

FORM B - BUILDING

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

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| In Area no. | Form no. 736 |
| | 317 11 |



1. Town Northampton
 Address College Lane, Smith campus
 Name Clark Science Center
 Present use college science center

Present owner Smith College

3. Description:

Date 1966

Source Smith College Archives

Style modern; functional

Architect Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, & Abbott

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) complex of three connected buildings

Other features incorporates Burton Hall (1914) with the two modern bldgs.; red brick, concrete neo-Egyptian cornice

Altered Burton Hall Date 1970

Moved no renovated Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

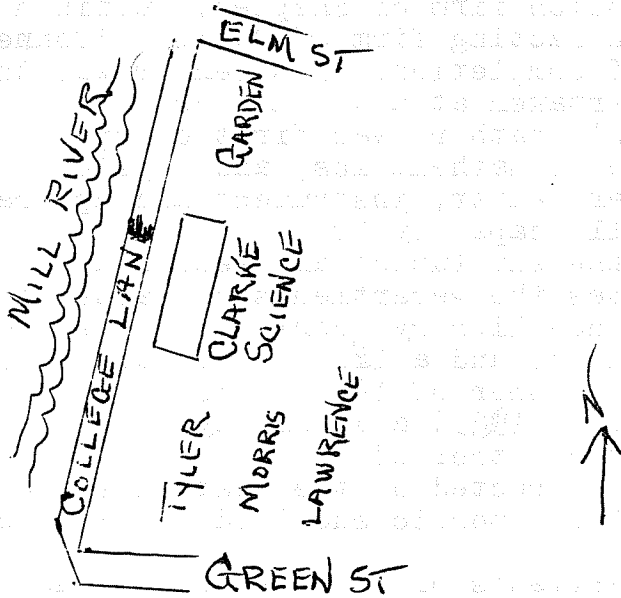
Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by Ann Gilkerson

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date April 13, 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)

of the two modern buildings; this design is repeated in slight variation along the other sides of the buildings. Small grey mosaic tiles replace glass at the first floor level along the outer sides of the complex. The functional trend in modern architecture is manifested in the frank expression of the building's interior use on the exterior.

Source: Smith College Archives

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 | <u>X</u> |
| The Arts | _____ | Industry | _____ | Social/ humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce | _____ | Military | _____ | Transportation | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Political | _____ | | |
| Community development | _____ | | | | |

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

Completed in 1966 and formally opened on May 6, 1967, the modern style brick and reinforced steel frame Science Center honors W. Van Alan Clark and his wife, Edna McConnell Clark (Smith 1909). Mrs. Clark, an heir to the Avon Products fortune, and her husband contributed \$3 million of the over \$8 million needed to complete the complex. Situated on College Lane and composed of two modern buildings (McConnell and Sabin-Reed), the Science Center was designed by the Boston firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, & Abbott and built by the contracting firm of Daniel O'Connell's Sons, Inc. of Holyoke. As of the date of completion, this center was the largest building program for science undertaken at a women's college.

McConnell Hall, named for Mrs. Clark's father, was first occupied in January 1966 by the Departments of Astronomy, Mathematics, and Physics. In addition, this building houses the Computer Center, instrument and apparatus shops, classrooms, and a main lecture hall (capacity 200).

Connected to McConnell Hall by a basement tunnel and second and third floor bridges, Sabin-Reed Hall incorporates the Departments of Bacteriology, Botany, Chemistry, and Zoology. The Science Library (containing over 70,000 volumes), animal quarters, special equipment, and a lounge area are also situated in the building. Occupied in the summer of 1966, this building honors two Smith Alumnae, Florence R. Sabin (1933) and Dorothy (Reed) Mendenhall (1895). Mrs. Mendenhall was the mother of Smith President Thomas Mendenhall. Sabin-Reed Hall is constructed on the west side of Burton Hall; the two share a centrally placed, mosaic sheathed, cylindrical elevator.

Burton Hall, renovated for the Departments of Geology and Psychology, was dedicated May 6, 1970. It is connected to Sabin-Reed at all levels. (See separate inventory form on Burton Hall)

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

The two monumentally scaled four story modern buildings are simple rectangles in plan, set at right angles to one another and connected via an elevated glass passageway and a brick and concrete courtyard. Sabin-Reed and McConnell are characterized by planar brick facades organized in a regular rhythm of vertical strip windows inset at the second, third, and fourth story levels. The large rectangular plate glass windows of the ground level bring interior and exterior spaces closer together. These first floor glassed in areas, echoes of classical porticoes, are recessed behind a concrete entablature and monumental square piers. At roof level, a concrete cornice suggestive of Mayan or Egyptian architecture activates the skyline. This basic design is identical on the facing sides (cont'd at top of page) 3/73