

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	31B253

709



1. Town Northampton

Address Elm St., Smith campus

Name Alumnae House

Present use college alumnae meeting place

Present owner Smith College

Description:

Date 1938

Source Smith College Archives

Style Neo-Colonial w/ Art Deco details  
"Neo" GREEK REVIVAL

Architect Frederick J. Woodbridge, of Evans, Moore, & Woodbridge (NYC)

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features Greek Revival details, such as Doric temple front, and meander pattern lintels

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

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage \_\_\_\_\_

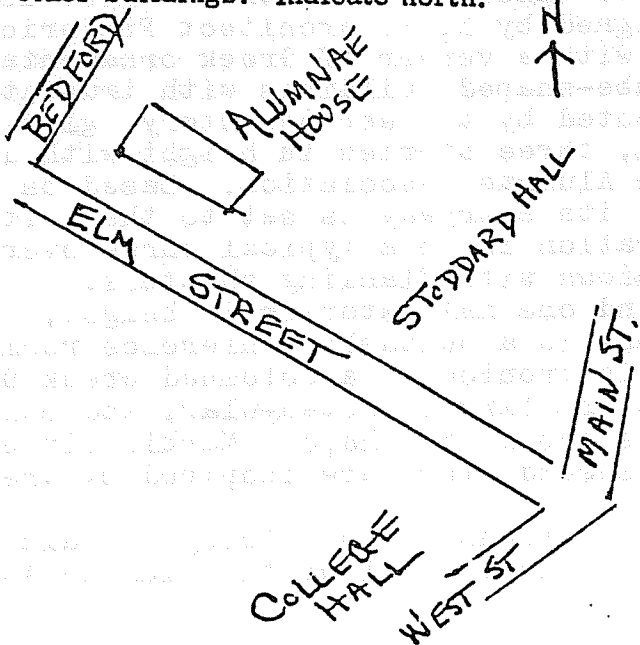
Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Ann Gilkerson/Robin Stroup

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date March 24, 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. _____

(over)

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)

Built in 1938, the original purpose of Alumnae House was to provide attractive and comfortable club rooms for 20,000 alumnae and for students of Smith, with facilities for entertainment and the transaction of Smith affairs. In addition, the building was to provide a headquarters for the Alumnae Association, as well as provide suitable conference room for up to 250 persons.

Basically Neo-Colonial in style and massing, but with Art Deco detailing The Smith College Alumnae House, designed by N. Y. architect Frederick J. Woodbridge (Amherst '21), is overlaid with a veneer of Greek ornamentation. The brick structure consists of two cube-shaped buildings with truncated pyramidal roofs of Vermont slate connected by a lower one story, glass walled gallery. The larger south wing, three stories in height with dormer windows, contains office space for the Alumnae Association. Based on a Greek tholos shape with Doric columns, its entryway is set to the left side of the Elm Street facade. The fenestration is in a typical three over three Colonial pattern, composed of sash windows with flanking shutters.

The smaller north building, one and one half stories in height, was designed to accomodate up to 250 persons in a suitable conference room; the principal entryway on Bedford Terrace is fronted by a columned Greek Doric temple front. The first floor windows are large, rectangular, and multi-paned; the smaller windows above are hexagonal in shape. Marble lintels and a string course running along the second story are inspired by Greek meander patterns.

To the rear of the main building, a wrought iron balcony contains within its grillwork the elm tree, the official seal of the Alumnae Association.

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