

FORM B - BUILDING

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

NR

In Area no.	Form no.
	32C-19-21

930



Northampton

Address 7-27 Pleasant Street

Kirkland Blocks

Present use Commercial-stores &

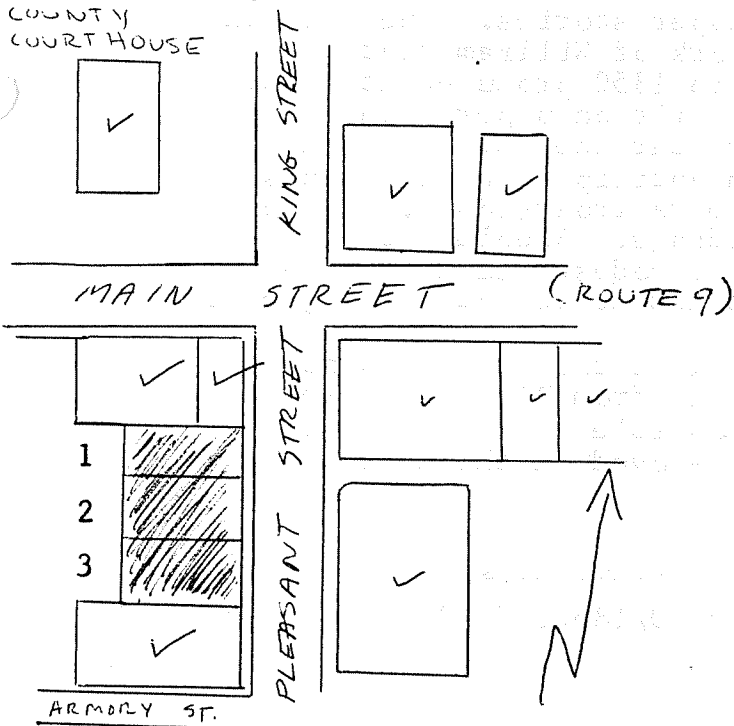
Present owner 7-11-Ferdynand Kochapski
13-23- C. Stokowski →

Options: 1-1850; 2-1850, 1865;
3-1850.

Source Hampshire Gazette; visual evidence

Style Greek Revival; Romanesque

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



Architect 1-?; 2-W. F. Pratt; 3-?

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features 2 & 3 stories; stone lintels; decorative cornices; middle block Romanesque style

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 60 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 10 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date March 15, 1976

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

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✓ other inventoried property

(over)

MAY 5 1976

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7. Original owner (if known) 1-W. F. Arnold; 2-Harvey Kirkland; 3-Tillotson.

Original use commercial-stores

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates commercial

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/	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

This group of commercial blocks is located on Pleasant Street between the Holyoke Bank Block, 1848 (corner of Main & Pleasant), and the Cook Block, 1900 (Corner of Pleasant and Armory). The blocks as a group are important elements in the street wall on Pleasant Street. Individually, the Kirkland Block is finely detailed, with Romanesque window surrounds in the third story and brickwork cornice.

It is probable that each block was originally two stories in height. Varying tones of brick and lintel are evident in the first and third blocks and the lower stories of the Kirkland block are simpler than the decorative upper stories. The portion dating from the 1860's is probably the work of William Pratt.

A rash of building activity in 1850 produced at least 6 blocks of brick construction. Two were built on upper Main Street near the then new Town Hall; four rose near the intersection of Main and Pleasant Streets, probably in anticipation of business opportunities to be offered by the railroad (1845). These were the first substantial commercial buildings. Arnold, Kirkland, and Tillotson were typical merchants of modest means who resided in neighborhoods like Phillips Place and Center Street adjacent to the downtown.

For many years the first block of the group has had no ground floor and has served as a passageway from Pleasant Street to the area behind Main Street. It is possible that this block is structurally unsound and will be removed in the near future.

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

Hampshire Gazette, 4/30/1850, 7/23/1850, 9/24/1850.