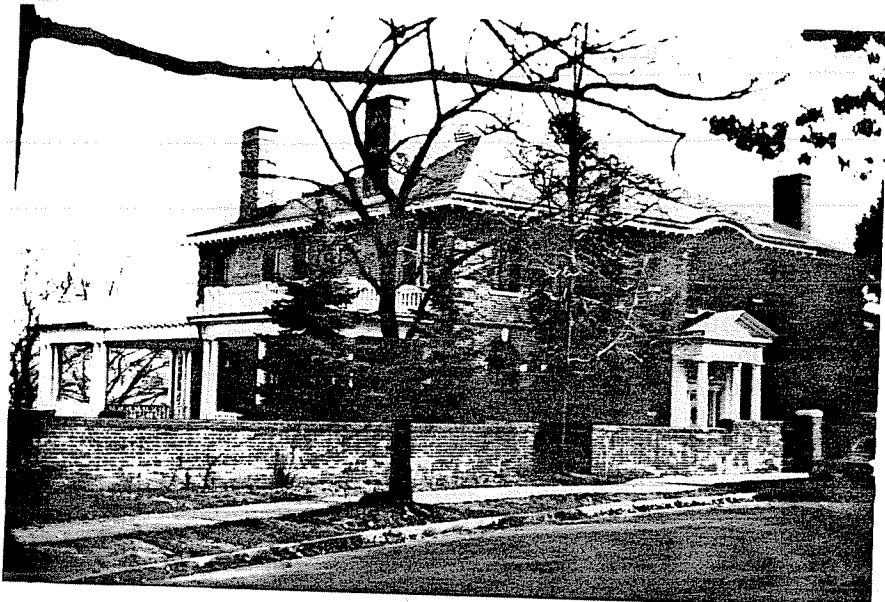


FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	31E-5



1 Northampton

Address 83 Round Hill Rd.

Name A.C. James House

Present use residence

Present owner Clarke School for the Deaf

Description:

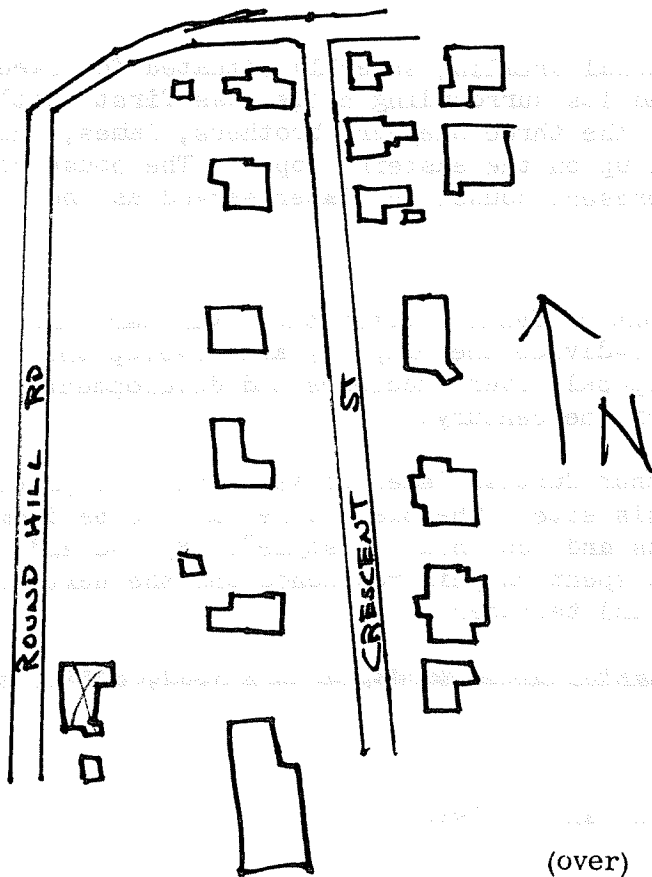
Year 1908-09

Source S.D.R.

Author

Architect

other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric brick

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

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization MHC

Date March 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Mrs. Arthur Curtiss James

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 large estate with 200 foot frontage on Round Hill Rd. and Crescent St. and 300 foot depth commands one of Round Hill's finest assets, the eastern view. This land was onee part of the famed Round Hill Hotel, Northampton's premier tourist attraction of the mid 19th century, and earlier in the 19th century the site of the Round Hill School for boys, the first school in this county to exemplify the style of the German gymnasium.

Round Hill, a glacial drumlin, superbly situated for sweeping vistas of the Connecticut River Valley and its surrounding hills, was first settled in the early years of the 19th century by the three Shepherd brothers, James, Thomas and Levi, all of whom built large houses high up on the eastern slopes. The house of James Shepherd was located on the site of the present house, and later served as the main entrance to the hotel.

The hotel went out of fashion after the Civil War and by the early 1870's plans were being made to sub-divide the property and develop the hill for residential purposes. This original proposal never succeses and development didn't really begin until just about the turn of the century.

In 1908 Mrs. Arthur Curtiss James of New York made plans for "an elegant new home and grounds" for this site. The plans were said to be from New York architects and landscape architects and "colonial in style". By the end of 1908 the press reported that \$50,000 had been spent on this residence and the next year saw \$25,000 more spent furnishing the house and terraces.

10. Bibliography and/or references ~~The house is located in local histories, deeds, and other records is set~~
(early maps, etc.)

1895 and 1915 Atlases.
Spfld. Daily Republican Dec. 28 , 1908 and Jan. 3, 1910.
Daily Hampshire Gazette June 9, 1908.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 31B-5
Property Name: A.C. James House	

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

9. Historical Significance.

The house is situated close to Round Hill Road, but is set behind a well-detailed brick wall. It is two stories in height, built of brick and has slate hipped roof with four large chimneys. The edge of the roof projects beyond the walls and the raking cornice is supported by modillion brackets. The symmetrical facade has a central, projecting pavilion with a Doric portico at the entrance. Spacious porches with balconies are on either end of the facade, and there are similar porches projecting from either end of the rear of the house. The grounds extend behind the house, stepping down the hill to Crescent St. in a number of terraces, the highest of which is built up of stone and brick and crowned by a balustrade.

CS

CS

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