

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no. <u>677</u>
	<u>31B204</u>



1. Town Northampton
 Address Prospect St., Smith campus
 Name Talbot House
 Present use college dormitory

Present owner Smith College

3. Description:
 Date 1909
 Source Smith College Archives
 Style eclectic

Architect Richardson & Driver of Boston

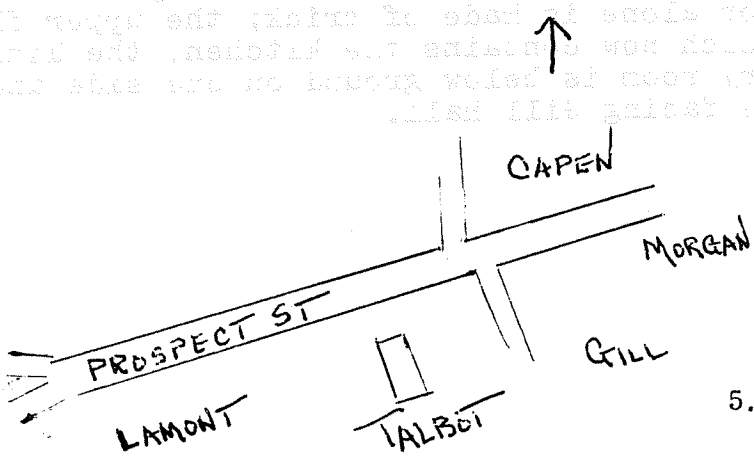
Exterior wall fabric stucco and brick
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features five stories, gambrel roof, numerous gables, porches, bay windows

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 Robin Stroup
 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) Miss Bessie Capen, Headmistress of Capen School for Girls
Original use dormitory

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/ Humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

Talbot House was named after the family that originally owned this property and Capen House. Miss Bessie Capen bought the Talbot property, Established Capen School, and had Talbot House built in 1909. In many ways, Miss Capen was one of the largest benefactresses to Smith College because she sent more than 900 of her 3600 students to Smith. In addition, Miss Capen bequeathed most of her property to the College in 1921. At present, the house serves a dormitory which houses 78 women.

A gambrel roof, gables, bay windows, white wooden trim, and porches add interest to this rectangular structure. The brick and stucco five story structure is an eclectic mixture of 17th and 18th century architectural features. The main floor alone is made of brick; the upper floors are stucco. The lowest floor, which now contains the kitchen, the dining room, a storage room and a laundry room is below ground on one side and level with the ground on the side facing Gill Hall.

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

Smith College Archives