

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

658

1. Outbuildings _____

Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal

Predominant features garden at side-rear

Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.

Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious
college campus

Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Similar to the handsome houses of Elizah Hunt Mills and Judge Charles A. Dewey, this house was built ca. 1825 for Judge Samuel Howe and was also, similarly, the scene of gracious hospitality and good living. Judge Howe, along with E. H. Mills, established a law school which flourished here in Northampton for 7 or 8 years (ca. 1823-1830) and among its students was Franklin Pierce, 11th President of the United States. George Bandcroft, the historian, was also connected with the Law School.

Later, as part of the Mills estate, it was a unit of the Burnham School and later became the main building of the Capen School for girls under Miss Capen who carried on the school after Miss Burnham's death. Miss Open lived in the house and left it to the college in 1921. It has since been a dormitory of Smith College

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Smith College Archives

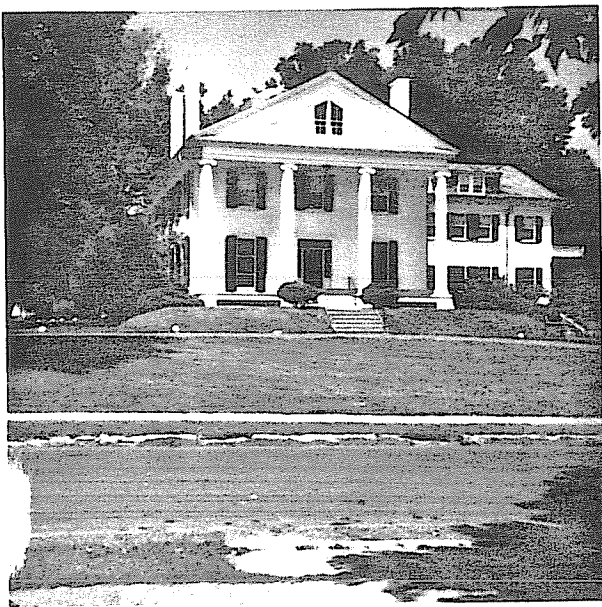
Article in the Daily Hampshire Gazette by Mary K. Brewster, Oct. 11, 1934

The Northampton Book (1954) p. 149

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Judge Samuel Howe

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds



658

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2. Town NORTHAMPTON
Street address 26 Prospect Street
(Smith College campus)
Name Capen House
Use: original & present home- now a college dormitory
Present owner Smith College
Open to public No
Date ca 1825 Style Greek Revival
Source of date Smith College records
Architect unknown-built for Judge Howe

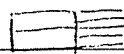
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Literature _____ Indians _____
Music _____ Other law
Development of town/city _____
Architectural reason for inventorying:
style- history _____

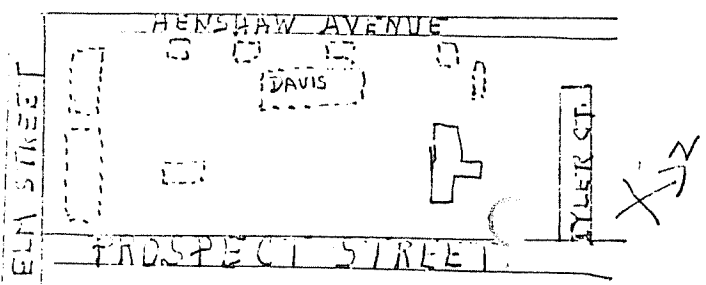
----- OR part of Area # -----

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material granite
sides are clapboards
WALL COVER: Wood front-wide boards flush Brick Stone Other _____
ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard _____
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____
side
CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate
STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed ells side and back
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 side PORTICO 2- front and side Balcony
FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament _____
Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: 4 Classical columns- 2 stories in height
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards 

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings



6. Footage of structure from street 30
Property has 40 feet frontage on street
adjoins Smith campus
Recorder Miriam E. Peters, Elizabeth Duvall
For Northampton Historical Society

Photo # _____ Date 1970
SEE REVERSE SIDE received 6/72