

FORM B - BUILDING

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

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| In Area no. | Form no. |
| | 32A-168 |

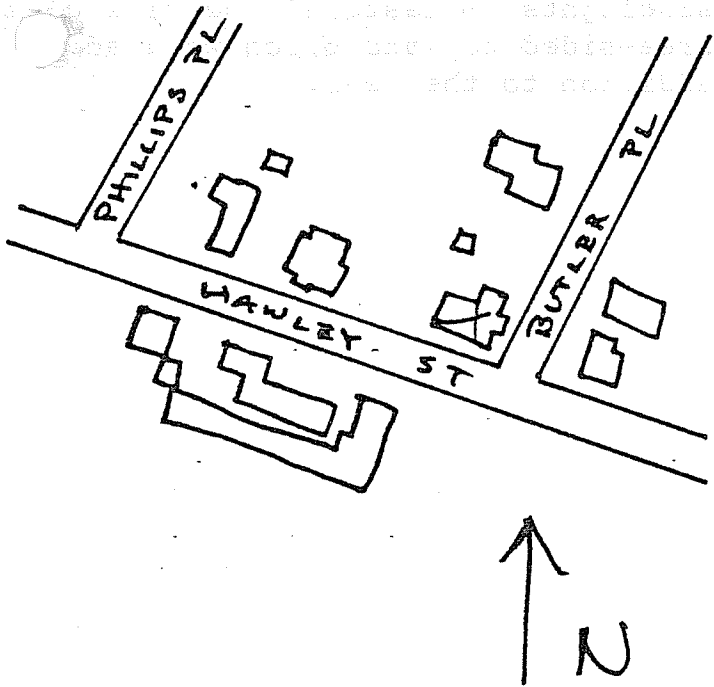
Picture already on file at MHC

- 2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

1. Town Northampton
 Address 50 Hawley St.
 Name J.H. Butler House
 Present use residence
 Present owner Mogens Hermann

3. Description:
 Date 1832
 Source Hampshire Gazette, N'on Couric
 Style Federal

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



Architect --
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) --
 Other features _____

 Altered _____ Date _____
 Moved -- Date _____

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

6. Recorded by C. Dubie and E. Lonergan
 Organization NHC
 Date June 10, 1975 and January 1980

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

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|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Community: NORTHAMPTON | Form No: 32A-168 |
| Property Name: J.H. Butler House | |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9. Historical Significance.

The current house was built by Thomas Pratt for J. Hunt Butler in 1832, replacing the c. 1796 home of his father. Mr. Pratt came from Boston in 1810 and "for a long time was the leading home architect and builder in the region". The Judge Dewey house on Elm St. (now on Smith College campus) and Judge Samuel Howe house on Prospect St. (later known as Miss Capen's School) are two fine examples of his work in town. Mr. Pratt's son, William F. Pratt, continued the family tradition and became Northampton's main architect in the second half of the 19th century.

Two and a half stories in height the house has its pedimented gable end to the street. A louvered triangular opening is situated in the tympanum. The portico sheltering the entrance is supported by paired, fluted columns, while the doorway within has sidelights, pilasters, and fine classic moldings. In the mid 19th century a three-sided bay and porch were added to the southern side, as well as a large addition to the rear.

7. Original owner (if known) J. Hunt Butler

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates --

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This is the most imposing of the three late 18th-early 19th century houses in a row on Hawley St. In 1796 Simeon Butler obtained the northern half of Quartus Pomeroy's homestead. Mr. Butler was a cousin of William Butler, the founder of the Hampshire Gazette, and opened a book-store on Shop Row the same year he established himself on Hawley St. In 1800 he was appointed the third postmaster of Northampton. The establishment of the Post Office in 1792, along with the founding of the Hampshire Gazette in 1786, marked the beginning of a new era for the community. Mr. Butler kept the Post Office in his store, and during the early 19th century increased his business "till it became the largest book and publishing house in the western half of the state".

Simeon's son, J. Hunt Butler entered into partnership with his father in 1828. After Simeon's death he continued the business alone. Mr. Butler was very active in local affairs, serving as County Treasurer from 1846 to 1850, as president of the Hampshire Mutual Insurance Co. from 1842 to 1848, as president of the Northampton Bank for ten years, and as president of the Northampton Institute for Savings. He died in 1878. The homestead was continued by his widow, Sarah M. Butler, for the rest of the 19th century. In 1891 Butler Place was opened between this house and the William Butler house, which is next south.

continued.

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

1854 and 1860 County Maps. 1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.
Antiquities, Historicals and Graduates of Northampton, S. Clark, (1882) pp 184-187.
Daily Hampshire Gazette Feb 11, 1936. p.7.
Hampshire Gazette and Northampton Courier March 12, 1878 and Aug. 31, 1886.

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