

FORM B - BUILDING

475

Area	Form no.
	31A-67

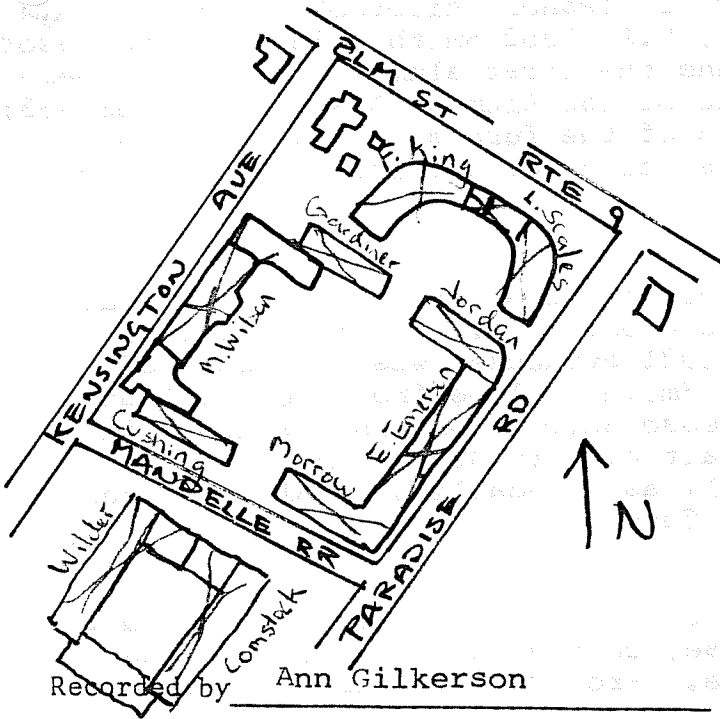
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Town Northampton
 Address Smith Campus
 Historic Name The Quadrangle
 Use: Original dormitory
 Present dormitory
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Smith College
 Public
 Original owner Smith College

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1922-36
 Source Smith College Archives
 Style Neo-Georgian
 Architect Ames Putnam and Dodge of Boston
 Exterior wall fabric brick
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) _____
 Moved --- Date _____
 Approx. acreage _____
 Setting _____

Recorded by Ann Gilkerson
 Organization NHC
 Date March 28, 1977

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 31A-6.
Property Name: The Quadrangle	

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

Historical and Architectural Significance

As the focal point of the Quad ensemble, Martha Wilson House, slightly elevated by a short flight of steps, is surmounted by a bell tower with massive white cupola adorned with decorative Grecian urn forms. The rectilinear tower projects forward in the center of the facade; at its base is a sound arched entryway.

Exterior facades of all six houses are much less articulated, with the exception of Ellen Emerson House; with the remainder of the group, the street entrance is situated centrally between the first and second floors; each consists of two attenuated columns which support a slender porch roof and frame a fanlight above the single doorway. Most of the houses also exhibit rectangular wrought iron balconies at the third floor level, which also serves to focus attention on the main entrance below.

Cushing House

Opened in 1922, this dormitory at the southwestern corner of the Great Quadrangle was named in honor of Eleanor Philbrook Cushing, B.A. 1879 Smith (first graduating class), M.A. 1882 Smith. She was professor of Mathematics at Smith 1881-1922 (and the first alumae to become a member of the faculty); First President of the Alumnae Association 1881-83; Professor Emeritus 1922-25. Certain of the furnishings were given by the Class of '92 and their daughters, to honor a beloved teacher and class officer.

Jordan House

Situated at the southeast corner of the Great Quad opposite Cushing, Jordan opened in 1922. Mary Augusta Jordan, B.A. 1876, M.A. 1878, Vassar; L.H.D., 1910 Smith; Ph.D., 1921 Syracuse; was professor of English Languages and Literature at Smith College from 1884-1921 and Professor Emeritus 1921-41. A professorship in English is named in her honor. Inside the house is a portrait of Mary A. Jordan, done by Elizabeth Telling, Smith '04, as well as a medallion by Alice Morgan Wright, Smith '04, presented by the faculty.

Ellen Emerson House

Located across from Martha Wilson House and parallel and adjacent to Paradise Road, Ellen Emerson House, completed in 1922, occupies the southern end of the Great Quadrangle. From Concord, Mass., Ellen Emerson (Mrs. Charles Milton Davenport) graduated B.L. 1901, M.A. 1904 from Smith. She was a granddaughter of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Her achiev-

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Historical and Architectural Significance

ments include: one of the first social workers at Mass. General Hospital, Boston, 1906-10; President of the Alumnae Association 1911-13; Associate Director of the Smith College Relief Unit in France, 1919; Chairman of the Smith War Service Board, 1921; and Alumnae Trustee, 1916-21.

Morrow House

Completed in 1926, Morrow lies at the northwestern corner of the Great Quad. This house was named for Elizabeth Reeve Cutter Morrow, Smith '96, in whose memory Cutter House is also dedicated. Among other accomplishments, she served as President of the Alumnae Association, 1917-20; Alumnae Trustee, 1920-26; Trustee, 1926; and Chairman of the 50th Birthday Gift Committee. A Library of Poets was donated to the house from her friends.

Gardiner House

Gardiner was opened in 1926, at the northeast corner of the Great Quad, opposite Morrow House. Henry Norman Gardiner (B.A. 1878, M.A. 1888 Amherst, L.H.D. 1924 Smith) was professor of philosophy at Smith 1886-1924; Professor Emeritus 1924-27; first Secretary and Treasurer of the American Philosophical Society; and a contributor to the "Philosophical Review" and the "Psychological Review".

Martha Wilson House

Dominating the northern end of the Great Quadrangle, the clock and bell towered Martha Wilson House, finished in 1926, completes the original Quad layout. Martha Wilson (B.L. 1895 Smith) was President of the Alumnae Association 1905-09; Trustee of the Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago; Founder of the Central Council of Nursing Education. In the tower is the original College Hall bell given by Mrs. Seelye and later removed to accommodate the chimes.

Mandelle Quadrangle

Composed of Comstock and Wilder Houses, the Mandelle Quad was built in 1929-30, designed by Ames, Putnam and Dodge, and made possible by a bequest from Mary S. Mandelle of Detroit. The two neo-Georgian style houses face onto Mandell Road; the symmetrical facade which unites this smaller Quad with the much larger Great Quad, immediately to the east. Organized around a central courtyard, Comstock and Wilder present mirror images in plan, three story elevation, and style. Each is a simple "L" shaped plan, whose short arms are united under a pediment and cupola to create a continuous facade. The small courtyard thus created is bounded on its fourth side by a two story stucco kitchen building, whose interior is fronted in the interior by a one story, round arched brick arcade.

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Historical and Architectural Significance

Typically Georgian Revival are the contrasts between planar red brick walls and white wooden sash windows, set in a symmetrical pattern. Detailing, especially on the facade, is also inspired by 18th century English classical revival tradition: attenuated white marble and wood columns and pilasters flanking the central entryway; Sir Christopher Wren round windows, dentilled cornices, and a towering weathervaned, white wooden cupola.

At the center of the facade, the arched main entrance is approached by a wooden stairway. A stuccoed barrel vault, flanked by columns and pilasters, directs space along the main axis from the exterior to the inner courtyard; the entrances to the two houses face each other, bisecting the barrel vaulted corridor. Directly above the facade entryway at the second and third floor levels is a projecting semi-circular white wooden oriel window; this same slightly apsidial form is reflected on the other side of the facade (facing onto the courtyard) as well.

Less highly articulated are the exterior side wall surfaces; two subsidiary first floor entryways are marked (on the south side of Comstock and the north side of Wilder) by pedimented doorways flanked by attenuated columns or by simple round arch motifs, slightly inset yet integral portions of the brick wall fabric.

Comstock House

Named for Ada Louise Comstock, first Dean and a graduate (1897) of Smith; she was also President of Radcliff College (1923-43).

Wilder House

Harris Hawthorne and Inez Whipple Wilder were connected with the Smith Department of Zoology, and Professor (1892-1928). Mrs. Wilder (Ph.D. 1900 Brown, M.A. 1904 Smith) was an author and Professor of Zoology 1902-1929.

Laura Scales-Franklin King Houses

Completed in 1936 by Ames, Putnam, and Dodge, this final segment of the Neo-Georgian styled Quadrangle is flanked by Elm St. and the Great Quad. In plan a great semi-circular exedral shape, the two contiguous houses (King to the north, Scales to the south) are bisected by a central axis which divides the curving whole into two mirror images in elevation, style and plan.

The main body of the two buildings is three stories in elevation, while the center and both end of the half circle are raised an additional story. An octagonal cupola capped by a weathervane surmounts the exact

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Historical and Architectural Significance

center of the pitched roof, thereby defining the strong horizontal axis which also bisect the center of the Great and Mandelle Quads, while simultaneously visually uniting the three units.

Typically Georgian Revival in materials, massing, and decorative details, the two houses exhibit a panoply of fanlights, circular windows, urns, Doric and Ionic pilasters, and other classicizing details, usually executed in white painted wood. Taut red brick walls are pierced at regular intervals by white molded sash windows above and round arched or Palladian windows below.

On the Elm St. facade, the centrally situated, identical main entrances are flanked by fluted Doric columns, surmounted by a fanlight, a wrought iron balcony, and a Palladian window. The central vertical axis is further articulated by engaged, two story pilasters which define the second and third stories of the raised mid section.

Much more decorated is the interior section of the curved quad, which sweeps into the Great Quad by means of a balustraded stone staircase. At the front floor level, a one story row of pilasters alternates with round arched, multipaned windows. The four story central section is articulated by a pair of adjacent, almost semi-circular gables at roof level. Below, two story Ionic pilasters enframe more elaborate rectangular sash windows. The raised pavilion at the west end of each house is defined by an engaged broken pediment above, and two story engaged pilaster below. Each house has two subsidiary entryways facing onto the Great Quad which are more elaborate than those of the street side. Small apses at the first floor level jut out near the terminal end of each house; these projections define the living room bay windows.

On the interior, both houses display wallpaper with scenes from Northampton's history at the first floor level.

Laura Scales House

Laura Woolsey Lord Scales (B.L. 1901 Smith, L.H.D. 1931 Smith, Litt. D. 1939 Dartmouth) was the first warden at Smith (1922-24); among her other achievements are: Museum Instructor, Boston Museum of Fine Arts (1913-1920); First Dean of Women, Carnegie Institute of Technology (1920-1922); and Warden Emeritus of Smith (1944-).

Franklin King House

Named in honor of the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds at Smith, Franklin King House commemorates Mr. King's 50 years of service to the College, 1887-1937. He was made an honorary member of the Alumnae Association in 1925.

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HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In all Quad buildings, the four story elevation includes attic space as well as semi-contiguous basement space which connects some of the dormitories. The ground floor of each house is reserved for dining and living rooms, faculty and head resident living quarters, and smaller social areas. Upper floors are devoted to student quarters.

Red brick is the dominant building material used in the Quad; white painted wood is used for window moldings, dentilled cornices, bay windows and Georgian decorative details, such as pilaster, urns, and slender unfluted columns. Off white stucco covers the brick of the lower wings of Ellen Emerson and Martha Wilson Houses. Wooden roofs are covered in grey slate shingles, copper sheathes dormer and porch roofs. White marble, laid in thin strips, is employed as a continuous string course above the first floor level on the interior of the Great Quadrangle.

The Great Quadrangle

Placed around the central square courtyard, the six houses are arranged in two groups of three contiguous units, each of which forms a blocky "U" shape. The southern unit (Cushing, Ellen Emerson and Jordan) was completed in 1922 with part of the College's \$4,000,000 Fund. To the north, Morrow, Martha Wilson and Gardiner Houses opened in 1926, constructed with alumnae funds which commemorated the College's Golden Anniversary.

The six houses on the Quad display rigid symmetry in exterior facade arrangement, both individually and as a group. Plans of Cushing and Jordan Houses are identical; these two dormitories set parallel to each other are mirror images reflected across the primary directional axis of approach from Ellen Emerson to Martha Wilson. The same relationship exists between Morrow and Gardiner Houses.

Ellen Emerson and Martha Wilson Houses are the endpoints of the main axial thrust; they are not identical in plan, yet each is composed in a symmetrical fashion of a four story central brick section flanked by lower stucco wings which link them to the other four Great Quad houses.

Ellen Emerson House is pierced centrally at the ground floor level by a round arched entryway consisting of a colonnaded barrel vault which leads to the Quad interior. Two entryways to the house itself are placed to either side of the center of this low passageway.

On the interior of the Quad, the entrances to Cushing, Jordan, Morrow and Gardiner Houses are all basically the same: a shallowly inset porch, surmounted by a stuccoed cross vault and fronted by a Palladian three arch arcade. The exterior ends of these four houses are articulated further by the application of projecting rectangular and semi-circular bay windows which reflect the terminations of the second and third floor corridors within.

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

see below

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

Neo-Georgian in style, the ten dormitory buildings which comprise the Quadrangle are arranged in imitation of the rigid axial ensembles of buildings and enclosed squares found among 18th century English colleges. All were designed by the Boston firm of Ames, Putnam and Dodge, and built between 1922 and 1936. Constructed on a large rectangular area of land bounded by Elm St., Paradise Road, Mandelle Road, and Kensington Ave., this pre-planned residential area accommodates nearly one-third of all Smith students living on campus. Three groups of buildings encompass the whole: the Great Quad, the first six dormitories built 1922-26 (Cushing, Ellen Emerson, Jordan, Gardiner, Martha Wilson and Morrow Houses); the Mandelle Quad, 1929-30 (Comstock and Wilder); and, finally, in 1935-36, Franklin King and Laura Scales Houses. Two balustraded stairways at opposite ends of the Great Quadrangle link the smaller rectangular Mandelle Quad and the larger semi-circular curve of the Franklin King-Laura Scales structure in a cross-axis which perpendicularly bisect the main axial thrust of the Great Quad, which extends through the arched entryway of Ellen Emerson to the dominating cupola atop Martha Wilson House.

Georgian Revival elements common to all buildings include a generally box-like massing, steeply pitched roofs with narrow rectangular chimneys, and rectangular or pedimented dormer windows. A typically Georgian organization in terms of strict facade symmetry is preserved through rectangular fenestration coupled with centrally situated entry areas. Fenestration generally takes the form of rectangular double-hung sash windows, single round arched or Palladian tripartite loggias usually serve as focal points in the ground floor entry areas of the Quad interior.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continued.

Smith College Archives.

