

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	32A-48

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Picture of building

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

Town Northampton

Address 65 Market St.

Historic Name A. Wright House

Use: Original residence

Present residence

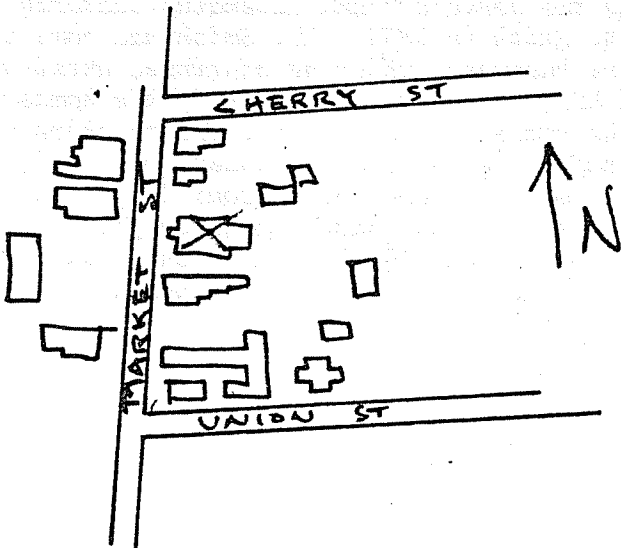
Ownership: Private individual
Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner Asa Wright (?)

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1760

Source Reg. of Deeds and visual evidence

Style Colonial

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric asphalt shingles

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) _____

front porches - C. 1900

sided- mid 20th c.

Moved --- Date _____

Approx. acreage one acre or less

Setting _____

Recorded by C. Dubie and E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date 6-3-76 and April 1980

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The house is two stories in height with ridge roof, two interior chimneys, and overhanging side gables. The symmetrical five-bay facade has a central entrance and most of the windows have six over six sashes. The entrance is covered by a two-story gabled porch with Tuscan columns and balustrade.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

This is a Colonial period house which appears to have been built for the Wright family. A deed of 1805 describes this as the homestead of Asa Wright, who had died in 1787. His eldest son Asa had taken over the homestead in the late 1780's and maintained it until 1808. The house would seem to have been built for either the father or the son.

The next owner and occupant was Seth Parsons, who lived here until his death in the early 1830's. The property, including two acres of land extending easterly from Market St. to the cemetery, was bought by Silas M. Smith in 1834. Mr. Smith had come to Northampton in 1828 and engaged in the furniture business, which he continued until his retirement in 1877. As this area was developed Mr Smith sold off over half his homestead for residential lots. By 1861 when he sold the homestead to David W. Crafts there was only 3/4 of an acre with this property. Mr. Crafts was the superintendent of the local gasworks later called the Northampton GasLight Co. He lived here until about 1870 when he moved to a house in the rear of the gas works, on a short street later named Crafts Ave. Mr. Crafts continued to own the Market St. property, at least until the end of the 19th century, and it was during this period that the house was subdivided into four tenements.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1794 and 1831 Town Maps. 1854 and 1860 County Maps. 1873, 1884, 1895, 1915 Atlases. Representative Families of Northampton, 1917, p. 179. Registry of Deeds: Bk. 200-P. 198, 71-659, 50-103, 27-527, 25-136 and 137. Registry of Probate: Box 164 No. 27.