



B 32A-260

own NORTHAMPTON

street address 58 Bridge Street

name Cornet Joseph Parsons House

Use: original & present Home - now

headquarters of the Northampton Historical

Present owner Society-Museum

Northampton Historical Society

Open to public Yes

Date 1658 Style 17th c. Colonial

wing 1800

Source of date local tradition

Architect unknown

Architectural reason for inventorying:
oldest house in the town- age- style

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material concrete

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard _____
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 1Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed (Library)

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 _____ PORTICO yes- plain columns Balcony
19th c. addition

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament _____

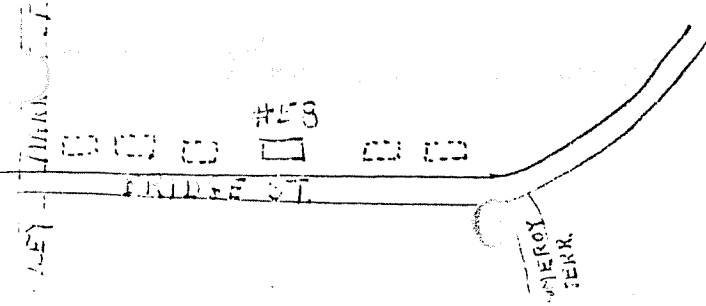
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: _____

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied _____

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards _____

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 15
Property has 60 feet frontage on street



Recorder Miriam E. Peters. Oliver W. Larkin
L. E. Wikander
For Northampton Historical Society

Photo # _____ Date 1970

SEE REVERSE SIDE

received 6/72

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

32A-260
925

- 1. Outbuildings _____
- 2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
 Predominant features oak, elm, maple trees
 Landscape architect _____
- 3. Neighboring Structures
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern
 Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

"To view Northampton architecture is to view the Northampton Historical Society's Parsons House. The house reflects the architecture of three centuries of American development. The social, economic and political changes of three centuries of national growth are manifested in the house's history- from the early witchcraft trial of Mary Parsons in 1674 to the saga of the Bliss family during the Victorian age of development. Thus, the Cornet Joseph Parsons House is truly "A house for the town".

This is the oldest house in Northampton. It contains portraits, furniture and weapons, gunsmithing and blacksmithing tools of General Seth Pomeroy, first General named by George Washington.

The first child in the settlement was born in this house. It was in the Parsons family for 4 generations. In 1807 owned by the Wright family. In 300 years it was owned by only 2 families. Miss Anna Bliss willed it to the Historical Society in 1941.

Original kitchen (17th century) and stairway.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Trumbull, James History of Northampton 2 v. 1898

Northampton Tercentenary Committee The Northampton Book k954

Bliss, Anna C. The Oldest House in Northampton: The Home of Cornet Joseph Parsons
 N.H.S. Publication

Putnam, Karl The Northampton Book Part III Chapter 17- p. 142

Daily Hampshire Gazette October 19, 1953

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Cornet Joseph Parsons

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds

Title acquired under the will of Anna Catherine Bliss, Hampshire County Case 23971, File 13, February 18, 1941.