

In Area no.	Form no.
	31B295

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



1. Town Northampton

Address Smith campus

Name Wesley House

Present use college dormitory

Present owner Smith College

3. Description: Built as parsonage for Methodist Church

Date 1891 in 1891  
bought in 1898 by Smith College

Source Smith College Archives

Style Colonial Revival

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features Green shutters; complex massing

Altered yes; later Date \_\_\_\_\_

additions

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

5. Lot size:

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

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

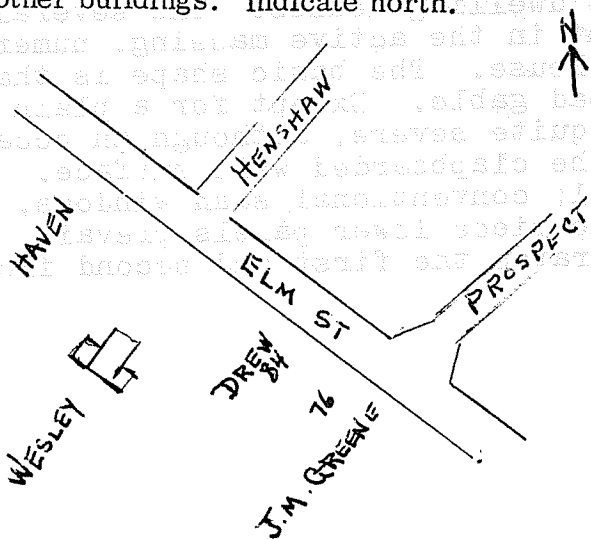
Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Ann Gilkerson/ Robin Strou;

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. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Original owner (if known) Christ United Methodist Church

Original use parsonage

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates bought by Smith College in 1898; converted into a dormitory and opened in 1899

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>  x  </u>	Religion	<u>  x  </u>
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)

Opened by the College in 1898, Wesley House was named for the founder of the Methodist faith, in deference to the building's previous use as a parsonage for the adjacent Christ United Methodist Church.

This three story white clapboarded and greenshuttered house located behind the Christ United Methodist Church was acquired, along with the neighboring Haven House, by Smith College in 1898. The two buildings were then enlarged and converted into student dwelling houses. The several later additions to this small house are evident in the active massing, numerous porches, and complex roofline of Wesley House. The basic shape is that of a narrow oblong box intersected by a broad gable. Except for a plain classical wooden gable molding, the decoration is quite severe, although an occasional jagged row of shingles alternates with the clapboarded wall surface. Fenestration is for the most part symmetrical; conventional sash windows, with six or eight paned upper sections and one piece lower panels prevail. A small sloping copper sheathed roof separates the first and second floor porches of the main entrance.

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

Smith College Archives