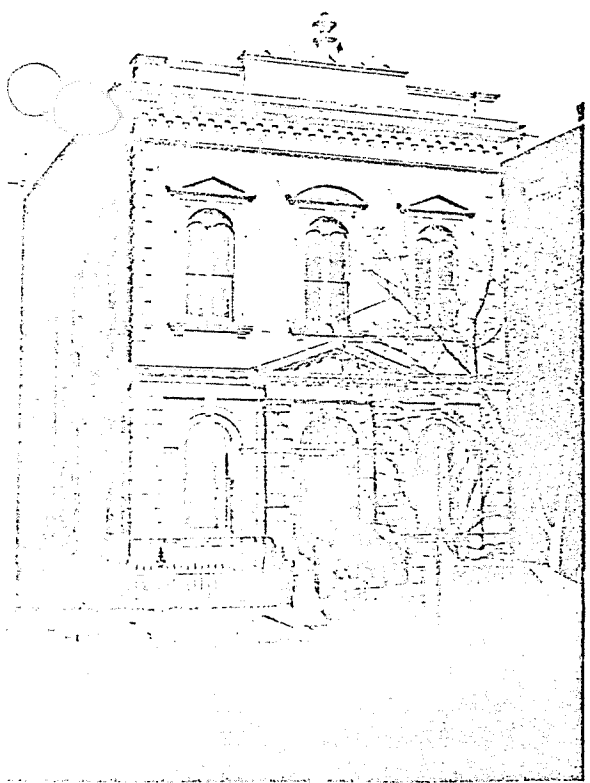


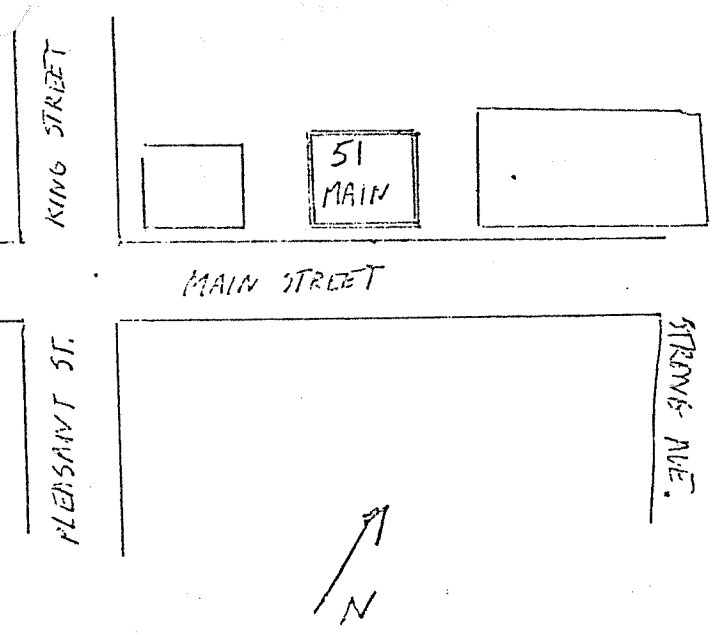
| | |
|-------------|----------|
| In Area no. | Form no. |
| | 32A-136 |

MISSION
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Other buildings. Indicate north.



1. Town Northampton
 Address 51 Main Street
 Name Smith Charities
 Present use Smith Charities
 Present owner Smith Charities

3. Description:
 Date 1865-66
 Source Gazette, December 26, 1865
 Style Victorian Renaissance
 Architect William F. Pratt
 Source: Gazette 12/26/1865
 Exterior wall fabric Brownstone ashlar

Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features gaining at corners;
Venetian lights on 2nd story;
Note cornice frieze

Altered no Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 75 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
5 feet

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

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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Smith Charities

Original use Charitable organization

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates none

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

The free-standing Smith Charities building at 51 Main Street was designed by William F. Pratt, a local architect. The building typifies the Victorian version of the Renaissance Revival (in contrast to the later revival exemplified by the Masonic block at 25 Main Street). The building is of ashlar masonry, and contains double-light Venetian windows. The corners of the building are carefully quoined and the cutting of the details is meticulous and crisp. The Victorian character of the building comes through especially in the simplification and bold scale of the detailing.

The monumental aspect of the Smith Charities building harmonizes with its purpose. Oliver Smith of Hatfield died in 1845 leaving a remarkable will, whereby indigent children and women were to receive financial assistance. Rufus Choate contested the will for Smith's unhappy relatives, but he was no match for Daniel Webster who successfully defended the will. Countless residents of Northampton have benefited from Smith's generosity.

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

Daily Hampshire Gazette, December 26, 1865;
Historical Register and General Directory of Northampton
1875-76.