

855

In Area no.	Form no.
	32A-134

MISSION
oston



1. Town Northampton
 Address Main and King Streets
 Name County Courthouse
 Present use Courthouse
 Present owner Hampshire County

3. Description:
 Date 1884-1886
 Source Gazette: 3/23/1886, May 4, 18, June 1, Dec 20, 1887
 Style Richardsonian "Romanesque"

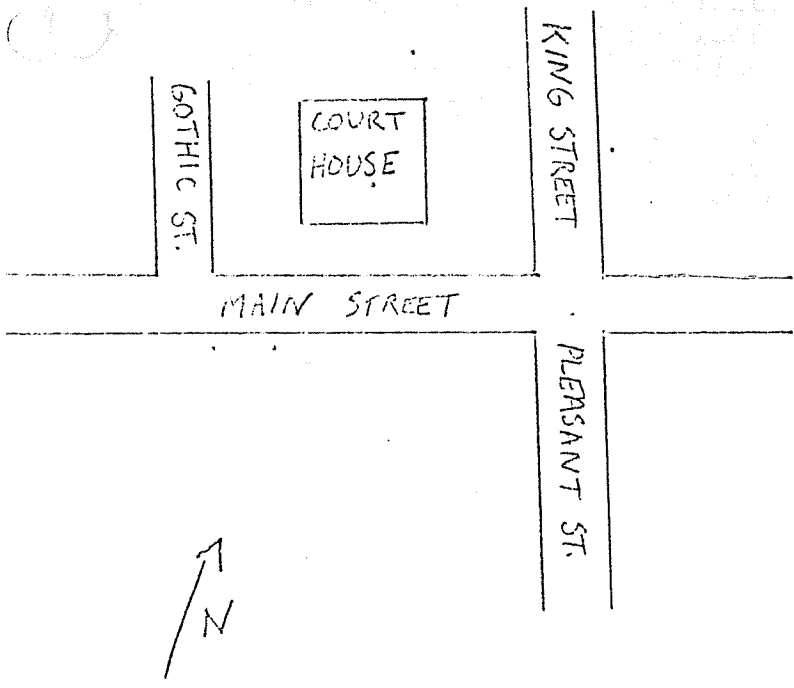
Architect Henry F. Kilbourn, N. Y. C.
 Exterior wall fabric rock faced granite ashlar with smooth brownstone trim
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features Courtroom has frescoes by F. D. Cordis of Holyoke, polished marble columns, Romanesque capitals with Celtic Carving.

Altered Rear addition Date 1974-75
in progress
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 150 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street 40 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dabie
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date April 1, 1975

Other buildings. Indicate north.



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

(over)

Original owner (if known) Hampshire County

Original use Courthouse

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates none

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

The Hampshire County Courthouse by Henry Kilbourn, 1884-86, bears a strong resemblance to H. H. Richardson's own Hampden County Courthouse of 1871-73. Back-faced granite and smooth brownstone provide contrasts in color and texture. The rigged massing and low round arches over the windows and portico indicate the influence of Richardson's work on the architect. Dark stringcourses link the window arches to provide a horizontal emphasis balancing the strong vertical of the central tower. The Courthouse is crowned with a deep tile roof with metal cresting and diminutive corners.

The first courthouse was built on this site in 1739. Court sessions were held here alternating every other year with Springfield, then part of Hampshire County. The building was replaced in 1767 by a courthouse on the west portion of the lot. In 1736, Shay's Rebellion saw its first action here when armed countrymen prevented the court from convening and passing further pay-or-jail judgments. A new house designed by Isaac Damon was erected on the site in 1822 and was leveled by fire in 1886. (There was discussion of a new courthouse in 1876 at which time local architect W. F. Pratt drew plans for an addition.) The Paul Revere bell was saved and transferred to the present courthouse and is now displayed on the second floor.

—C. Keith Wilbur

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

Daily Hampshire Gazette: February 27, 1877
 March 23, 1886
 May 4, 1887
 May 18, 1887
 June 1, 1887
 December 20, 1887