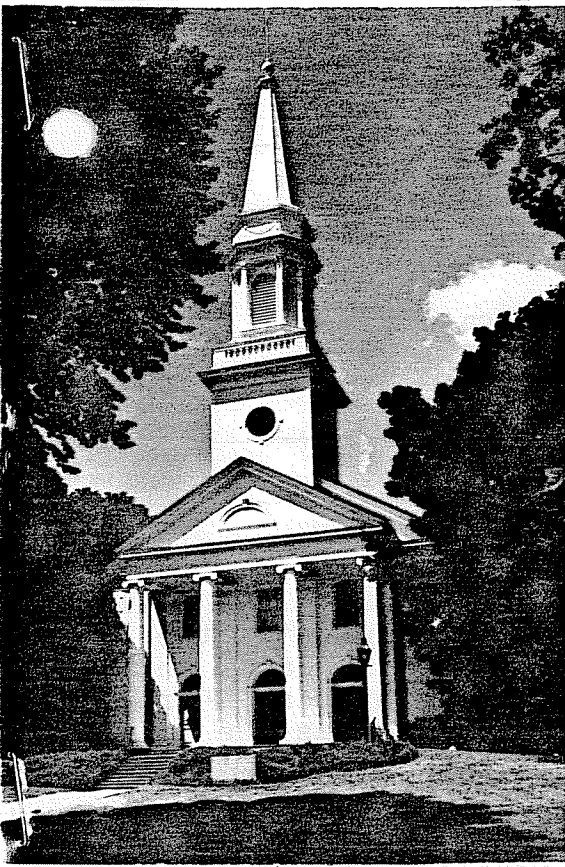


In Area no.	Form no.
	31B 193

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COMMISSION  
use, Boston



location  
streets and  
th.

1. Town Northampton  
 Address Elm Street, Smith campus  
 Name Helen Hills Hills Chapel  
 Present use college chapel  
 Present owner Smith College

3. Description:  
 Date 1955  
 Source Smith College Archives

Style Neo-Colonial

Architect William and Geoffrey Platt  
of New York

Exterior wall fabric aluminum siding

Outbuildings (describe) none

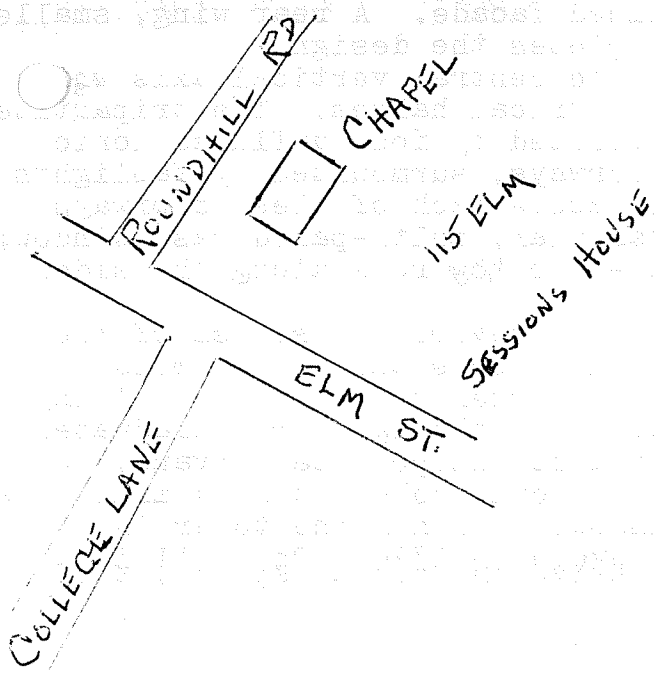
Other features pedimented, columned  
facade; steeple

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 Stroup  
 Organization Northampton Historical  
Commission  
 Date March 23, 1977



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

(over)

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7. Original owner (if known) Smith College  
 Original use same as present  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Dedicated in 1955, the Smith College Chapel was given to the College by Helen Hills Hills, class of '08. In style, the Chapel imitates the austere white wooden clapboarded churches of Colonial New England, which were in turn modelled after post-Reformation English prototypes. Here, however, modern white painted aluminum siding replaces wood as the primary building material. New York architects William and Geoffrey Platt, following Colonial tradition, incorporated simple elements into the symmetrical chapel design. The three story white "shoebox" shape is topped by a grey shingled ridge roof with centrally situated steeple; the whole is fronted by a projecting pedimented and columned facade. A rear wing, smaller in scale but basically similar in shape, completes the design.

The traditional facade is dominated by the central vertical axis which divides the front of the Chapel into two symmetrical halves. The tripartite facade consists of a triangular pediment supported by four unfluted Ionic columns, behind which are three identical doorways, surmounted by fanlights and framed by two story pilasters. Directly above each of these doorways at the second story level is a simple, rectangular, multi-paned sash window; this same type of window is regularly repeated in two rows along the sides of the Chapel.

Decorative embellishments hark back to the severe classicism of the 18th century: fanlit pediment and doorways, keystones and simple moldings around windows and doors, and quoining at each corner of the main building. The steeple, rising from a clapboarded square base through three graduated octagonal sections to terminate in a slender arrow-shaped weathervane, is similarly enhanced by classical motifs: swags, Ionic colonettes, a miniature balustrade, and three round "bull's eye" windows. Within the tower is the Chapel bell, a replica of one cast by Paul Revere in 1796. The bell is a gift of the Class of '08. Housing administrative and social spaces, the

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

rear wing, stepped back slightly from the main body of the Chapel, is entered through identical dual pedimented porches, which are flanked by Ionic columns. The two porches are simplified versions in miniature of the Greek temple facade.

Source: Smith College Archives