

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23A-196	Easthampton		NTH.220
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**Town:** Northampton

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*) Florence

## Photograph



**Address:** 43 Beacon Street

**Historic Name:** Kate Coughlin House

**Uses:** Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

**Date of Construction:** 1882-1884

**Source:** Registry of Deed and atlas

**Style/Form:** Italianate

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: clapboards

Roof: slate and asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Carriage barn

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Wing added ca. 2000.

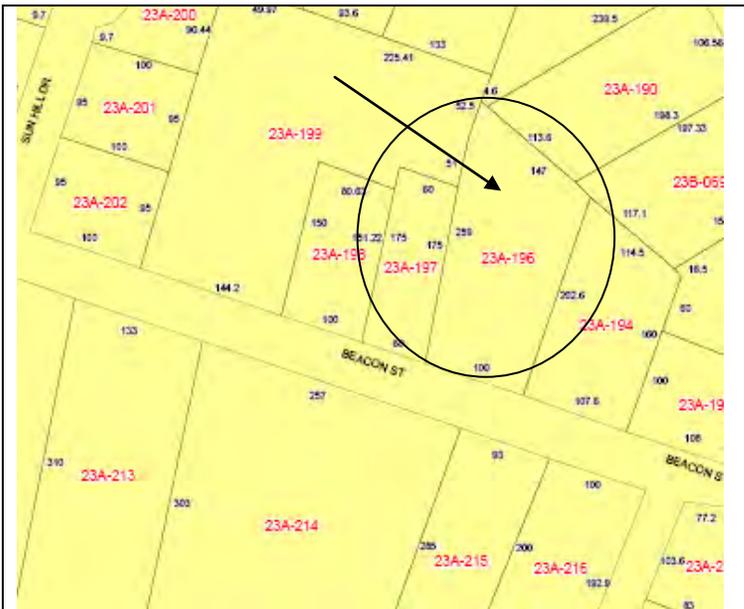
**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no | x | yes | | **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 0.635 Acres

**Setting:** House is on a wooded lot, facing south. It is set back from the street.

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Bonnie Parsons

**Organization:** PVPC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

[NORTHAMPTON]

[43 BEACON STREET]

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

NHT.220

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.*

The Kate Coughlin House takes a form that was popular during the Italianate style period. It is two-and-a-half stories high under a side-gable roof on which is centered a transverse gable. A pair of chimneys rise from the center section of the roof. Wide boxed eaves have paired Italianate brackets on all elevations. The house is only three bays wide but proportions are large. The center entry is sheltered by an Italianate style porch supported on chamfered posts that have arched braces at the eaves. A railing tops the porch providing a second story porch entered by a second story door. Windows are paired on the first story and have 2/1 sash and shallow hooded lintels. The clapboard-sided house has a visually active surface divided by double stringcourses between stories. There is a one-and-a-half story wing on the east that has an exterior wall chimney. A vertically-sided carriage house follows the elevation of the main house by being side-gabled with a centered transverse gable. It has an arched window in the transverse gable and a cupola centered on its roof.

## 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 Form B of 1976, "This was one of the earliest houses built on Beacon Street. The street had been laid out during the 1860s, but was primarily the private domain of George Burr, one of Florence's leading industrialists who had bought 8 1/2 acres on both sides of the street in 1868. In 1882 Kate Coughlin bought a lot east of Burr's homestead and had this house built. At the end of the year she sold the lot and house to John B. O'Donnell, one of Northampton's first mayors and a real estate developer. Miss Coughlin continued to live in the house, however. "

## 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.  
Registry of Deeds: Book 253. Page 217.  
Sheffield, Charles (ed.) History of Florence, Florence, 1895.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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[43 BEACON STREET]

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**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 Coughlin House would contribute to a Beacon Street Historic District developed and resided in by some of Florence’s leading industrialists in the 1860s-1910s. It represents the shift in Florence from neighborhoods that mixed mill workers’ housing with mill owners’ housing of the first half of the century to that of neighborhoods of economically-similar residents with, in this case, large lots, grand homes set back from a broad street.

Architecturally, the district is significant for its range of high style homes and a church in the Stick Style, Italianate, Queen Anne and Tudor Revival styles. Further research would indicate which among them were architect-designed, as many certainly were. The Coughlin House is a particularly fine Italianate style house that has been well-preserved.