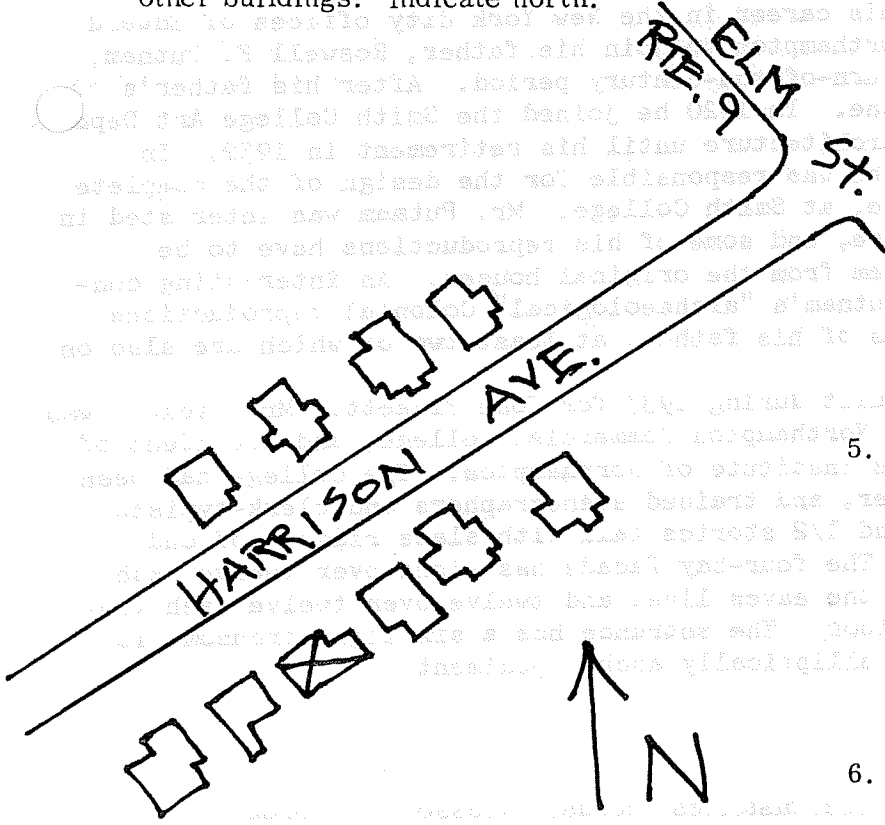


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



City Northampton
 Address 42 Harrison Avenue
 Name J. Pickett House
 Present use residence
 Present owner _____
 Description: _____
 Date 1937-38
 Source Directory
 Style Colonial Revival

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Karl S. Putnam
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features _____
 Altered --- Date _____
 Moved --- Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage _____
 Approximate distance of building from street
25'

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan
 Organization NHC
 Date March 1980

(over)

Original owner (if known) John C. Pickett

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		_____
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This is one of two adjacent houses on Harrison Ave. constructed from designs of Karl Putnam. Mr. Putnam was a prominent local architect of the first half of the 20th century, who began his career in the New York City offices of Edward Tilton, and about 1910 returned to Northampton to join his father, Roswell F. Putnam, a well-known local architect of the turn-of-the-century period. After his father's death Karl continued the practice alone. In 1920 he joined the Smith College Art Department, and was in charge of teaching architecture until his retirement in 1952. In conjunction with John Ames of Boston he was responsible for the design of the complete dormitory system, called the Quadrangle, at Smith College. Mr. Putnam was interested in the subtleties of Colonial architecture, and some of his reproductions have to be looked at carefully to distinguish them from the original houses. An interesting contrast is provided by comparing Karl Putnam's "archaeological" Colonial reproductions with the freer Colonial Revival houses of his father, at least two of which are also on Harrison Ave.

This house was built during 1937 for John Pickett. Mr. Pickett was president, treasurer and principal of Northampton Commercial College, and president of the Board of Trustees for the People's Institute of Northampton. The College had been founded in 1896 by Mr. Pickett's father, and trained stenographers and clerk-typists.

The house is 2 and 1/2 stories tall with slate ridge roof and slightly off-center central chimney. The four-bay facade has eight over twelve sash windows on the second floor, right at the eaves line, and twelve over twelve sash windows with entablatures on the first floor. The entrance has a six light transom, is flanked by pilasters and capped by an elliptically-arched pediment.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- Northampton Directory: 1937 & 1938
- Smith College Archives: Karl S. Putnam folder