

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	249

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

Town North Adams

Address 39-53 Montana Street

Historic Name The Boardman

Use: Present apartments

Original apartments

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1899/1901

Source building permits

Style Colonial Revival

Architect Edwin Thayer Barlow

Exterior wall fabric stone, brick, aluminum siding

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

aluminum siding added over clapboard on second story only (mid 20th century)

Moved no Date N/A

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting This building occupies an entire residential block facing North Adams State College to the east. On the west and north sides are late 19th century residential buildings. On the south side are modern apartments.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date July 1985

North Adams Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 18/655120/4728180

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Boardman holds architectural significance as an unusual design by the city's most important resident architect, Edwin T. Barlow. The block-long building, essentially Colonial Revival in style, is composed of nine rowhouses. At the time of its construction at the turn of the century, it was the most elaborately detailed multi-family dwelling in North Adams. The building was constructed with a first story of brick and granite facin and a second story sheathed in clapboard (the upper portion of the building is now covered with aluminum siding). A slate-covered gable roof caps the structure, punctuated by four front-facing gables and multiple dormers. Two octagonal corner towers frame the building

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.) (Continuation)

The Boardman is the finest example of rowhousing constructed for the middle class in N. Ada. It was built in 1899-1901 by developer and hardware merchant Walter Penniman and his wife, Susan Boardman Penniman. The area south of the town center on which the building stands was part of the F. R. Blackinton Estate until 1887, when it was first subdivided into building lots.

The Pennimans purchased the southern half of the lot on Montana Street in 1898 and obtained a building permit for four tenements one year later. The northern portion of the Boardman, consisting of five additional units, was not constructed until 1901.

Each unit has its own porches on both the front and rear, as well as servants' quarters on the third floor. Most units also have front and back stairs, further indication of the social status of the building's intended occupants. Originally, there were commercial gardens behind the building (now a parking lot). The professions of some of the early tenants varied. Included were two teachers, a chemist, the supervisor of Barber Leather Company, the editor and owner of the North Adams Transcript, and a mason contractor. Mr. and Mrs. Penniman also lived here for a time.

When the Boardman was constructed this was one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in North Adams, spurred in part by the construction of the State Normal School on Church Street in 1896. The school (which has since become North Adams State College) (Continuation)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Building permits, North Adams City Hall. --
Directory for the City of North Adams, 1903.
Map of the City of North Adams, Mass., D. L. Miller, 1900 --
Atlas of Berkshire County, Mass., Barnes and Farnham, Pittsfield, 1904
Research on Edwin Thayer Barlow by Miss Ruth Browne, North Adams, Mass.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: North Adams	Form No: 249
Property Name: The Boardman	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, Continued

Each residential unit is fronted by a porch of granite block with Tuscan columns supporting a shed roof. Entrances are recessed behind round-arched openings, also composed of granite blocks. Several of the entrances are flanked by oval windows.

While architectural details on the second story are obscured by synthetic siding, the building's gables retain simple vergeboarding, and eaves are bracketed. The front gables project slightly from the main facade.

The Boardman's designer, E. T. Barlow, was a native of Troy, New York, and graduated from Cornell University's School of Architecture in 1891. Between 1892 and 1895, he worked as a draftsman for H. Neil Wilson, an important Pittsfield, Mass., architect. During those years, Wilson designed several important buildings in North Adams. This no doubt introduced Barlow to the city, which at that time lacked a distinguished resident designer.

Barlow's first known design in North Adams is the Johnson School of 1895. Other Barlow designs in this area include the Dowlin Block on Main Street (1902, in the Monument Square Historic District), the Mary Cady House on Cherry Street (1914, in the Church Street-Cady Hill Historic District), the O'Brien Building on Union Street (1896-1897) and St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Williamstown (1896) as well as the since demolished Flaherty Block, which stood on the corner of Center and Lincoln Streets in North Adams (1896). At the same time, Barlow worked in New York City with the firm of Carrere and Hastings on the design and construction of the New York Public Library (1895-1902).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, Continued

has recently expanded west to the east side of Montana Street, directly opposite the Boardman.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Boardman, a well-built Colonial Revival-style rowhouse, retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. Designed by a well-known local architect to serve North Adams' turn-of-the-century middle class, the building fulfils Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9/2/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name North Adams MRA
State Berkshire Co., MASSACHUSETTS

Cover accept 10/25/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Monument Square Historic District (B.I) | Substantive Review | Keeper | _____ | <u>RT</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 2. | Church Street-Caddy Hill Historic District (B.I) | Entered in the National Register | <u>JK</u> Keeper | <u>Shelton Byers</u> | <u>10/25/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 3. | Blackinton Historic District | Entered in the National Register | <u>JK</u> Keeper | <u>Shelton Byers</u> | <u>10/25/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 4. | Freeman's Grove Historic District | Entered in the National Register | <u>JK</u> Keeper | <u>Shelton Byers</u> | <u>10/25/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 5. | Normal School Historic District | Entered in the National Register | <u>JK</u> Keeper | <u>Shelton Byers</u> | <u>10/25/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 6. | Armstrong House | Entered in the National Register | <u>JK</u> Keeper | <u>Shelton Byers</u> | <u>10/25/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 7. | Arnold Print Works | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Shelton Byers</u> | <u>10.25.85</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 8. | Boardman (The) | Entered in the National Register | <u>JK</u> Keeper | <u>Shelton Byers</u> | <u>10/25/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 9. | Browne, Charles, House | Entered in the National Register | <u>JK</u> Keeper | <u>Shelton Byers</u> | <u>10/25/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |
| 10. | Crowley House | Entered in the National Register | <u>JK</u> Keeper | <u>Shelton Byers</u> | <u>10/25/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | |

85003403

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Boardman (The) (North Adams MRA)
Bershire County
MASSACHUSETTS

SEP 12 1985

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 10/10/85 - 10/27/85

Entered in the National Register Action: ACCEPT 10-25-85

_____ RETURN _____

_____ REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check one	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



The Boardman
39-53 Montana St.
North Adams, ^{MA} Mass.
Detail, east elevation.
Photo by R.Reed, 1983.
Negative at NAHC



The Boardman
39-53 Montana St.
North Adams, Mass.
Northeast view.
Photo by R. Reed, 1983.
Negative at NAHC

The Boardman
39-53 Montana Street
North Adams, Mass.
North Adams MRA

Sketch Map



