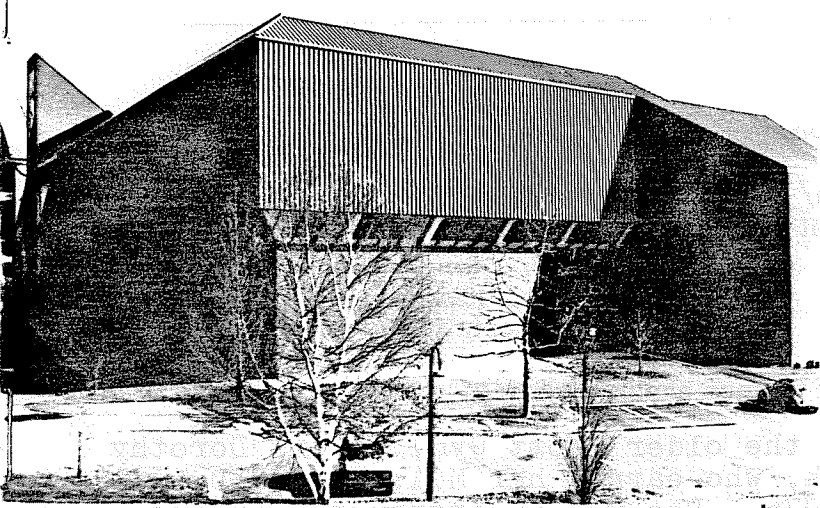


In Area no.	Form no. 748
	31 D 20



1. Town Northampton

Address Smith campus

Name: Ainsworth Gymnasium

Present use college gymnasium

Present owner Smith College

3. Description:

Date 1977

Source Smith College Archives

Style contemporary

Architect The Architect's Collaborative, Cambridge, Mass.

Exterior wall fabric red brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features 4 levels; steel and reinforced concrete structural base

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

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

5. Lot size:

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

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

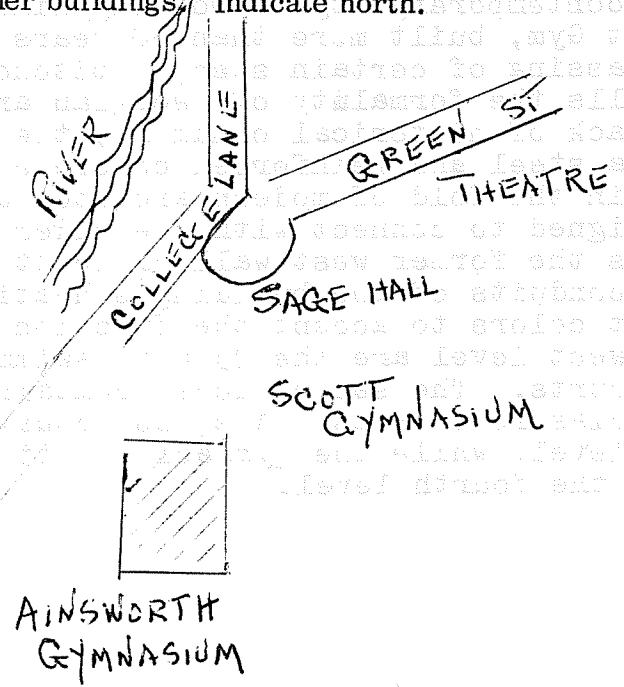
Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Ann Gilkerson

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) Smith College

Original use same as present

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	<u>  x  </u>
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)

This gymnasium, an addition to the older Scott Gym, honors Dorothy Ainsworth, Smith '16. Ms. Ainsworth, who earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University, died in 1976. She was an instructor in the Smith College Department of Physical Education (1921), and Director of Physical Education at Smith (1931-1960). She was widely honored for her pioneering contributions in the field of women's physical education.

Dedicated in February 1977, the contemporary styled Dorothy Ainsworth Gymnasium echoes the contiguous Scott Gym, built more than 50 years earlier. In the use of red brick and in the massing of certain steeply pitched angular forms, the new addition recalls the formality of Georgian architecture of the Colonial era. However, the lack of historical ornament, the sense of flowing space, and the use of a steel and reinforced concrete structural base place this building firmly within the fold of modern architecture.

The four level structure was designed to connect with the older gym; a glass shed-like projection envelops the former west wall of Scott Gym. Interiors, often frankly displaying conduits of the building's heating and cooling system, are painted in bright colors to accent the function of these mechanical devices. On the lowest level are the 25 yard swimming pool, locker rooms, and six squash courts. The second level contains the main office, reception, lounge, and classroom areas. A squash court gallery and pool gallery comprise the third level, while the gymnasium, with a seating capacity of 1,000, completes the fourth level.

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

Smith College Archives

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:  Northampton	Form No:  31D-20
Property Name: Scott Gym	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance

ical decorative elements: a keystone semi-circular arch; an entablature with urn above the green painted doors. On either side, the double doors are flanked by one Doric column and pilaster. To either side of this principal vertical axis, the mirror symmetry is reinforced by small apsidal niches with wrought iron lamp fixtures.

Regular fenestration along the sides of Scott Gym is also typically Georgian in placement and style: segmentally arched or rectangular sash types are surrounded by white wooden moldings.

