

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
19-21, 45, 46	E

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

Town North Adams MRA

Name of area (if any) Normal School

Historic District

General date or period 1890-1900

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

North Adams Quadrangle
UTM References:

- (A) 18/655420/4728130
- (B) 18/655520/4727930
- (C) 18/655460/4727870
- (D) 18/655330/4728050
- (E) 18/655290/4728120

Approximate acreage: 80

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date July, 1985

(Staple additional sheets here)

OCT 25 1985

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The Normal School Historic District consists of a group of ten buildings lining both sides of Church Street in the south end of the city. All were constructed at the close of the 19th century and together form a visually cohesive unit of well-detailed late Victorian buildings. On the west side of the road are Murdock Hall and the Principal's House, two buildings that were built as part of the North Adams State Normal School, now College. Farther south is a group of three large houses, two in the Queen Anne style and one that is Colonial Revival in its design and detailing. On the east side of Church Street, sited on the slope of a hill overlooking the road, is a row of five large homes. These buildings are also in the Queen Anne or Colonial Revival styles.

The focal points of the district are the two buildings of North Adams State College. Murdock Hall introduced Renaissance Revival design to North Adams. Its classical details and symmetrical composition were in marked contrast to the still locally popular Queen Anne and Romanesque styles. Particularly distinctive (see continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

The Normal School Historic District represents an historically important decade in the city's history. Included in the district are the two remaining original buildings of the State Normal School, now known as North Adams State College, and a group of stylish residences built at the same time. These buildings are part of the general development of the North Adams south side.

In 1894, the Massachusetts legislature decided to build four Normal Schools for the purpose of training teachers for the public schools. North Adams was chosen as one of the sites because it was a commercial and industrial center of the Berkshires, and because the city agreed to contribute the land and provide other support. The training of teachers for the public schools was especially important for North Adams in the 1890s, as the city was growing at a rapid rate. The South Church Street School (replaced in 1939 by Mark Hopkins School) was used for on-the-job training.

Murdock Hall and the Principal's House were begun in 1896 and finished in the following year. At that time, the North Adams State Normal School opened with four teachers and 32 students. A third building, Taconic Hall, was built in 1903 as a dormitory. Located south of the President's House, it has since been demolished. In 1932, the school's name was changed to the North Adams State Teacher's College, and in 1960, it became the State College at North Adams. Since that time, the college has embarked on an extensive program of expansion in which a great many new buildings were constructed south and west of the

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (see continuation sheet)

- Paper written by Anne Terryberry, 4/1/81, in the NASC Library
H. G. Rowe, North Adams and Vicinity, No. Adams, 1898
City Directories for 1890, 1893, 1898, 1903, North Adams, Mass.
Geo. F. Barber, American Cottage Souvenir No. 2, reprinted Watkins Glen, NY, 1982

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: North Adams	Form No: E
Property Name: North Adams Historical District	

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

Architectural Significance, continued

is the central pavilion of the east elevation. Ionic pilasters carry a pediment that enframes three Florentine windows lighting an interior staircase. The use of yellow brick and light-colored stone trim in this design demonstrates the sophistication of the architect, H. Neil Wilson of Pittsfield.

The second college building, the Principal's House, employs the same yellow brick but is fashioned in a Classical Revival style. Its monumental columned portico, with shallow fan in a full enframed, heavily dentilated pediment, faces north toward the city center. The Principal's House was also the work of Wilson, a regionally important architect who also designed the Hoosac Savings Bank and the Unitarian-Universalist Church in North Adams (both built in 1893 and both part of the Monument Square Historic District.)

Several private residences in the district are fine examples of the Colonial Revival style, also new to North Adams. The Ashe House, 418 Church Street (1897 # 21), is a massive building distinctive for its oversized classical details, including a broad front facade with elliptical entrance porch, palladian window, and, in the attic peak, an oval cameo window. Farther north is the Richmond House, 376 Church Street, (1892, #19), a more carefully proportioned Colonial Revival-style building with a cross-gambrel roof and second-story balcony.

During the same decade, the Queen Anne style continued to be popular in North Adams. Perhaps the most unusual example in the city is the Hawkins House, 413 Church Street (ca. 1897, #45). The plans for this house were obtained from the nationally known mail-order firm of George F. Barber, Knoxville, Tennessee. The multiple porches with elaborately turned woodwork are one of the liveliest displays of Queen Anne styling in North Adams. More typical of North Adams architecture is the Millard House 392 Church Street, (1890, #20). This house has a large veranda, which wraps around two sides of the building, and a large round corner tower. The property also includes a multigabled carriage barn.

Historical Significance, continued

original school. Murdock Hall is still a classroom building, and the Principal's House is now the President's House.

The residential neighborhood in this portion of the city developed at the same time as the school, becoming a popular location for homes for North Adams' growing population of wealthy merchants, men who had profited from the city's prosperity. The area was somewhat removed from the city's central business district, and its location on one of North Adams' hills made it a picturesque site for the assemblage of large residences built there. For example, N. L. Millard, head of Millard shoe company, and Newton Gleason, coowner of a grocery firm, built Queen Anne-style homes at 392 and 404 Church Street in the early 1890s, while T. W. Richmond, coal dealer, erected a Colonial Revival-style residence nearby at 377 Church Street at the same time. At a time when little other construction was occurring elsewhere in the city, the Normal School area was North Adams' fastest growing neighborhood.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: North Adams	Form No: E
Property Name: Normal School Historic District	

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

Criteria for Evaluation

The Normal School Historic District, which includes a cohesive grouping of intact, late 19th century revival-style domestic and institutional architecture, retains integrity of setting, design, location, materials, feeling, and workmanship. It holds associations as a neighborhood that evolved at the apex of North Adams' industrial development, and its inhabitants profited directly from the city's prosperity. The district thus fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

See attached sketch map. The bounds of the Normal School Historic District were drawn to include the two intact original structures of the State Normal School as well as eight contemporaneous residences in the immediate vicinity on Church Street that also retain integrity. All are finely detailed examples of late Victorian architectural styles. Excluded are more recent buildings of the State Normal School (now North Adams State College) and other turn-of-the-century residences that have undergone alterations.

Specifically, beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of Church Street and Blackinton Street, and traveling south along the eastern side of Church Street to the northern lot line of 376 Church Street; thence traveling east to the rear lot line of 376 Church Street and turning at a right angle and traveling along the rear lot lines of the eastern side of Church Street from 376 Church Street to 418 Church Street; thence traveling along the southern lot line of 418 Church Street and crossing over to the western curb line of 419 to 427 Church Street; thence traveling along the southern (side) lot line of 427 Church Street, turning at a right angle and following the rear lot lines of 427 to 413 Church Street; thence following the northern (side) line of 413 Church Street to the western curb line of Church Street and following the western curb line to the southern lot line of 375 Church Street; thence following the southern lot line of 375 Church Street, turning at a right angle to follow the rear of Murdock Hall on Church Street; thence turning at a right angle at the northern lot line of Murdock Hall; thence traveling in a northeasterly direction to Blackinton St. and following the southern curblines to the intersection of Church Street and Blackinton Street.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

NORTH ADAMS MRA
DISTRICT DATA SHEET
NORMAL SCHOOL HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>MHC #</u>	<u>Map #</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Style</u>
	1	Richmond House	376 Church Street	1892	Colonial Revival
	2	Millard House	392 Church Street	1890	Queen Anne
	3	Gleason House	404 Church Street	ca. 1892	Queen Anne
	4	Kimball House	410 Church Street	ca. 1892	Queen Anne
	5	Ashe House	418 Church Street	1897	Colonial Revival
	6	Murdock Hall	Church Street	1896	Italian Renaissance
	7	Principal's House	375 Church Street	1896	Colonial Revival
45	8	Hawkins House	413 Church Street	ca. 1897	Queen Anne
	9	F. L. Tilton House	419 Church Street	1896	Colonial Revival
46	10	F. E. White House	427 Church Street	ca. 1896	Queen Anne

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9/12/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name North Adams MRA
State Berkshire Co., MASSACHUSETTS

Cover *accept w/ps*

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Monument Square Historic District (B.I) | Substantive Review | Keeper | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. | Church Street-Caddy Hill Historic District (B.I) | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelous Byers 10/25/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. | Blackinton Historic District | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelous Byers 10/25/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | Freeman's Grove Historic District | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelous Byers 10/25/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. | Normal School Historic District | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelous Byers 10/25/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | Armstrong House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelous Byers 10/25/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | Arnold Print Works | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Shelous Byers 10.25.85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. | Boardman (The) | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelous Byers 10/25/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | Browne, Charles, House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelous Byers 10/25/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | Crowley House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelous Byers 10/25/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |

85003391

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Normal School Historic District (North Adams
MRA)
Bershire County
MASSACHUSETTS

SEP 12 1985

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 10/10/85 - 10/27/85

Action: ACCEPT 10-25-85

_____ RETURN _____

_____ REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Normal School Historic District
North Adams MRA, North Adams, Mass.
Photographer: Richard Hamblin
Date of Photograph: August 1985
Location of Negative: North Adams
Office of Community Development
Photo #6 of 7

Looking southeast on Church Street



Normal School His. Dis.
North Adams, ^{MA} Mass.
392 Church St.
Photo by HCRC, 1978
Negative at NAHC



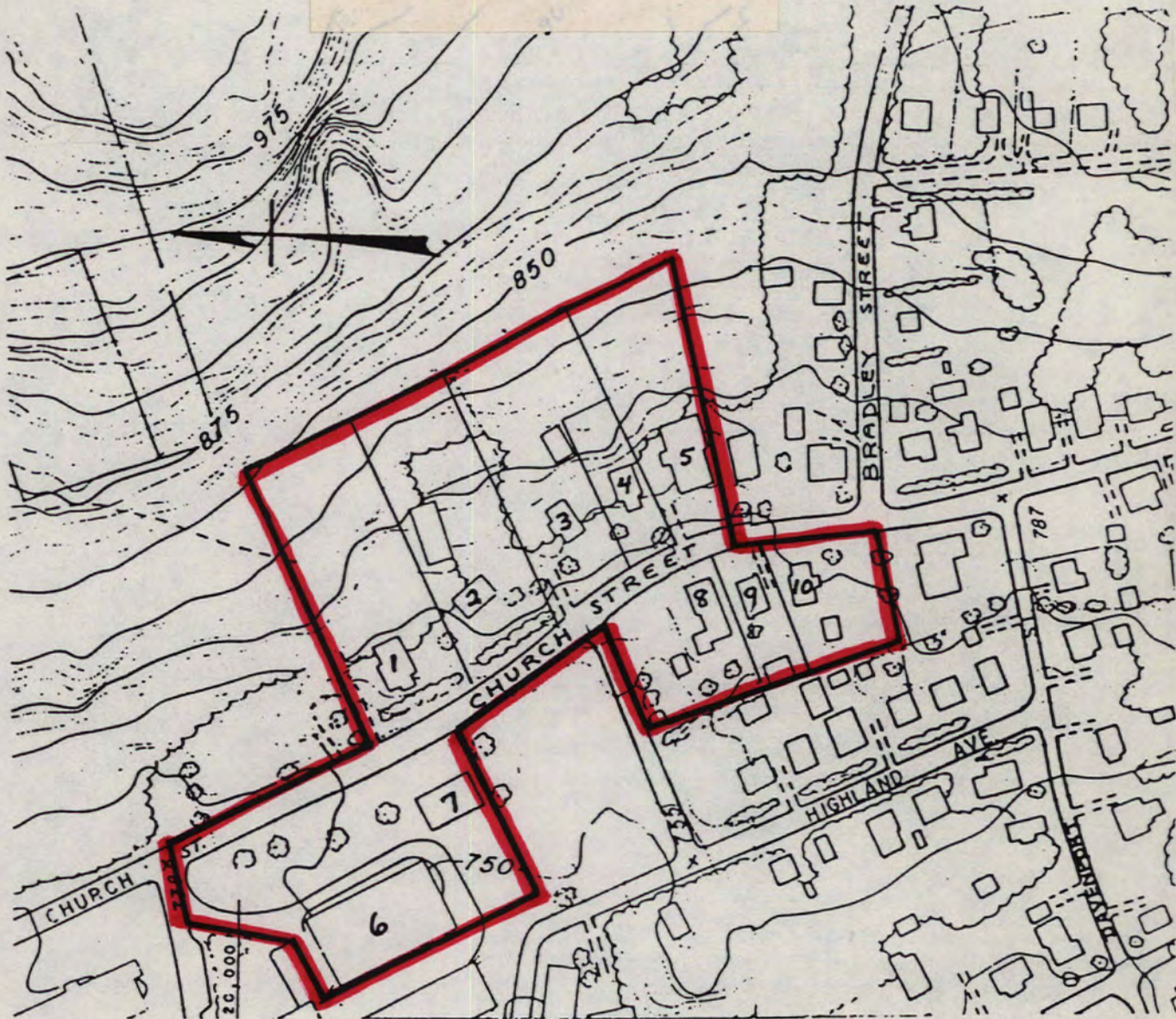
99
Normal School His. Dis.
North Adams, ^{MA} Mass.
Murdock Hall
Photo by R.Reed, 1981.
Negative at NAHC

Normal School Historic District
Area E
North Adams MRA
North Adams, Mass.

NORMAL SCHOOL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Scale: 1" = 200'

August 1985



NOTE: Boundary of properties #6 and 7 is drawn across North Adams State College land and is not a property line.