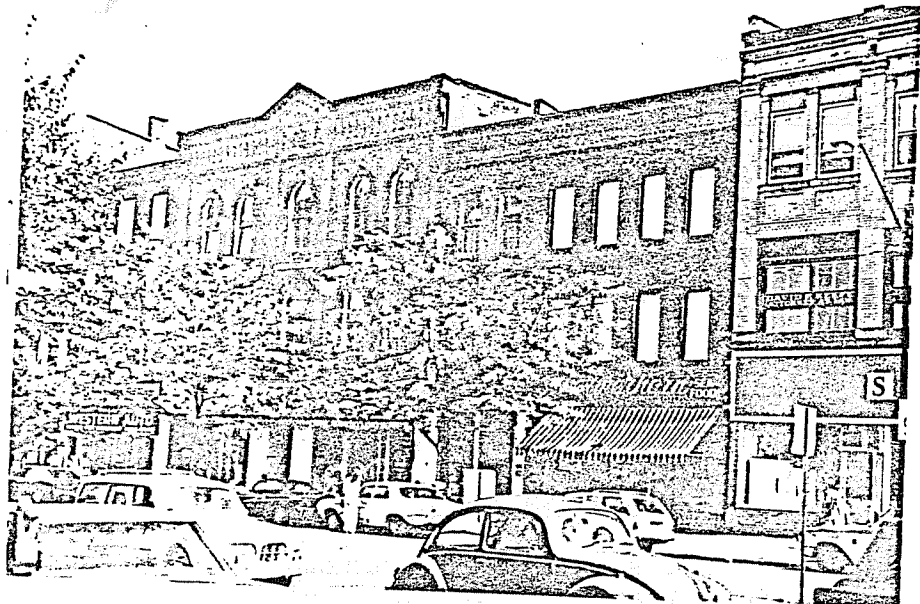


In Area no.	Form no.
	51

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



Northampton

Address 16-58 Main Street

Block, Main Street, Strong Ave

Present use Pleasant Street commercial

Present owner see reverse side

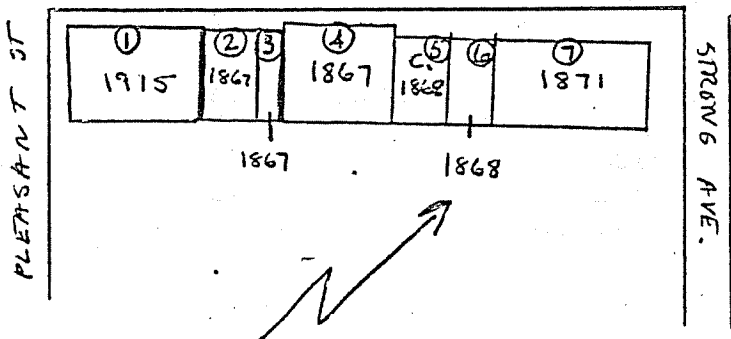
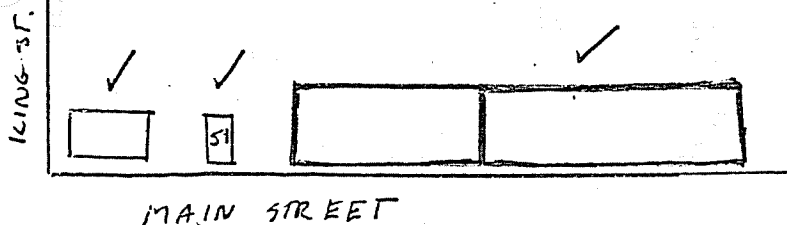
Description: 1915; 1867; 1867; 1868; 1868; 1871

Source see bibliography

Architect 1915-Classical Revival; others-Victorian Commercial various-see other side.

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

✓ inventoried property



Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features 5 brick facades of various heights and widths; stone window surrounds; fine cornices.

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less each Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 250 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 10 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical

Commission Date June 2, 1975

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

(over)

Present owners: 16-20 Main-Harry Daniels, Inc. ; 22 & 24-Allan O'Brien;
 26 & 28-D & K Realty Trust; 30 & 32-Rene De Montigny;
 36 & 40- Fine, Inc.; 40-Prolux Bros. Inc.;
 50-58-Robert Borowski

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7. Original owner (if known) various:

Original use Commercial/Hotel

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates commercial/ residential

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	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

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

The brick blocks lining the main street of Northampton between Pleasant Street and Strong Avenue are the earliest brick commercial structures in Northampton. In 1865, the block known as the Union Block was built at the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets. (This block collapsed in 1914 and was replaced by the 1915 Sherwin Block.) The Dickinson Block (4) was erected in the summer of 1867; the small building 1 bay wide (3) was erected between the Dickinson Block and the Lee & Hussey (1865) (2) Block in the same year. To the east of the Dickinson Block, the Mathewson Block was erected in 1868 (5) and a second modest block, in the same year. On the corner of Strong Avenue and Main Street, Crafts and Dawson Block, later known as the Commercial Hotel, was built in 1870-71. With stores on the ground floor and "a hotel on the European plan" occupying the 2nd and 3rd floors, the building took advantage of its proximity to the railroad depots.

Wm. F. Pratt was the architect of the now destroyed Union Block and of the Lee & Hussey Block (2) and possibly of the Dickinson Block. (Although Pratt is never mentioned in connection with the building, it is similar in some features to the Rust's Block of the same year.) J. M. Miner, native of Cleveland who practiced architecture in Northampton 1869-1872, was the architect of the hotel at the corner of Main and Strong Ave. The blunt blocky window surrounds which appear on the hotel are noticeable on his other downtown buildings, and markedly contrast the delicate treatment which Pratt accorded his commercial structures.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)
 Daily Hampshire Gazette, December 26, 1865; 5/21/67;
 7/30/67; 8/13/67; 9/3/67; 9/10/67.

Photographs of collapse of Union Block, Photograph Collection, Forbes Library.