

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Northampton

31 Graves Ave.

Historic Name L. Belding House

Original residence

Present residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Leslie Belding

Construction:

Date 1892-95

Source Reg. of Deeds and Atlas

Style

Architect

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings

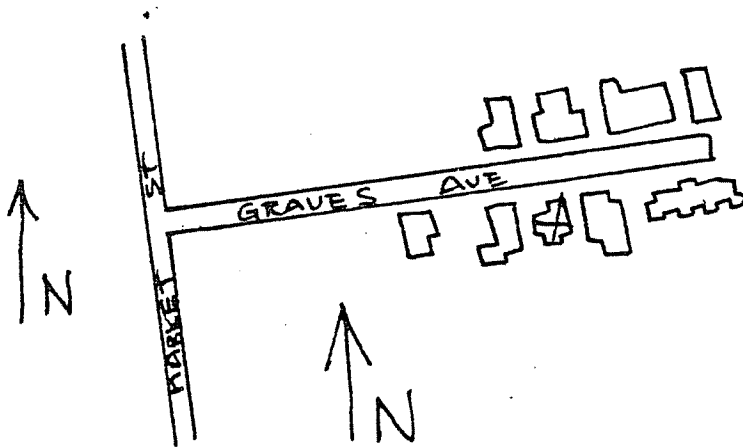
Major alterations (with dates) shingles- mid 20th c.

Moved --- Date

Approx. acreage

Setting

Location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date April 1980

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

The house is two stories in height, L-shaped and has a slate ridge roof. A one-story porch with shed roof, small gabled "Gothic" dormer, spindle frieze and turned posts occupies the crook of the L and covers the main entrance, A one-story bay window projects from the end of the front leg, while a 2½ story projection extends from the end of the side leg.

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

In 1892 Leslie Belding, proprietor of the Troy Steam Laundry on Masonic St., purchased a part of a lot on Graves Ave. This street had been opened in 1884 through the Graves homestead on Market St. and by 1895 had fourteen of the present fifteen structures erected. These covered the entire range of residential building types, leading the Gazette to proclaim this "our most citified street". This house is one of four single family houses on the street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1884 and 1895 Atlases.
- Registry of Deeds: Bk.449-P. 377.
- Northampton Directory: 1895-96.