

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

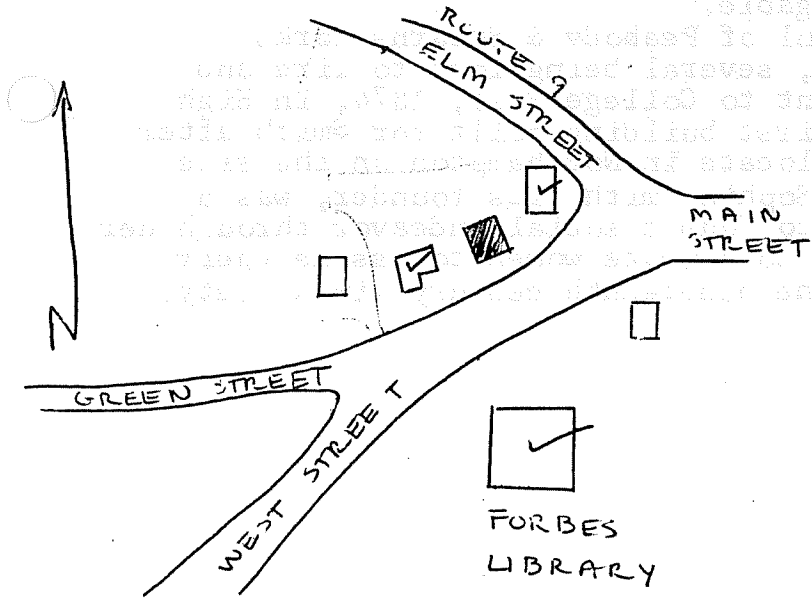
In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>31D-12</u>
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739



Northampton
Smith College Campus
Pierce Hall
 present use Offices/Classrooms
 present owner Smith College
 description:
1882-83
 source Smith College Archives
Victorian Gothic
 architect Peabody & Stearns of Boston

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



✓ inventoried property

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

Exterior wall fabric brick
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features 2 stories; hipped roof; gables; brownstone trim; molded brick trim.
 Altered no Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 Less than one acre x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 90 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
30 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission
 Date May 12 1976

RECEIVED

(over)

JUN 4 1976

7. Original owner (if known) Smith College
 Original use College Classrooms
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

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)

Pierce Hall dates from 1883 and represents the work of Peabody & Stearns on the campus. Modest in its styling, Pierce shares characteristics of Victorian institutional buildings with other structures on the campus. A squat, cubic mass contained by a hipped roof, the structure is brick with stone trim defining window openings, decorating gables, and highlighting the gothic entrance beneath the central gable.

Pierce is one of a handful of Peabody & Stearns works remaining on the Smith campus, several being lost to fire and demolition. Pierce is adjacent to College Hall, 1874, in High Victorian Gothic style, the first building built for Smith after the women's college chose to locate in Northampton on the site of Judge Dewey's homestead. Sophia Smith, its founder, was a Hatfield resident who sought to fund a social endeavor through her will and chose an institution to educate women to assume their proper place--as defined by the nineteenth century--in society.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)
 Smith College Archives, Hampshire Gazette, 5/1881