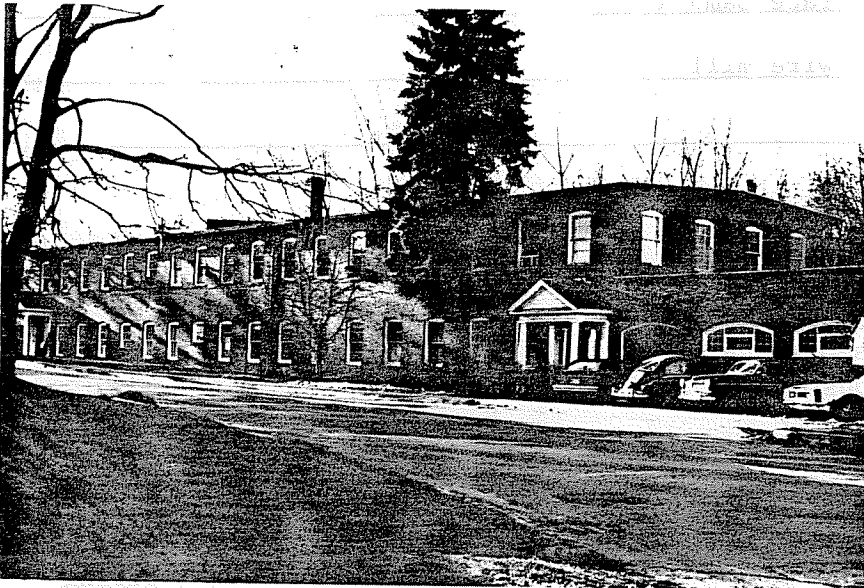


FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	31D-185



Northampton

Address 51-53 Clarke Ave.

Building H. Lamb's Wire Mill

Present use industrial

Present owner Harry Mc Colgan

Description:

late 19th c.

Source Maps and visual evidence

Architect

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe)

Other features

Altered additions Date 20th c.

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage \_\_\_\_\_

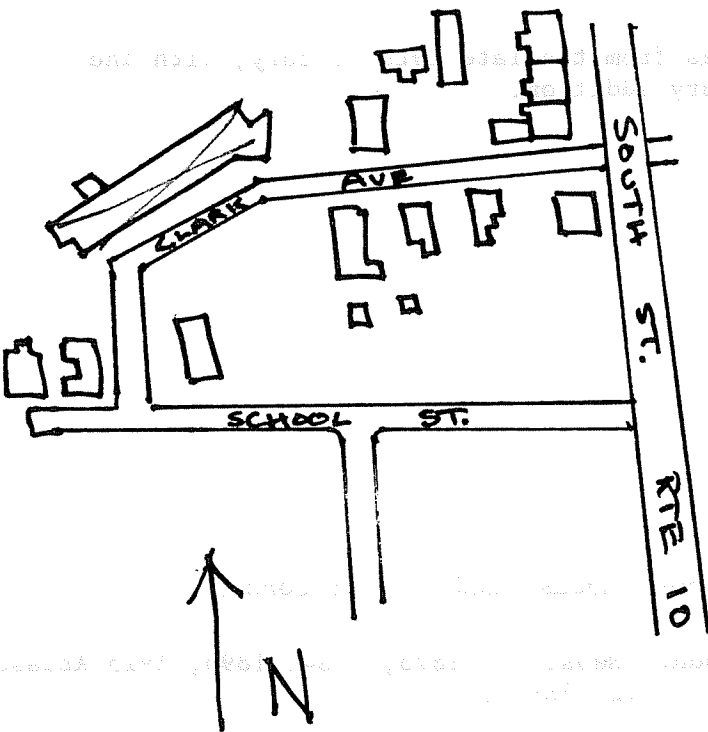
Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date April 1980

in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Horace Lamb & Co.

Original use wire mill

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	<u>x</u>	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

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

This site was originally near the lower falls on the Mill River. During the 1930's the river was removed from the center of the town and playing fields constructed here. The first known mill on this site was a grist mill erected in 1742, and as late as 1915 the western end of the building was still being used as such, by William H. Smith. In the early 1870's Horace Lamb established a wire mill here. The 1885 directory describes the business as "manufacturers of iron and tinned wire for brooms, brushes, card and fine tinned for weaving. Also, annealed and bright wire." This was the only factory of its kind in Hampshire County and produced 300 tons of wire annually.

Most of the present building dates from the late 19th century, with the westernmost eight bays being an early 20th century addition.

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

1794 and 1831 Town Maps. 1854 and 1860 County Maps. 1873, 1884, 1895, 1915 Atlases  
 Registry of Deeds: Bk. 130P. 84, 99-462, 44-249, 42-72, 38-350.  
 Northampton Directory: 1860, 1873-74, 1885-86.