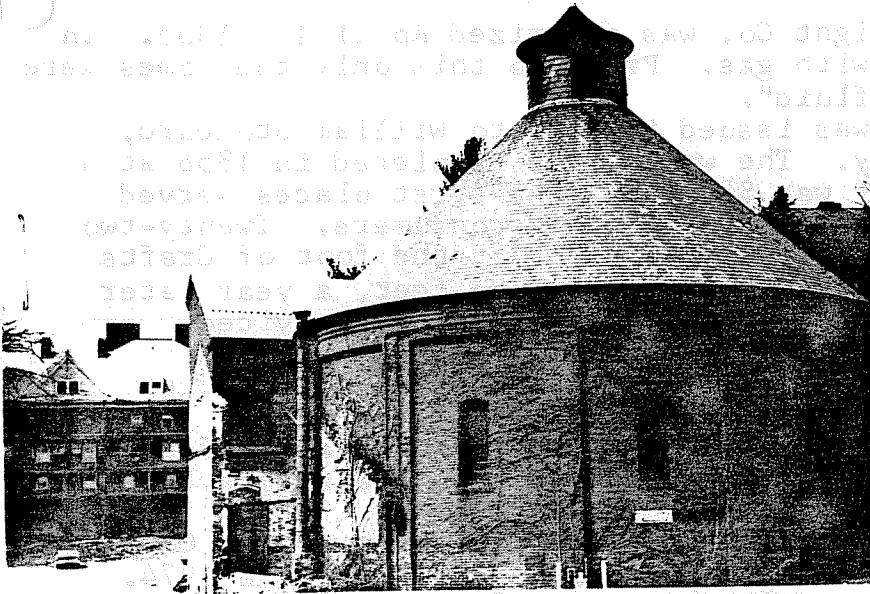


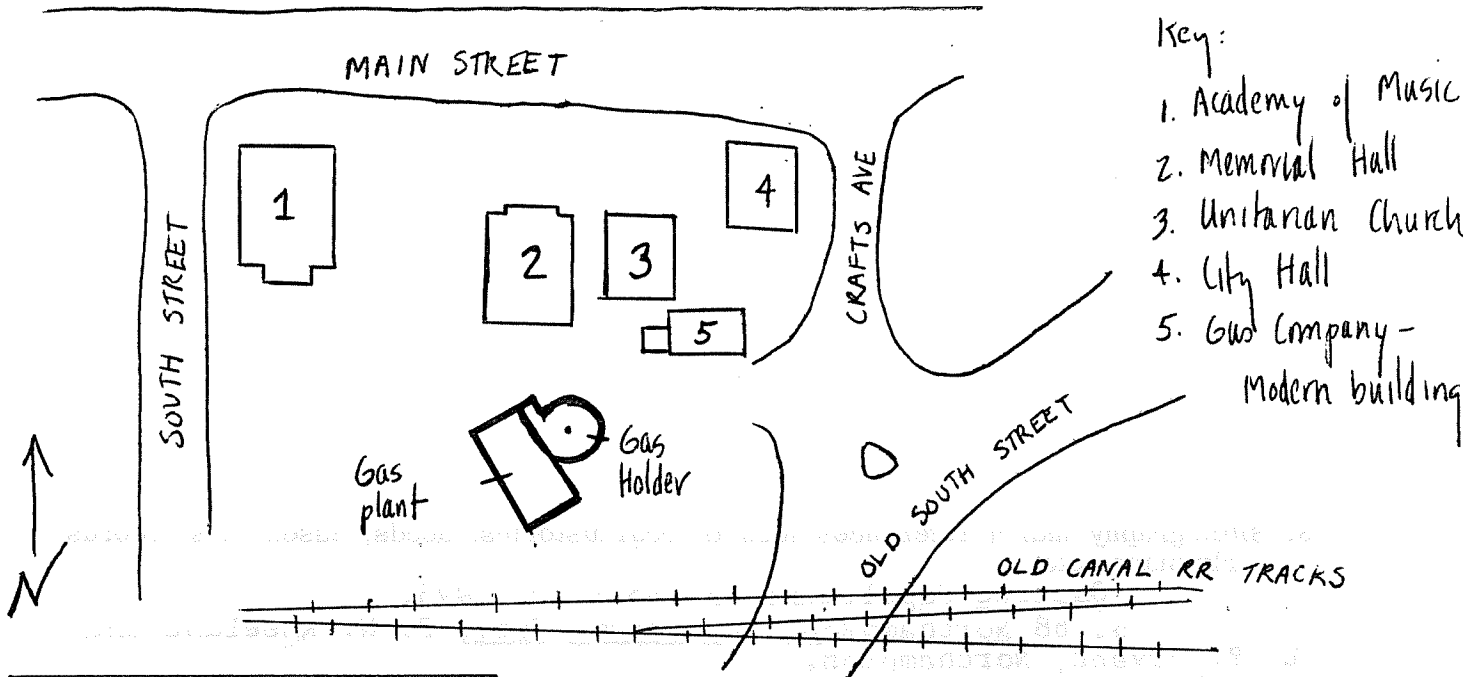
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Form numbers in this area 103 Area no A



31D-167  
Northampton, Mass. 01060  
of area (if any) "Northampton Gas Light Company"  
al date or period 1856. Brick gas  
t with brick round gas holder  
late roof  
a uniform (explain):  
le? Victorian commercial  
dition? Good  
e of ownership? City of Northampton  
? no

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. 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.



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

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MAY 2 1975

6. Recorded by C. Keith Wilbur M.D.  
Organization Northampton Historical Commission  
Date 12/15/74

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The Northampton Gas Light Co. was organized April 18, 1855. In 1856, the town was illuminated with gas. Prior to this only the homes were lit with kerosene and "burning fluid".

The original charter was issued in 1853 to William Stoddard, Samuel Fisk, and Daniel Kingsley. The works were completed in 1856 at a cost of 35,000 dollars. Capital was \$50,000. The first places served were on Shop Row, and by 1895 there were over 600 consumers. Twenty-two million feet of gas was made annually at the plant at the foot of Crafts Avenue. The price of gas at first was \$4 a thousand feet, a year later \$3, then \$2, and by 1895 was \$1.60. Twelve miles of pipe serviced customers at that time.

There were three gas holders, round and made of brick, with slate roofs. One remains. The making of gas was a day and night job for two gangs of men. The works were on one of the yard tracks of the Canal Railroad, and coal could be easily unloaded into the company's great coal shed.

The new Gas Light Company building (5) was given to the City of Northampton, together with the 1856 gas plant and gas holder, in 1974.

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

Gazette Supplement November 30, 1895.

p. 68 Northampton, The Meadow City, F. N. Kneeland and L. P. Bryant, Northampton.