

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

24D-311	Easthampton		NTH.357
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Town: Northampton

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 76 Bancroft Road

Historic Name: Richard Rice House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1915-1922

Source: Atlases and Directory

Style/Form: Prairie Style

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stucco surface

Wall/Trim: clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

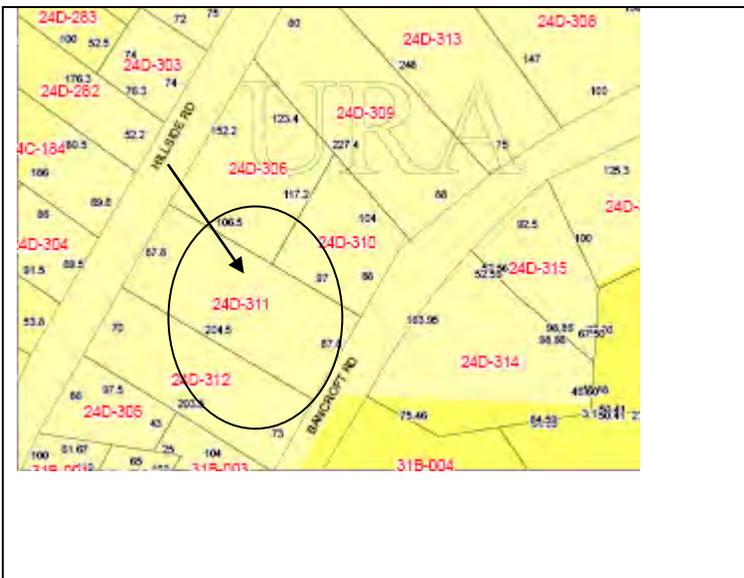
Condition: good

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 0.407 acres

Setting: This house occupies a hillside lot that slopes steeply down to the west. It is a richly landscaped lot.

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Bonnie Parsons

Organization: PVPC

Date (*month / year*): March, 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

[NORTHAMPTON]

[76 BANCROFT ROAD]

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This is a two-and-a-half story Prairie style house with a hipped roof and center chimney. The wide eaves overhang of the roof is supported by Italian Renaissance style brackets at its cornice. The main block of the house is four bays wide and two bays deep and has the off-center entry favored by the Prairie style. An Italianate flat roof entry porch rests on slim, paired Doric columns. There is a hipped roof wing on the north elevation with a corner porch supported on a single Doric column. Sash in the house is 6/2. There is one small front-gable dormer centered on the roof. This is an uncommon style in Northampton, which suggests that it may be architect-designed.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

From the 1980 Form B: "Bancroft Avenue (originally known as Third Avenue) was laid out in its present form in 1885. A road somewhat similar in orientation had existed since the early 19th century, but was probably much gentler in slope. Development was slow on the street and the 1915 map only shows three houses on the upper portions of the street, east of Crescent Street. This house doesn't appear on that map, but is listed in the 1922 directory. The owner was Richard Rice, a professor of English language and literature at Smith College. "

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, F. W. County Atlas of Hampshire Massachusetts, New York, 1873.

Hales, John G. Plan of the Town or Northampton in the County of Hampshire, 1831.

Miller, D. L. Atlas of the City of Northampton and Town of Easthampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, 1895.

Walker, George H. and Company. Atlas of Northampton City, Massachusetts, Boston, 1884.

Walling, Henry F. Map of Hampshire County, Massachusetts, New York, 1860.

Northampton Directories, 1915 and 1922.

Registry of Deeds: Book 466 Page 387; Book 165 Page 529; Book 149 Page 311.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

[NORTHAMPTON]

[76 BANCROFT ROAD]

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Area(s) Form No.

NTH.357

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible only in an historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Bonnie Parsons

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Rice House would contribute to a potential historic district that extends north of Northampton's primary corridor, Elm Street, encircling and encompassing the primary feature of that landscape, Round Hill. The potential historic district is significant for its 19th century development from a few gentlemen's farms to a neighborhood dense with the homes of its most prominent residents and educational institutions that shaped the character of Northampton for several hundred years to the present. Richard Rice as a Smith College professor was part of that important educational history that shaped the character of Northampton.

Architecturally the potential historic district is significant for the mix of high style late Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne style houses that were often architect-designed by the region's most well-known designers. This well-preserved house is a rare example of the Prairie style and reflects the progressive architectural thinking of many of the residents of Northampton. The potential historic district has integrity of workmanship, feeling, setting, design and materials.