

7. Original owner (if known) Miss Bessie Capen, of the Capen School for Girls 657

Original use gymnasium

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates acquired by Smith College in 1921, used for office and classroom space; headquarters for the WAVE officer training

8. Themes (check as many as applicable) program during World War II; remodelled into student center in 1949

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

9. Historical Significance, (include explanation of themes checked above)

Smith College's Davis Student Center, located between Prospect St. and Henshaw Ave., contains a snack bar, ballroom, and space for various campus organizations. Built in 1898, this eclectic three story institutional structure incorporates Georgian, Colonial, and other historical stylistic elements in an academic pastiche.

In plan, Davis Center is an almost regular rectangle. The box-like massing, reminiscent of early American architecture, is revealed in the planar treatment of wall surfaces. Above the stone foundation rests a white painted smooth planked ground level; the upper stories are composed of golden yellow wooden clapboarding. A grey slate roof (hipped) is topped by twin Georgian cupolas, which are ringed by small copper urns.

The symmetrical organization of classical elements is particularly apparent in the facade, where two story white fluted Ionic pilasters frame the corners of the second and third stories, while multi-paned sash windows march across the ballroom expanse of the upper floors. The first floor full length windows, of a more recent date, contain rectangular panes set within wide white mullions and transoms. Projecting from this level is a low, wide, railed, wooden terrace. Two principal entryways flank the facade: each of these rectangular openings is enframed by classical consoles.

The sides and rear of Davis Center also display somewhat classical white design elements, such as two story enframing Ionic pilasters and small curved pediments, supported by foliated consoles. The two brown shingled dormers on the back of Davis add even more variety to the eclectic building.

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

Smith College Archives

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	31B 179

657



1. Town Northampton
 Address Smith campus
 Name Davis Student Center
 Present use Smith College student union
 Present owner Smith College

3. Description:
 Date 1898
 Source Smith College Archives
 Style eclectic
 Architect _____

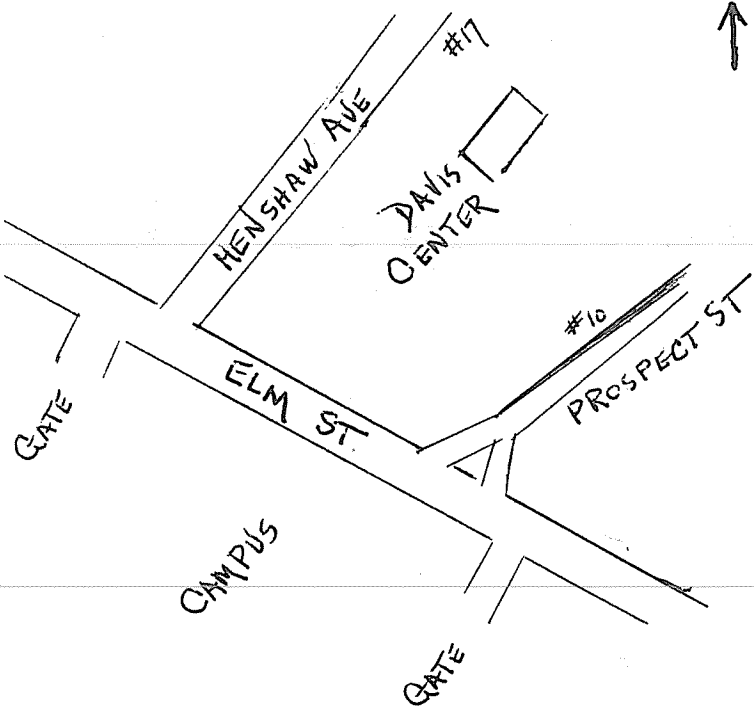
Exterior wall fabric 1st floor- smooth wood planks; 2nd floor- clapboarding
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features twin cupolas; two story pilasters; scrolled consoles

Altered no ~~Remodeled interior~~ Date 1949
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 Less than one acre _____ Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage _____
 Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by Ann Gilkerson/ Robin Strou
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date March 24, 1977

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)