

WALTER L. STEVENS
LAWYER
39 MAIN STREET
NORTHAMPTON MASSACHUSETTS

(2)

it is located. It may be that you will be able to tell. It doesn't seem to me that it can be the Common unless the town sold off portions at a later date, which doesn't seem probable.

I also enclose rough drawings of the Common as shown on the maps of 1860 and 1873— though I do not think these are of any particular interest.

It occurs to me that the Common may have been laid out as a highway. It was the common practice in olden times to lay out a broad highway in the center of the town on some part of which the Meeting House was erected, and the land was used as a training field, and for other public purposes. Sometime ago I had occasion to look up the records in Northampton of the land where the Court House and church stand. I found that the Main Street here was originally a wide street extending from shop row almost back to what is now the front of the Hampshire Gazette building and Mr. Fitts' store. The old First Church stood well out in the street; farther front than it stands now, and was apparently located in about the center of the highway. The land covered by the Court House lot, the Northampton Institution for Savings and the front part of the present First Church lot, was all at one time a part of the highway. With this in mind I