

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.

858



Northampton

Address 39 Main Street

Building Name Hammond Block (formerly John T. Dewey Block)

Present use commercial

Present owner Raymond Realty Trust

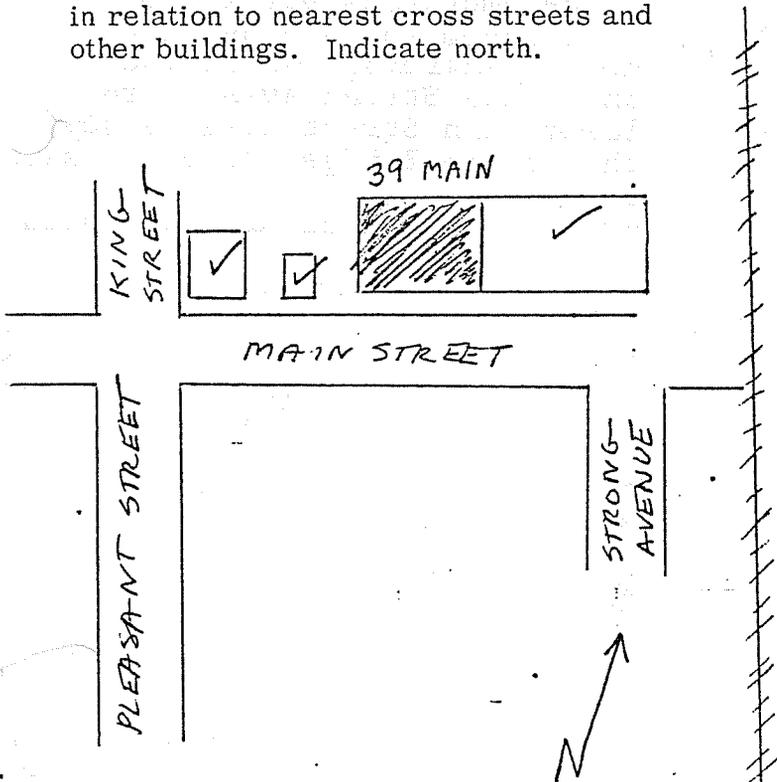
Description:

Year 1896

Source Daily Hampshire Gazette April 10, 1896

Roman Revival-Chicago School

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

Architect Benj. H Seabury of Springfield

Exterior wall fabric Tawny roman brick
 Red & tawny brick on sidewalls
 Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features metal bay windows, brown-stone trim; beautiful detailing with terra cotta capitals. Queen Anne metal bay windows
 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 _____
borders sidewalk

6. Recorded by Helen Searing, C. Dubie
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date August 15, 1975

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John T. Dewey

Original use Offices and stores

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Offices and stores

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 type="checkbox"/>				

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

This fine three story block was built for John T. Dewey and designed by a Springfield architect, Seabury, about whom little has yet been discovered. The exuberent and decorative block offers an interesting contrast with the flat facade of the 1895 Lambie Block designed by Putnam & Bayley and the ambitious brick and stone Brunswick Hotel (Plaza Theatre) designed in 1895 by Curtius Page. These three blocks were designed in anticipation of the construction of a new railroad station in the Strong Avenue area and a general reconstruction of the lower Main Street area to separate the railway tracks running north and south and the Bridge Street crossing, the scene of numerous rail accidents.

The block has been included in a proposed National Register area and, in the proposal, was described as follows:

Adjacent to the Masonic Building and sharing a party wall is the Hammond Block, 39 Main Street. It was erected two years earlier than the Masonic building, and is likewise of Roman Brick, although the tonality of the brick is deeper, golden rather than silvery beige. Polychromy is introduced on the end wall facing west where red brick is used in addition to the tawny-hued brick to create a permanent pattern. The vocabulary looks back to ancient Rome, to the simple arches of aqueducts and basilicas. Terra cotta capitals and brownstone details further enliven the surface as do the metal bay windows (a feature which relates to the Queen Anne revival of the 1870's and 1880's and which is characteristic of some of the architecture of the Chicago School), which have oxidized to a coppery green.

-Helen Searing

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Daily Hampshire Gazette, March 11, 1896; April 10, 1896.

Benjamin Hammett Seabury, architect. Office, 7, 8, & 9, Gill's Block; Residence, Florida Street. Listed in the Elite Family's Blue Book.