

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	31A-303

585



City Northampton

Address 10 Ward Avenue

Name G. Coolidge House

Present use residence

Present owner Dorothy & M. Colburn Bailey

Description:

Year 1937

Source Directory

Architect Karl S. Putnam

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

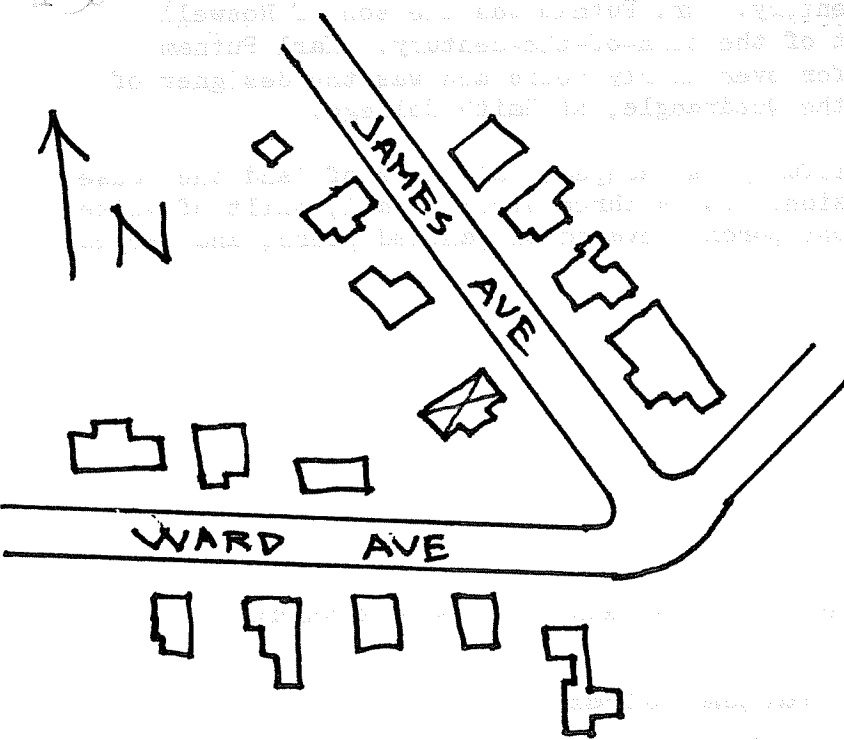
Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features hipped roof with 2 large chimneys, porch elevated on piers with flaring Mansard roof, extensive landscaping

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)

7. Original owner (if known) Grace Coolidge

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 secluded estate was developed for Mrs. Grace Coolidge, widow of Calvin Coolidge, in the late 1930's. After Mr. Coolidge retired from the White House in 1929 the Coolidges returned to Northampton. They bought a homestead off South St., overlooking the Connecticut River meadows, and lived there until Calvin's death in 1933.

This house was built from designs of Karl Putnam, Northampton's most prominent architect of the 20th century. Mr. Putnam was the son of Roswell Putnam, who was a Northampton architect of the turn-of-the-century. Karl Putnam taught architecture at Smith College for over thirty years and was the designer of the main residential system, known as the Quadrangle, at Smith College.

Situated on a beautifully landscaped, half-acre of land the house gives the impression of a southern mansion. It is three stories tall, built of white brick, with a metal hipped roof and front porch elevated on paneled piers, and capped by a flaring hip roof.

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

- Smith College Archives: Karl S. Putnam folder
- Northampton Directory: 1936-38, 1950 & 1960