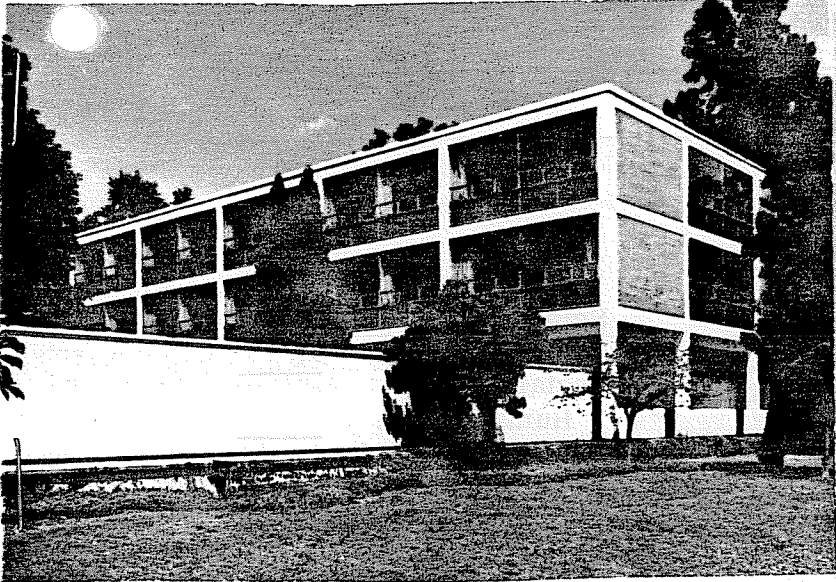


In Area no.	Form no. 674
	31 B 201

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



1. Town Northampton

Address Elm St., Smith campus

Name Cutter House + Ziskind House

Present use college dormitory

Present owner Smith College

3. Description:

Date 1956-57

Source Smith College Archives

Style contemporary- International
Style

Architect Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill

Exterior wall fabric steel beam skeleton
glass walls; brick walls
Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features three stories; shares
enclosed yard with mirror image
adjacent dormitory, Ziskind House

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre _____ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

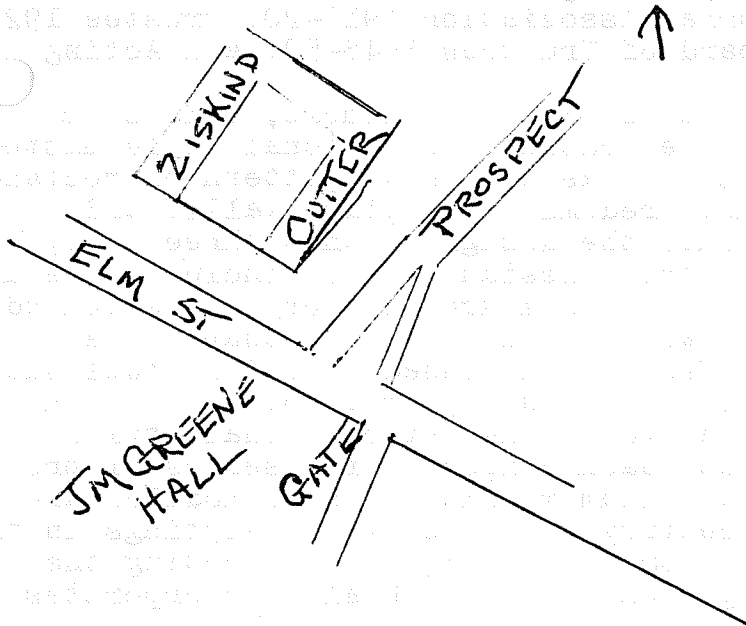
Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by Ann Gilkerson

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date March 23, 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. _____

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	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Humanitarian	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____
Community development	_____				

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

Cutter House was completed in 1957, along with its adjacent twin, Ziskind House. These two dormitories were the first examples of modern architecture in the International Style to be built on the Smith campus.

Cutter House was named for distinguished author Elizabeth Reeve Cutter Morrow (Mrs. Dwight Whitney Morrow). B.L. 1896, L.H.D. 1937 Smith; L.H.D. 1933 Amherst, L.L.D. 1935 New Jersey College for Women, Litt. D. 1940 Princeton, L.L.D. 1940 Lafayette, L.H.D. 1940 New York University, and Dr. the More Humane Letters 1942 Colby College. In addition, Mrs. Morrow served as President of the Smith Alumnae Association 1917-20, Trustee 1926-36, 37-47, 47-50; Chairman of the Board of Trustees 1948-50; and Acting President 1939-40.

Designed by the large New York based firm of Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill, the complex pays homage to the modern International Style master Mies van der Rohe. Miesian hallmarks such as a modular pattern of rectangular forms, a steel structural frame, predominately glass walls, and a symmetrical plan are incorporated into the design of this three story dormitory which houses 86 students. Other Miesian touches include: the use of continuous vertical steel "I" beams; set back ground story walls behind these beams; and floating broad steps without risers. The shape is a flat roofed simple oblong box with a frankly expressed exterior steel skeleton brick first floor walls, and glass with aluminum upper floor walls. The restrained color scheme is also indicative of the International Style: the white and grey window-wall modules, each composed of a series of proportioned rectangles framed by thin aluminum molding. These modules are also reminiscent of early twentieth century Dutch De Stijl paintings in the composition of abstract, yet formal, geometric designs. Connecting the two dormitories is a one story dining room area, which also incorporates the rectilinear module motif.

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

Smith College Archives