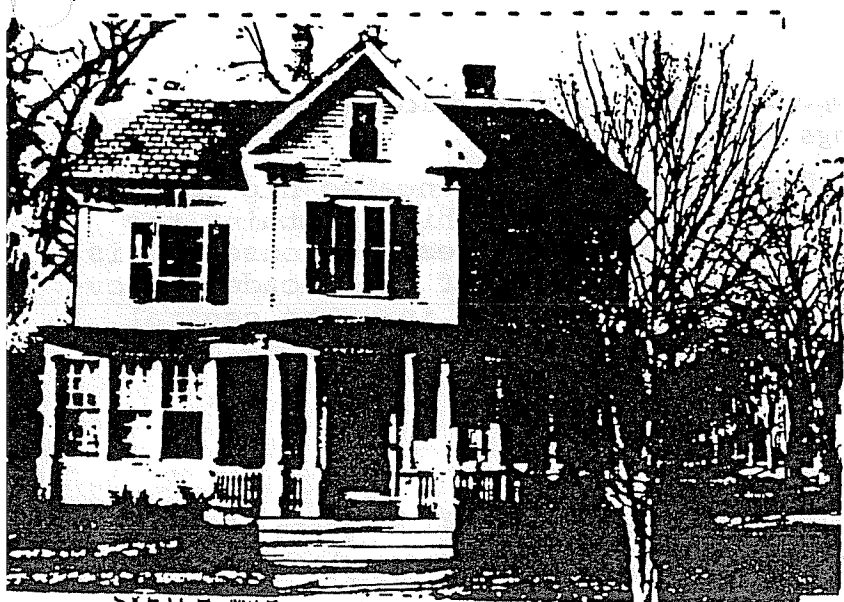


FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	31B-240

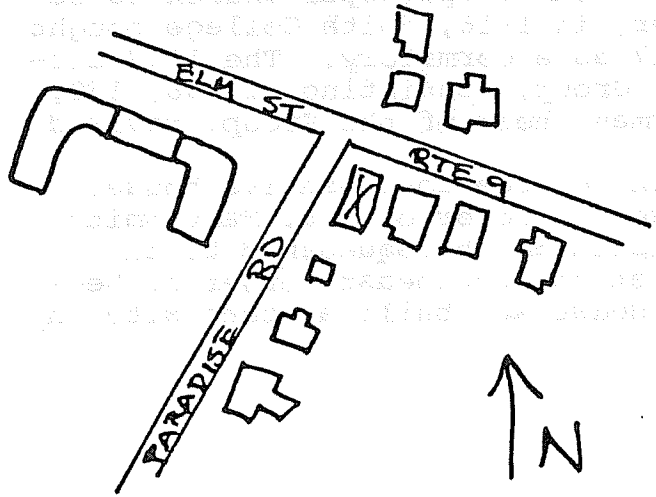
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Town Northampton
 Address 156 Elm St.
 Historic Name M.D. Ward House
 Use: Original residence
 Present dormitory
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Smith College
 Public
 Original owner James C. Ward

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:
 Date c. 1880
 Source Reg. of Deeds and Atlases
 Style Victorian Cottage
 Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) _____
rear addition- 20th c.
 Moved --- Date _____
 Approx. acreage one acre or less
 Setting _____

Recorded by E. Lincoln and E. Lonergan
 Organization NHC
 Date Nov. 1977 and June 1980

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The house is two stories in height with slate, truncated hip roof. The three-bay facade has a central, gabled pavilion which contains the main entrance. A frieze with double brackets encircles the house and is used in the gable of the pavilion. The first floor of the facade is covered by a porch, both ends of which have been glassed in. The central section projects beyond the pavilion and features Tuscan columns on paneled pedestals and a turned balustrade.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

In 1865 James C. Ward purchased a large tract of land west of Elm St. and bounded by the Mill River that became known as "Paradise". Paradise Road was soon opened and lots sold for residential development. Mr. Ward had his own house on this street, however, by 1885 he had died and his widow Margaret was making her residence in this house at the corner of Paradise Rd. and Elm St. It's possible the house was built in 1881 when the Wards took a mortgage on this property.

In 1896 this parcel was sold to St. John's Episcopal Church to be used as a parsonage. Twenty years later, in 1916, Smith College bought the property. It was first used in 1917 as a dormitory. The 1922 directory lists this as one of the Elm St. Group, consisting of 146, 150, 156, 164 Elm St. and Mrs. Esther E. Carman, head of the Group, resided here.

In 1936 this became the first Smith College Co-operative house. At this time it was renamed Tenney House, in honor of Mrs. Mary Smith Tenney. In 1895 she and her brother Justin Smith bequeathed to the College the house which formerly stood at the southeast corner of Bedford Terrace and Elm St. When Alumnae House was built at that site in 1936, the name was transferred to 156 Elm St.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1873, 1884, 1895 and 1915 Atlases.
- Registry of Deeds: Bk. 723-P. 165, 486-341, 478-335, 381-414, 363-414, 228-370 and 385, 214-74, 163-262.
- Smith College Archives.
- Northampton Directory: 1875-76, 1885-86, 1895-96, 1900, 1922.