

DATA SHEET

PH0693383

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 12 1978
DATE ENTERED APR 9 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Castle, Middlesex Medical School

AND/OR COMMON
Usen Castle

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
415 South Street, Brandeis University

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Waltham

VICINITY OF

4th

STATE
Massachusetts

CODE
025

COUNTY
Middlesex

CODE
017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Brandeis University

STREET & NUMBER
415 South Street

CITY, TOWN
Waltham

VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds-Land Court

STREET & NUMBER
Second Avenue and Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN
Cambridge

STATE
Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE
November 3, 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission, 294 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Boston

STATE
Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Castle, built in the Norman-Gothic style in 1928, consists of six interconnected structures of varying heights, arranged to create an enclosed courtyard area. A seventh structure of three stories is located outside of this grouping, although sufficiently close (25') to appear a definite part of the total composition. Dr. John Smith, the architect, originally had plans to extend the complex by constructing a 5-story addition containing an auditorium and offices. Although World War II interrupted his plans, the fragmented wall from which this extension was to emerge is still evident. The Castle was built of fieldstone and quarried rock from Boston with green and red concrete blocks interspersed.

The Castle's seven structural elements are identified by letter. Section "A" is a four-story square tower reminiscent of Ireland's Lismore Castle. It is topped by a battlement. A circular stair tower projects from the north side of Section "A" while a bartizan is attached to its northwest corner. The ground level of "A" boasts an ornamented wooden entrance portal with a pointed arch. Fenestration on the first two floors consists of 6/3 awning sash with bar tracery in the transom. In the upper stories there is casement sash with fixed lights in the transom. The watch tower has a gothic window filled with glass block. Attached to Section "A" by a two-story and a five-story section, section "B" is a round five-story tower on the south-east of the complex. It is topped by a heavy corbelled battlement. Section "B" is connected to "C" by an arched bridge. Section "C" is a two-story structure with Tudor arched windows between stepped buttresses. Section "D" is a round, two-story structure, similar to Britain's Windsor Castle in detail and proportion. A narrow round stair tower three stories high, which contains an observation chamber, is attached at the intersection of "C" and "D". The merlons of its battlement rise high above the main portion of "D". Section "E" consists of two units connected at an acute angle. It, too, is a massive two-story structure with a corbelled battlement. Fenestration is mixed, consisting of pointed, round and segmentally arched as well as trabeated openings with casement, double-hung and fixed glass block sash. Some of the openings have been filled. Enclosing the courtyard is Section "F", a long ridged wall containing a corridor-like space within. A wide pointed arch entrance set in a crenelated wall and flanked by small, conical roofed towers defines the northern end of this section. A similar entrance set between a small tower and section "A" is at the opposite end.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1928 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John H. Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Castle, a most unusual and historic building, was begun in 1928 by Dr. John Hall Smith, founder of the Middlesex Medical School. It was erected during a period of national austerity and Dr. Smith, a successful Boston surgeon, relied largely on personal funds. He purchased the 125 acre Baker Estate in Waltham, and established the Middlesex Medical School as the first non-quota, non-sectarian medical institution. This liberal philosophy evidently provoked some animosity from neighboring medical colleges and was probably the cause of Middlesex' precarious relationship with the American Medical Association. Finally, in 1945, the Middlesex Medical School could no longer meet the stringent American Medical Assoc. certification requirements. Facing the immediate prospect of closing, school officials decided to pass its property and charter on to a group who in 1948 founded Brandeis University. The structure is one of two buildings on the Brandeis campus surviving from the former college.

Dr. Smith had assumed the roles of designer, architect, and general contractor in order to bring the cost of building such an elaborate structure within reach. He economized in ingenious ways by acquiring many materials secondhand or even at no cost at all. Most of the fieldstone used in construction was removed from old stone walls which divided the grazing fields of the Baker Estate. Dr. Smith employed local labor and used second-hand windows and mechanical fixtures, bits of mosaic and painted decorations in the construction. The Castle sits atop Boston Rock, one of the highest elevation points on the campus and in the entire Boston area. It was from this point that Colonel William Bradford was said to have first surveyed Boston in the mid-17th century.

When Brandeis University assumed ownership of the Middlesex campus, it set out to convert the Castle to meet the needs of a growing liberal arts institution. In the early years, the Castle housed administrative and dining services as well as student dormitory space. In the 1950's, its 50,000 square feet were remodeled into 90 single, double, and larger living units to house 142 students. Although the Castle deteriorated, it has remained the overwhelming choice of the 2,100 students who reside on campus each year. On the Brandeis campus, it provides romantic relief from the campus' stark Sixties modernity. The Castle's recent restoration assures the preservation of a symbolic historical structure and the building's continued use as a student residence for many decades to come.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andrews, Wayne, Architecture, Ambition and Americans, New York, 1964
 Goldstein, Israel, Brandeis University: Chapter of its Founding, New York, 1951
Brandeis Under Construction (exhibition catalog), The Poses Institute of Fine Arts,
 Brandeis University, 1972
 Saarinen, Eero, "Master Plan," Brandeis University Library Archives, 1950
 Interviews: C. Ruggles Smith, son of architect; Abram L. Sachar, Chancellor, Brandeis
 University; Archie Riskin, 1948 reconstruction architect

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50,000 sq. ft.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	3 1 4 2 2 0	4 6 9 2 7 8 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Usen Castle is located close to the eastern edge of the Brandeis University campus. The eastern boundary is the circular campus road; the northern boundary is a subsidiary campus road which includes parking space "U"; the western boundary is the Boston Rock and the same subsidiary campus road; the southern boundary is parking lot "I"-adjacent to the circular campus road (see attached campus map).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

with Joel Grushkin and Charlotte Heartt,
 Brandeis University

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth T. Durfee, Inventory Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

October 26, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston,

STATE

Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Patricia L. Weslowski

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE 12/6/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4-8-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/6/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Usen Castle, built in 1928, is a locally prominent architectural landmark and the most grandiose example of medieval inspired design in the city. In its hilltop location as well as in its design, it is an excellent example of the tenacity of the Romantic ideals espoused by mid-nineteenth century architectural theorists. Typically, its irregular plan and massing, along with its crenellated roofline and multiple towers present varied views and complement its craggy site.

While parts of the building borrow directly from European models like Lismore and Windsor Castles, the entire composition is rather eccentric, reflecting the individuality of its designer, Dr. John Hall Smith. Always somewhat an outsider to the Boston area medical profession because of his lack of formal education and his desire to found a non-sectarian medical school, Smith began the Middlesex School on a limited budget. Relying on personal funds, he assumed the roles of designer, architect, and general contractor to bring the cost of his plan within reach. He also economized by using secondhand and local materials. Most of the fieldstone used in construction was removed from old stone walls which divided the grazing fields of the former Baker Estate. The mosaic which decorates the vaulted ceiling of the main hall is made from bits of broken glass and pottery rather than tile, which the masons were given free rein to design, exercising their craftsmanship.

The Castle today provides a bit of romantic relief to the stark sixties modernity of the rest of the Brandeis campus.



BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



Athletic Facilities:

Gordon Athletic Field -	52
Linsey Sports Center -1967	100
Marcus Playing Field -	52
Press Box -	18
Rieger Tennis Courts -	52A
Shapiro Athletic Center 1952	55

Humanities:

Golding Judaic Center -1960	87
Lown School of Judaic Studies -1972	108
Shiffman Humanities Center - 1960	71

Social Sciences:

Brown Social Science Center -1960	89
Lemberg Hall -1960	88
May Memorial Hall - 1957	67
Olin-Sang American Civilization Center -1960	83
Pearlman Hall - 1957	66
Schwartz Teaching Center - 1960	90

Miscellaneous:

American Jewish Historical Society -	HS
Brandeis Statue -	ST
Fellows Garden -	FG
Information Booth -1958	82
Kane Reflecting Pool -	RP
Mu Sigma Memorial -	MS
Power Plant - 1928	16
Rapaport Treasure Hall - 1957	69
Ullman Amphitheatre - 1952	56

Medical Facilities:

Golding Medical Outpatient Services Center -	59A
Mailman House - 1972	110
Stoneman Infirmary - 1955	59

Chapels:

Bethlehem Chapel	61
Berlin Chapel	57
Harlan Chapel	62

Libraries:

Gerstenzang Library of Science - 1966	98
Goldfarb Library - 1959	69

Student Residences

Ridgewood Quadrangle	
Allen Hall	51-B
Danciger Hall	51-D
Emerman Hall	51-E
Fruchtman Hall	51-C
Rosen Hall	51-A
Leon Court	
Cable Hall	77
Gordon Hall	79
Kutz Hall	80
Reitman Hall	76
Scheffres Hall	78
Foster Living Center	
Casty Residence	115
Casty Residence	116
Morris Hall	118
Tobin Hall	117
East Quadrangle	
Hassenfeld Hall	92
Krivoff Hall	92
Pomerantz Hall	91
Rubenstein Hall	91
Shapiro Brothers Hall	92
Swig Student Center	93
Massell Quadrangle	
DeRoy Hall - 1954	58
Renfield Hall - 1955	60
Shapiro Hall - 1952	53
Usen Hall - 1956	63
Rosenthal Hall North	103
Rosenthal Hall East	104
Rosenthal Hall South	105
15 Ridgewood Terrace -	11
20 Ridgewood Terrace -	9
28 Ridgewood Terrace -	10
Roberts House -	22
Schwartz Hall -	8
Usen Castle - 1928	1

CAMPUS PARKING AREAS

A	F	K	P
B	G	L	S
C	H	M	T
E	I	N	U

Dining Facilities:

Cholmondeley's - 1928	1
Sherman Dining Hall - 1951	54
The Stein - 1951	54
Usdan Student Center Cafeteria - 1970	101
Faculty Center - 1959	72
Kutz Hall - 1959	80

Creative Arts:

Goldman-Schwartz Art Studios - 1962	81
Pollack Fine Arts Teaching Center - 1972	84B
Rose Art Museum - 1961 + 1974	84
Slosberg Music Center - 1956	64
Spingold Theater Arts Center - 1966	86

Graduate Studies:

Heller School - 1966	68
Rabb Graduate Center - 1967	85
Lown School of Judaic Studies - 1972	108

Administration:

Bernstein-Marcus Administration Center - 1959	73
Epstein Campus Service Center - 1922	102
Epstein Service Garage - 1922	102A
Ford Hall - 1939	3
Gryzmish Academic Center - 1959	75
Irving Presidential Enclave - 1959	74
Sachar International Center - 1972	107
Sydemann Hall - 1950	3A
Usdan Student Center - 1970	101

Sciences:

Abelson Physics Building - 1966	97
Bass Physics Building - 1966	97
Bassine Biology Building - 1966	95
Edison Chemistry Building - 1966	94
Feldberg Computer Center - 1972	106
Foster Biomedical Research Laboratories - 1975	119
Friedland Research Center - 1959	70
Gerstenzang Science Library - 1966	98
Goldsmith Mathematics Building - 1966	96
Kalman Science Building - 1956	65
Kosow Biochemistry Building - 1966	99
Lecks Chemistry Building - 1966	94
Rosenstiel Basic Medical - 1973	109
Sciences Research Center	
Wolfson-Rosensweig Biochemistry Building - 1966	99
Yalem Physics Building - 1966	97

APR 9 1979

Property The Castle, Middlesex Medical School

State Mass.

Working Number 12.12.78.4740

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1, sketch

more photos coming

CONTROL

pl
12.12.78

~~Comments attached 1-28-79~~ Return/call - see attached See 3-9-79 ltr.

HISTORIAN

Complex of medieval style buildings which once housed 1st non-sectarian school of medicine in US, later the beginning of Brandeis U. Bldg. of style + site overlooking Boston, a local landmark. Associations w/ local prominent Dr. Smith + w/ development of US educational system

Delay
2-27-79
accept 4-5-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Chw
Mike Dawson
2/28/79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

QUESTIONS RESOLVED.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT
Mike Dawson
4/6/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry _____

5-1-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered APR 9 1979

617-727-8470

① Schwartz Hall (#8) + an unidentified building are within the boundaries of the nominated property.

What is their relationship to the Castle?

② No architectural statement of significance

③ Is boundary of justification to be assumed as the associated lot? *Yes*

called 3-1-79 Candy Jenkins



The Castle, Middlesex Medical School
Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Ralph Norman
Brandeis University, 1977

Middlesex County

View looking northeast with Section "A"
in the foreground and Section "B" behind.
Part of the Boston Rock appears in the
lower left.

APR 9 1979

Photo #1

DEC 12 1978

View looking northeast of tower "A" in the foreground
and the towered tower "B" behind. Part of
the Boston Rock appears in the lower left
of the photograph.

Photo No ①



The Castle, Middlesex Medical School
Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Ralph Norman

Middlesex County
Brandeis University, 1977

View of northern end of courtyard showing
Section "E" on right, "F" on left.
Photo #2

APR 9 1979

DEC 12 1978

View of northern end of interior courtyard showing
section "E" on the right. The long, low section "F" on
the left, and in the center, the pinnacled tower
of one of the two stone archways which opens
into the courtyard from the west.

Photo No 2 (2)



The Castle, Middlesex Medical School
Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Ralph Norman

Brandeis University, 1977

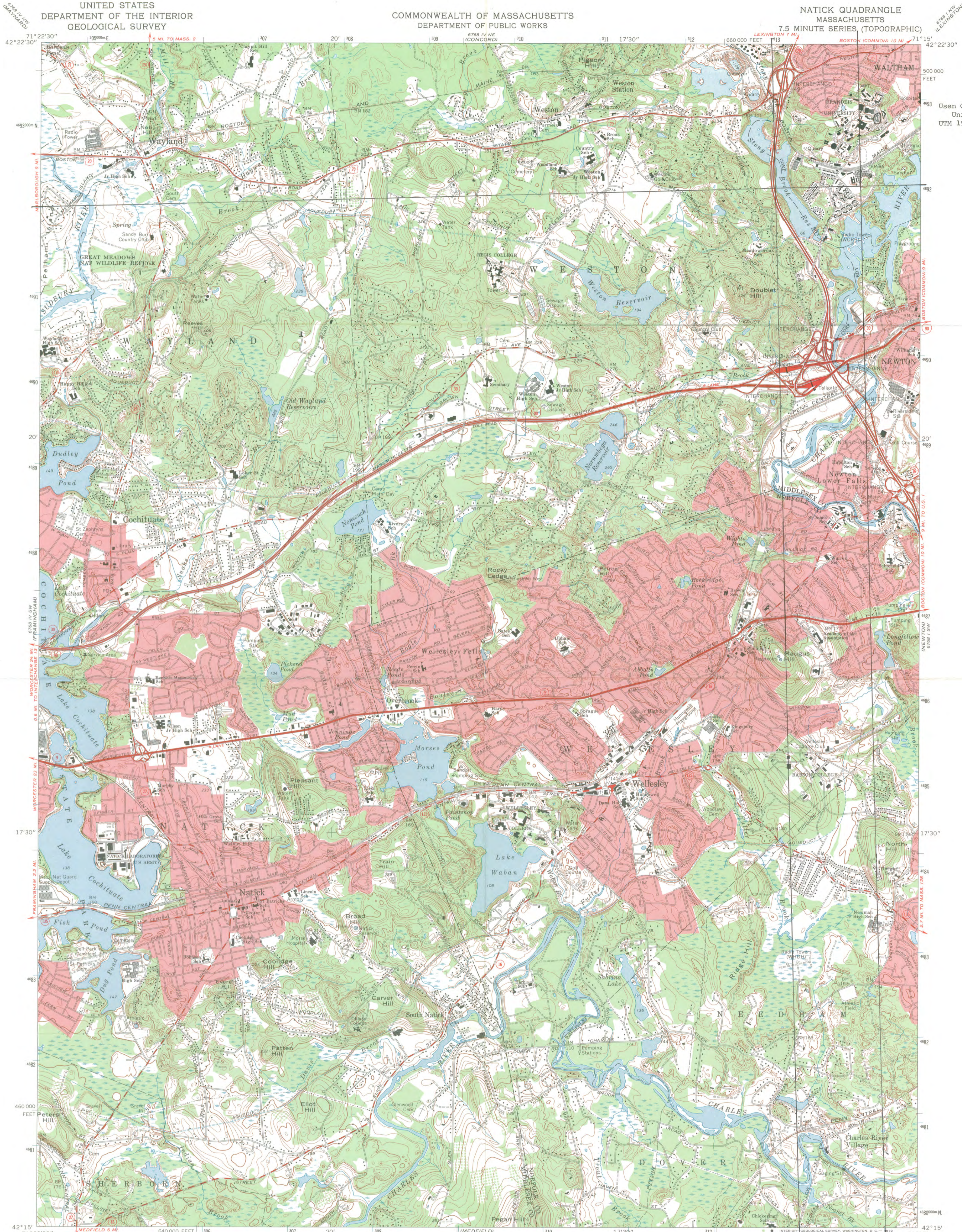
View looking southeast showing Section "F"
in the right foreground, "B" in the far
background, and "E" in the left fore-
ground.

Photo #3

APR 9 1979

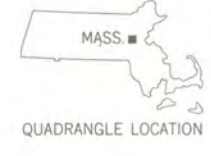
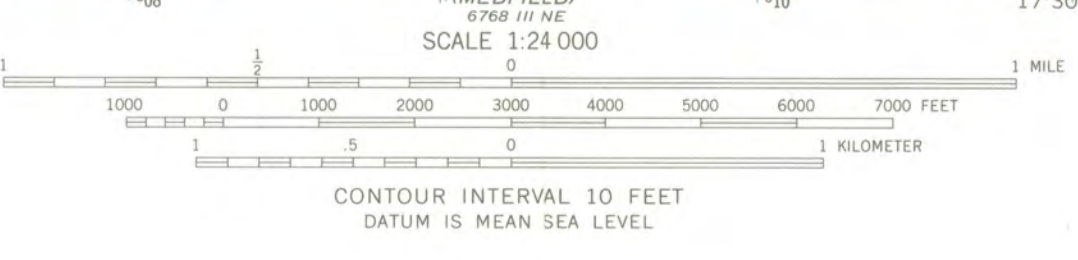
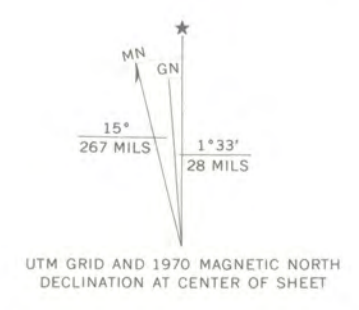
DEC 12 1978

Middlesex Co.



Usen Castle, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
UTM 19/314220/4692785

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1940-1941
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NATICK, MASS
N4215-W7115/7.5
1970
AMS 6768 IV SE-SERIES V814





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

*294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470*

December 5, 1978

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration Branch
National Register
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Barnstable	--	Wianno Club
Belmont	--	Pleasant Street Historic District
Cambridge	--	Cornerstone Baptist Church
Chatham	--	Brick Block
Waltham	--	The Castle
Winchester	--	Josiah Locke House

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. They have also been reviewed by our professional staff representing the disciplines of architecture, architectural history, archeology, and history.

Sincerely,

Christine Boulding

Christine Boulding
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CB/ts
enclosures



4P

THE IRVING ENCLAVE
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02154

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FR 12-27-78

January 16, 1979

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

MASS. Thank you for your letter of December 19, 1978. I am delighted that the Usen Castle at Brandeis University has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and that the nomination is now pending in your office.

The Castle, one of two buildings surviving from the former Middlesex Medical College, has been the focal point of the Brandeis campus from the very beginning. An important landmark of the greater Boston area as well, the Castle links the University to its origins and symbolizes the dream of its founders. Dr. John Hall Smith, founder of Middlesex, built his Norman-Gothic castle atop Boston Rock, the highest elevation point both on the campus and in the entire Boston area. It was from this point that Colonel Robert Bradford first surveyed Boston in the mid-seventeenth century. Today, the view of the city's skyline from the Castle is unsurpassed.

Dr. Smith began construction of the Castle in 1928. Because he had to rely largely upon personal funds, he assumed the roles of designer, architect and general contractor to keep the building's costs within reach. He economized in ingenious ways, acquiring many materials secondhand or at no cost at all. For example, most of the fieldstone used in construction came from old stone walls which divided the site of the campus into narrow strips where local farmers grazed their cattle in colonial times.

When Brandeis assumed ownership of the Middlesex campus in 1948, the Castle was converted to provide urgently needed administrative, dining and student dormitory space. In the 1950's, this facility was remodeled into 90 dormitory units designed to house 142 students. To this date, the Castle remains the overwhelming choice of students who reside on campus each year. Chief among the Castle's many attractions is its medieval air, an atmosphere enhanced by stone archways, sharply defined battlements, turrets, conical towers and spiral staircases. Its many distinctive architectural and aesthetic qualities certainly qualify it as one of the most unique structures in the entire Boston area.

The Castle,
Middlesex Medical
School
415 South St.
Brandeis U.

January 16, 1979

The Usen Castle at Brandeis holds special meaning not only for the faculty, students and alumni of the University, but for the surrounding community as well, and it may be said that the Castle's symbolic value has invested it with an historical significance of its own. In the effort to preserve this landmark, the University recently conducted a major project for the Castle's restoration. The building's new structural soundness helps to insure its continued use as a student residence and its preservation as an important historical structure for many years to come.

As part of its activities to prepare the application for nomination of the Castle to the National Register, the University recently conducted an inventory of historic structures in the city of Waltham for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. We were pleased to learn that the University's efforts in this area led to the rekindling of interest in the preservation of historical sites in Waltham.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending information on the Tax Reform Act of 1976 and the informational brochure on the National Register of Historical Places. It is my sincere hope that the Usen Castle will meet successfully the necessary criteria for inclusion among the government's listing of buildings worthy of preservation.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Marver H. Bernstein
President

MHB:sd

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D Jan 23 1979

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL ONLY

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS 1/30/79 ALM



MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

March 9, 1979

Charles Herrington, Chief
National Register
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
440 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20243

Attn: Margaret Orelup

Dear Mr. Herrington:

As we discussed on the phone, the Brick Block is one of the most important commercial structures in Chatham. In a town characterized by small scale, wood frame buildings, it is remarkable not only for its brick construction, but for its size. It has been used for commercial purposes since it was erected, and, as I noted, one function it originally housed was the post office.

In answer to your questions regarding the Castle in Waltham, Schwartz Hall (#8) is contemporary with the main U-shaped section and is designed in the same style. It is not connected because it originally served as a dormitory; it now contains lab and classroom space. The small building below it is connected by a stone arch and originally served as Dr. John Hall Smith's office and lab; it is now used for storage. A statement of architectural significance is enclosed on a continuation sheet.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
National Register Coordinator
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/ts
enclosure

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 9 1979

Name

Location

The Castle, Middlesex Medical School

Waltham
Middlesex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Robert F. Drinan

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR Byers/bjr 4/13/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: **The Castle, Middlesex Medical School**
 2 OTHER NAMES: **Usen Castle**
 3 date of entry: **APR 9 1979**
 4 county code: **17**

5 LOCATION street & number: **415 South St.**
 city / town: **Waltham**
 vicinity of: _____
 state: **MA**
 county: **Middlesex**
 6 NPS REGION: **NE**

7 OWNER: PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name): _____
 8 EXISTING SURVEYS: NAVY NAID NHL FUNDING: YES NO CONGRESS DISTRICT: **4**
 9 ADMINISTRATION: STATE FEDERAL

10 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NAME: _____ NO
 11 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NAME: _____ NO
 12 ACQUIRE: LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

13 CONDITION: deteriorated altered original site
 excellent ruins unaltered moved
 good unexposed reconstructed unknown
 fair unexcavated excavated
 14 FEATURES: INTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONMENT: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

15 ACCESS: YES - Restricted YES - Unrestricted No Access Unknown
 16 ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO
 17 SAVED?: YES
 18 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?: yes no

19 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ENGINEERING-11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS/GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 HEALTH-27 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25
 20 CLAIMS: explain 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

21 functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: _____
 CURRENTLY: _____
 22 dates of initial construction: _____
 major alterations: _____
 historic events: _____
 23 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: _____

24 architectural style(s): _____
 25 architect: _____
 26 master builder: _____
 27 engineer: _____

28 landscape architect / garden designer: _____
 29 interior decorator: _____
 30 artist: _____
 31 artisan: _____
 32 builder/contractor: _____

33 NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

34 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP