

FORM B - BUILDING

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

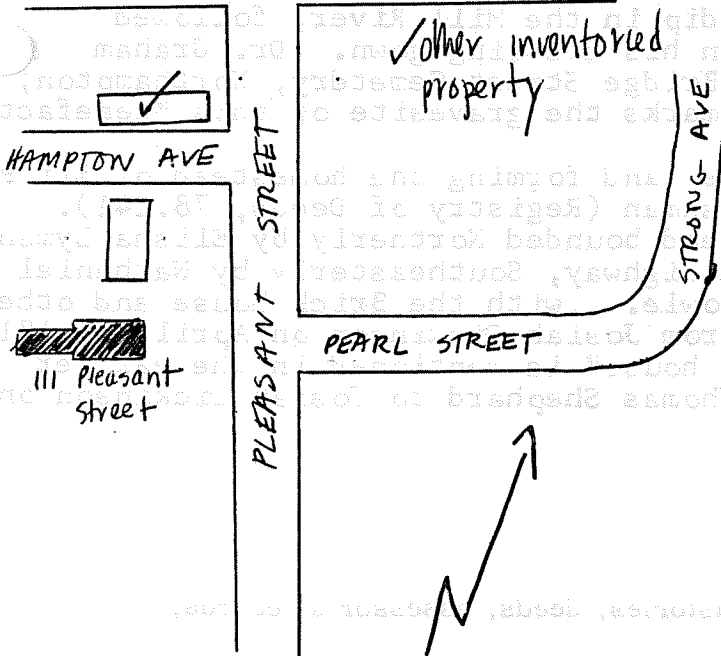
NR 935

In Area no.	Form no.
	32C-57



Northampton
 Address 111 Pleasant Street
 Name Sylvester Graham House
 Present use Artist's studio 1st floor;
clothing shop 2nd floor
 Present owner David E. and
Peter E. Griswald
 Description:
c. 1800
 Source Registry of Deeds
Federal with numerous alterations

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



Architect unknown
 Exterior wall fabric brick
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features Granite block foundation,
two end chimneys, plain brick corners
 Altered roof French roof replaced gabled Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 50 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
15 feet

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____ **RECEIVED**

6. Recorded by C. Keith Wilbur
 Organization Northampton Historical
 Commission
 Date April 15, 1975

SEP 30 1975 (over)

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Original owner (if known) possibly Thomas Shephard

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Stores, Northampton Junior College

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 type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input checked="" 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)

Dr. Sylvester Graham (1794-1851). Scientist, food faddist and lecturer, vegetarian and follower of the Temperance Movement, fresh air addict. Graham recommended that people eat whole wheat bread, avoid meat, and take cold showers. His invention of the Graham Cracker won him national fame in spite of the many who disputed his views.

The cracker inventor bought this house in 1836 and lived there until his death in 1851. He was quite an eccentric about town, taking an early morning dip in the Mill River, followed by a stroll down Main Street in his dressing gown. Dr. Graham died in 1851 and is buried in Bridge Street Cemetery, Northampton; a plain thick sandstone shaft marks the gravesite of this "benefactor of mankind."

Graham purchased "all the land forming the homestead of Eli P. Ashman" from George and Lewis Ashman (Registry of Deeds, 78.141). Ashman had acquired "the homestead bounded Northerly by Elisha Lyman, deceased, Northeasterly by the Highway, Southeasterly by Nathaniel Fowle, Southwesterly by said Fowle...with the Brick house and other buildings standing thereon," from Josiah Dickinson on April 15, 1817, for \$3300 (27.64). The "Brick house" is mentioned in the earlier deed conveying the land from Thomas Shephard to Josiah Dickinson on January 10, 1806 (23.497).

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

- The Northampton Book, p. 102-107.
- Daily Hampshire Gazette, December 17, 1973, p. 3.
- Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, 78.141, 27.64, 23.497,