

FORM B - BUILDING

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

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| In Area no. | Form no. |
|             | 32C-276  |

967



City Northampton

Address 78 Williams St.

Name Williams Street School

Present use school

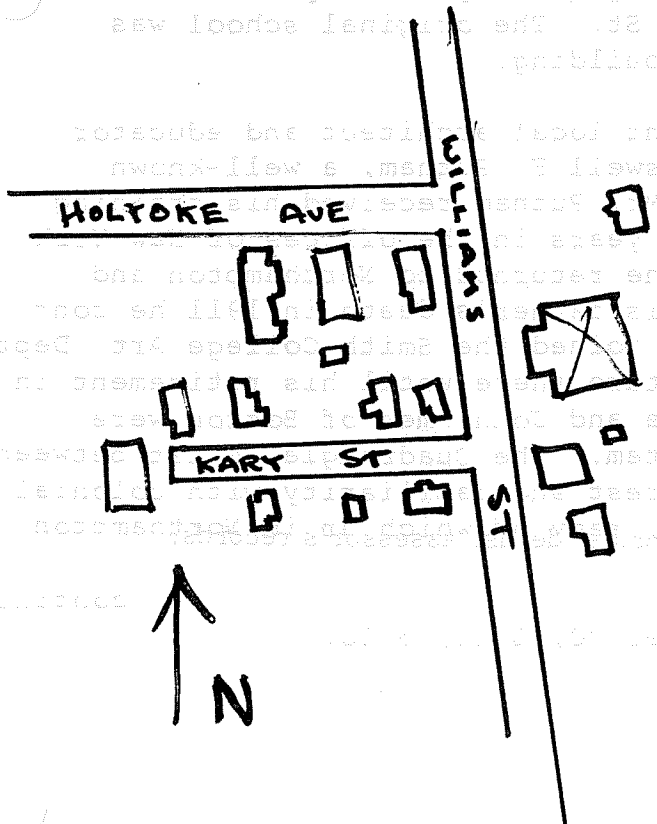
Present owner City of Northampton

Description:

1913

Source Springfield Daily Republican

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



Architect Karl Putnam

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved -- Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date May 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Northampton

Original use school

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

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |          |                            |          |                         |       |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal            | _____    | Conservation               | _____    | Recreation              | _____ |
| Agricultural          | _____    | Education                  | <u>x</u> | Religion                | _____ |
| Architectural         | _____    | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____    | Science/<br>invention   | _____ |
| The Arts              | _____    | Industry                   | _____    | Social/<br>humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce              | _____    | Military                   | _____    | Transportation          | _____ |
| Communication         | _____    | Political                  | _____    |                         |       |
| Community development | <u>x</u> |                            |          |                         |       |

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

This site has been used for a city school since the late 1870's. Williams St. was laid out in two parts during the 1850's and 1860's. The part south of Holyoke St. was quickly developed with small, vernacular houses, while that part north of Holyoke St. was developed later in the 19th century, but also residentially. In 1873 this site was being used for a lumber yard by Moses Breck. It was the only non-residential usage in the area. However, this quickly changed as the 1884 atlas shows a school on the site. This was the first school for the area, which was developing quickly in response to the industrial development on lower Hawley St. The original school was replaced in 1913 by the present brick building.

Karl Scott Putnam, a prominent local architect and educator of the 20th century, was the son of Roswell F. Putnam, a well-known local architect of the 19th century. Mr. Putnam received his training at Columbia University and spent three years in the offices of New York architect Edward Tilton. Around 1910 he returned to Northampton and joined his father's practice. After his father's death in 1911 he continued the practice alone. In 1920 he joined the Smith College Art Dept. and was in charge of teaching architecture there until his retirement in 1952. Shortly after coming to Smith he and John Ames of Boston were commissioned to design a dormitory system. The Quadrangle, built between 1922 and 1936, shows Mr. Putnam's interest and familiarity with colonial architecture. His residential designs, many of which are in Northampton

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

Springfield Daily Republican. December 30, 1912, p.10.  
1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.

continued

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Community:<br>Northampton          | Form No:<br>32C-276 |
| Property Name: Williams St. School |                     |

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

9. Historical Significance.

are mainly Colonial in nature, and pay such close attention to accurate detailing that they are often mistaken for 18th century originals. This school would be one of Mr. Putnam's early designs.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Form No:                      | Inventory:  |
| 330-378                       | Northampton |
| Property Name: William B. ... |             |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below

9. Miscellaneous: (continued)

... and ...  
 ...  
 ...