

FORM B - BUILDING

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

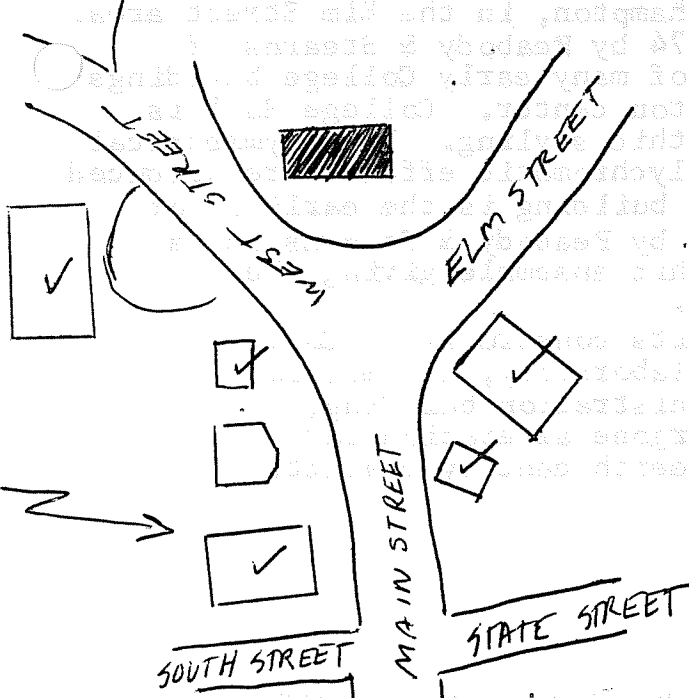
738

In Area no.	Form no.
	31D-11



1 Northampton
 Address Elm Street & West Street
 Name College Hall, Smith College
 Present use Administration building
 Present owner Smith College
 Description:
1874-75
 Source Northampton Book
 Style High Victorian Gothic

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Peabody & Stearns
 Exterior wall fabric brick & stone
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features distinctive bell tower;
brick & stone trim; polychrome
effects; gables and bays
 Altered addition Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre x
 Approximate frontage 550 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
150 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie
 Organization Northampton Historical Com
mission
 Date _____

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APR 5 1976

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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

Unimproved property

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Smith College

Original use College classroom building

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates administration building

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

Smith College, a private women's college, was founded in 1874 as the result of the will of Miss Sophia Smith of Hatfield. The college located in Northampton on the hill above Main Street. Later in the nineteenth century several "classical schools"—institutions designed to prepare young women for the rigorous academics of Smith—located in Northampton, in the Elm Street area.

College Hall was designed in 1874 by Peabody & Stearns of Boston. The firm was the designer of many early College buildings and of the First Church in Northampton center. College Hall is a fine example of High Victorian Gothic styling. The asymmetrical mass is dominated by a tower and polychromatic effects are produced by the use of brick and stone. The building is the earliest of a group of Smith buildings designed by Peabody & Stearns and a major element in the Victorian Gothic ensemble giving the college a graceful sense of history.

Costing \$76,000 at the time of its construction, College Hall first contained classrooms, a laboratory, art museum, chapel and social hall. Now an administration building, the interiors of College Hall have undergone alteration but the exterior has retained its nineteenth century character.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) The Northampton Book, p. 214-229.