

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 5 1976  
DATE ENTERED APR 30 1976NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Smith Alumnae Gymnasium

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Smith College Campus, Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Northampton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Hampshire

CODE

015

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Smith College, Mrs. Jill Conway, President

STREET &amp; NUMBER

College Hall, Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Northampton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01060

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

33 King Street

CITY, TOWN

Northampton

STATE

Massachusetts 01060

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

# 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

Alumnae Gymnasium, dedicated in 1890, was designed by William C. Brocklesby who was commissioned to design at least nine buildings on the Smith College campus from 1886 to 1900.

The gym stylistically has many ties to the High Victorian Gothic buildings Peabody and Stearns had erected on campus during the late 1870's and early 1880's. The choice of similar materials: dark red brick with red mortar, and accents of brownstone, giving textural emphasis, are a unified theme among the early campus buildings as are the active massing, steep roofs and gables.

The building falls into the additive style of the Victorian tradition with individually articulated units denoting the separate functions contained within. From an angle, the jutting forms may look chaotic, but the hierarchical roof arrangement indicates an order. The steeply pointed and flaring, slate-roofed cupola with its diminutive wooden arcades screening the louvres pinpoints the center of the gymnasium space. The expansive slate roof encompasses the large interior space providing a strong horizontal effect on a north-south axis. Stepping down from that level, the gym is pierced from all four compass points by steeply pitched gables. These gables, like those of the Peabody and Stearns buildings, have a low parapet trimmed and braced in brownstone. The gym gables have the added feature of being stepped out on the sides like an overhang.

Midway down the main roof, equally spaced from other elements on the east and west sides, are slate roofed, wooden dormers. Each dormer has two windows with 8 over 2 sash arrangements, the windows being separated by two feather-edged panels, one over the other. The wood exterior trim here and elsewhere on the building is presently painted a dark green. Next in the hierarchy are the paired stairtowers on the east side which act as flanking pavilions for the eastern central gable. The stairtowers have hipped gables that do not compete for vertical emphasis with the four main gables; in fact, this roof treatment allows for the main volume of the gym to engulf the towers within its own roof outline. The stairtowers give access to the basement dressing rooms, one half flight down; the main gym floor, one half flight up; and the running track above the main floor, another full flight up, on a level with the upper portion of the main windows.

With the 1892 addition on the south end, the descending scale is reordered. This addition has a steep stepped gable in brick topped by quarry-faced brownstone, Queen Anne in style. This is the only gable whose peak has a window, i.e. a narrow lancet window. Flanking the gable are two office blocks. The southern arrangement, central gable and flanking office space, is a repetition of the northern facade where the individual arrangement of office space is asymmetrically articulated. By this addition, Brocklesby created a balance in the building that had not existed with his original design and designated an entrance the visiting public could use without wandering too close to the dressing rooms.

This southern entrance is markedly different from the rest of the building. In addition to its stepped gable and calmer, symmetrical arrangement, it makes more of a play with rounded openings. These appear in the two round transom windows in the upper portion of the gable which are enhanced by a string course of molded brick that crosses the gable and circles over the windows. Another band of molded brick crosses the central bay on the first floor to encircle the brick voussoirs above the semi-circular fanlight over the double doors and outline the brownstone lintel block of the window.

continued

| 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 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 (physical) | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT          | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input 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 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William C. Brocklesby

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Smith College was founded in 1871 through the bequest of Sophia Smith as a fulfillment of her moral obligation to humanity.

"As coming times may develop or demand for the education of women and the progress of the race, I would have the education suited to the mental and physical wants of woman. It is . . . (my design) to develop as fully as may be the powers of womanhood, and furnish women with the means of usefulness, happiness, and honor now withheld from them."<sup>1</sup>

Yet there was a persistent question during the first decade of the college concerning the deleterious effects of a college education upon a woman's physical condition. The first director of Physical Education, Senda Berenson, not only refuted the implication, but adapted basketball for play by women so that Alumnae Gymnasium has the unique distinction of being the site of the first women's basketball game. Berenson felt that the game "trains the players to be clear headed and cool, quick to act and wise in judgment, essential qualities for success in life."<sup>2</sup> The early graduating classes so strongly supported the concept that their first fundraising efforts were directed to building a permanent masonry gymnasium, among the first funded by and intended for the use of women. It is still used as a recreational gym by students and faculty.

William C. Brocklesby was commissioned to design the gym in 1890. In conjunction with the other buildings he designed for the college, the Smith College campus buildings form the largest extant grouping of Brocklesby's buildings anywhere. Within this ensemble, the gym exemplifies his transition from the High Victorian Gothic of Lilly Hall of Science to Richardsonian influence, as seen in his Dickinson House (burned 1944 and subsequently demolished) and his Forbes Library across West Street from the campus. Indeed, in the designs for the college buildings by Peabody and Stearns (1875-1882) and Brocklesby (1886-1900), Smith's architectural history traces the development of the late 19th century styles.

Against the advice of the Art History Department of Smith College and architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock, plans for demolition of Alumnae Gym have been approved so that a library extension may be built on the site. Smith has lost several buildings during college expansion and two of Brocklesby's buildings were demolished to accommodate the last library extension in 1960. A committee of alumnae and another committee of students have been communicating with the college president and trustees about the preservation of Alumnae Gym. While the library addition will proceed as planned, the preservation advocates have proposed moving the building (minus the western addition) approximately 200 feet onto a contiguous parking lot. Part of the parking lot was the site for the former Dickinson House, which was designed by Brocklesby in 1894, burned in 1944 and subsequently demolished. By relocating Alumnae Gym on this site, it might be said that the original site plan of the campus would be restored.

continued



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daily Hampshire Gazette, August 5, 1890.

Hanscom, Elizabeth D. and Greene, Helen F. Sophia Smith and the Beginnings of Smith College. Smith College Fiftieth Anniversary Publications, Northampton, Mass. 1925.

"President's Report," 1890-1891. Smith College Archives, Northampton, MA.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 8 6 9 4 6 2 0 4 6 8 7 4 6 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C                                             

B                                               
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D                                             

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor, Darleen Melis and Janice Prescott

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

March 30, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Elizabeth Reed Amador*

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

3/30/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Sam F. [Signature]*  
*Charles [Signature]*

DATE

4/30/96

DATE

4-30-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 1

#7:

Returning to the eastern and main facade, there seems to have been an effort on Brocklesby's part to leave few undecorated areas. For the central gable he designed what is essentially a Palladian window with its arch filled in by brick laid in a basket-weave pattern with brownstone voussoirs outlined by a carved molding, fluted keystone, and stopped by crockets. It is the broad lintel of these windows that steps out on the sides to form the gable overhang. Below the windows is the delightful bas relief terra cotta plaque which reads, "Alumnae Gymnasium, A.D. 1890" above two twine nets beribboned, festooned, and surrounded with detailed figures of Indian clubs, dumbbells, and early tennis racquets. The three basement windows below are topped by brownstone lintels that are underscored by another belt course in a manner that suggests a bracket label. Cut into these lintels are ogee curves. The ogee curves also appear as molded brick aprons under the continuous brownstone sill of the main windows, reiterating their width.

There is a strong sense of verticality in the eastern facade (which was probably also true for the western facade). The strong vertical thrust of the central gable is assisted by the straited height of the three main windows. In the flanking walls, the vertical is reinforced by the use of buttresses to divide what could have been a horizontal expanse of wall into vertical bays. In echo of the dedication plaque, there are panels of molded brick between upper and lower sets of windows.

The stairtowers present another change in character which may be considered an expression of the change of function. As already mentioned, the roofs are hipped gables. The windows are round arched and by their staggered arrangement, demark the winding of the stairs. To delineate the stairs, Brocklesby draws a line of molded brick up the sides of the stairtowers and across their facades, intersecting the top windows. This molding is the only eave decoration, in contrast to the walls flanking the central gable which have corbelled eaves picked out in terra cotta. The stairtowers also provide the original means of access to the building in the form of two entrances with wooden peaked hoods. The diminutive arcades of the cupola appear again but are surmounted by a lattice effect. The hood is supported by fluted wooden brackets. The doubly curved stairway skirts are quarry-faced brownstone that are compressed very rapidly to a low height.

Finally, Brocklesby makes use of a system of brownstone belt courses to give variation of color and to contrast the brownstone's rough texture with the precise mechanical quality of the flush-jointed brick. The courses are aligned with either lintels or sills. The only consistent line is that of the watertable which offsets the main floor of the gym, while other lines weave in and out between buttresses and projecting bays.

#8:

1 Elizabeth D. Hanscom and Helen F. Greene, Sophia Smith and the Beginnings of Smith College, p. 62.

2 "Smith College Monthly," April 1894, n.p.

Property Smith Alumnae Gymnasium

76 000259

State Massachusetts Working Number 4.5.76.2947

Hampshire

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 2  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

OK <sup>cm</sup> 4.6.76

**HISTORIAN**

ACCEPT  
L. Wengert  
20 Apr 76

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Therrell need a letter of permission to move.

Accept  
M. J. Huber

See call report

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

Accept  
W. R. Luce  
4/21/76

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
4/22/76

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

Hunt  
4.30.76

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered APR 30 1976

Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74





Smith Alumnae Gymnasium  
Northampton, MA  
Charlotte Frieze Blum, photographer  
January 1976  
104 East 31st Street, New York, NY 10016

South facade.

*Hampshire Co., Mass*

Photograph #1 of 2

APR 5 1976

4/30/76

121 21





Smith Alumnae Gymnasium  
Northampton, MA  
Charlotte Frieze Blum, photographer  
January 1976  
104 East 31st Street, New York, NY 10016

East elevation.

*Hampshire Co., Mass.*

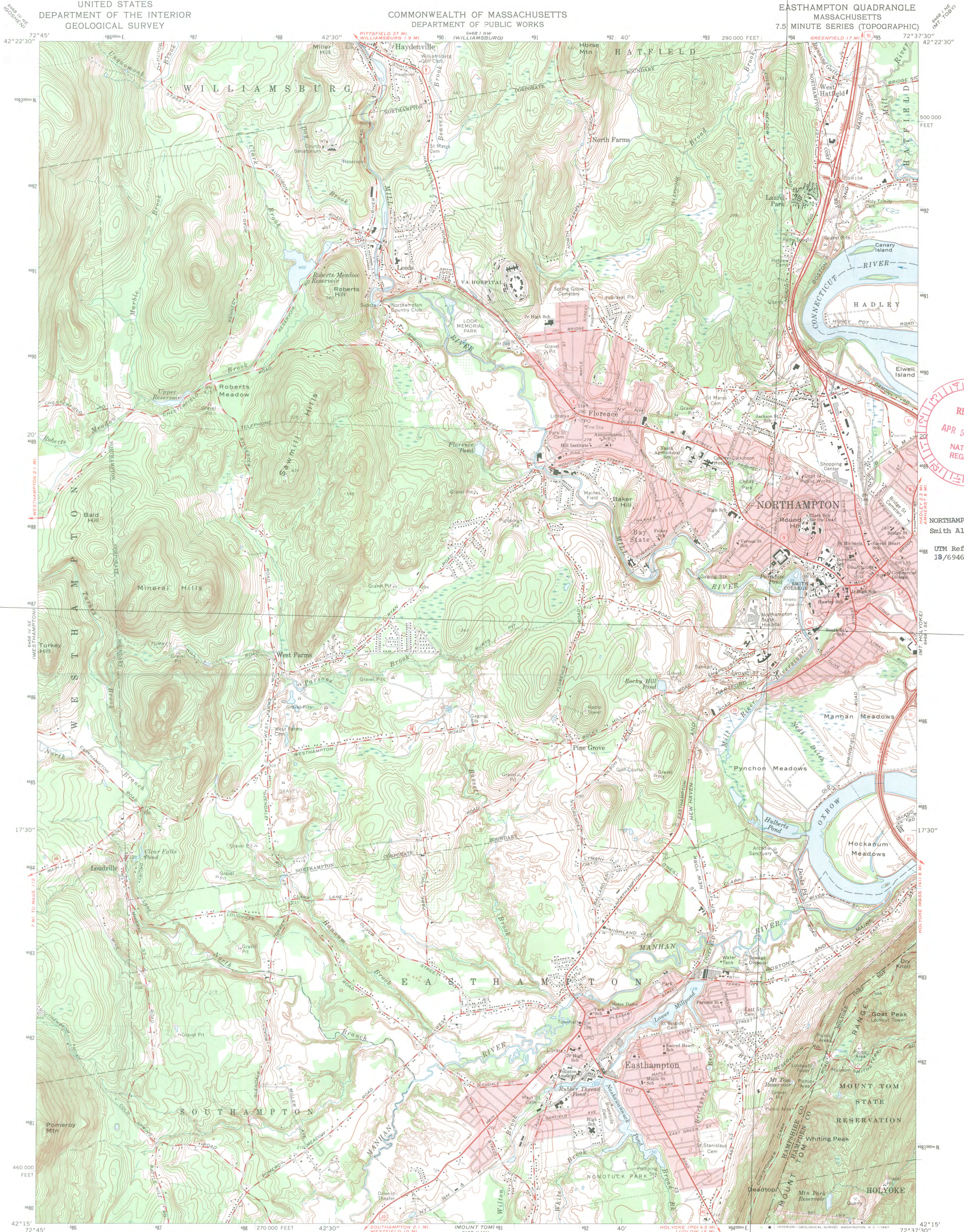
Photograph #2 of 2

APR 5 1976

4/30/76

121 61

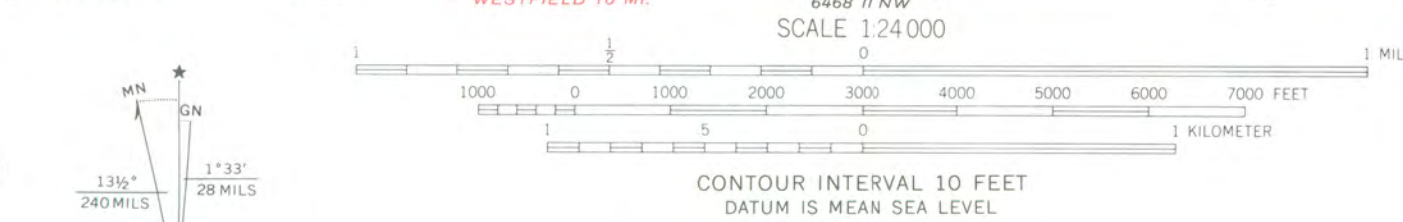




NORTHAMPTON, MA:  
Smith Alumnae Gymnasium

UTM References:  
18/694620/4687460

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1935. Revised 1964  
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 18, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

EASTHAMPTON, MASS.  
N4215—W7237.5/7.5

1964

AMS 6468 I SW—SERIES V814

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



DATE 4-13-76

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL 12 noon AM  
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Judy Dobbs

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

MA Historical Commission  
617-727-8470

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Smith Alumnae Gymnasium, Hampshire Co., Northampton MA

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Called to clarify the procedures which would ~~by~~ be necessary to follow once building was moved.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Hickey Lutz

TITLE

AK

OFFICE



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 30 1976

| <u>Name</u>                   | <u>Location</u>                        |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Peirce, Peter, Store          | Middleborough<br>Plymouth County       |
| Belcher, Jonathan, House      | Randolph<br>Norfolk County             |
| Fernald, George P., House     | Medford<br>Middlesex County            |
| Albree-Hall-Lawrence, House   | Medford<br>Middlesex County            |
| Smith Alumnae Gymnasium       | Northampton<br>Hampshire County        |
| Putnam, General Israel, House | Danvers<br>Essex County                |
| Dillingham House              | Brewster vicinity<br>Barnstable County |
| Wellesley Town Hall           | Wellesley<br>Norfolk County            |

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler  
Hon. James A. Burke  
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald  
Hon. Silvio O. Conte  
Hon. Michael J. Harrington  
Hon. Gerry E. Studds

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02103

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

5/4/76

MOTT:djb

PR



David Look  
12 May 1976

H34-PR

MAY 13 1976

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02103

Dear Mrs. Amadon:

After careful consideration, the proposed relocation of the Smith Alumnae Gymnasium at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, to an adjacent parking lot has been approved. It is regrettable that the library expansion necessitated the move from its original site. Thank you for the information.

Sincerely yours,  
Charles A. Herrington (Sgd.)  
for  
William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register

bcc: Regional Director, North Atlantic Region  
Director's Reading File

✓PR

FNP:LOOK:sle:5-12-76

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR



|                                                                                                                                |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| State:                                                                                                                         | IA                                           | MASSACHUSETTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| County/indep. city                                                                                                             | I06                                          | hampshire                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| City/vicinity                                                                                                                  | I07                                          | Northampton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| PRIMARY TITLE                                                                                                                  | I08                                          | <u>SMITH ALUMNAE GYMNASIUM</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| (Secondary Title)                                                                                                              |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Address/location                                                                                                               | I09                                          | Smith College / Campus, Green St.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Statement of significance including construction date, alteration date, present use, and style.                                | I10                                          | designed by William C. Brocklesby and<br>1890 Jacobethan gymnasium built by Smith College alumnae;<br>altered 1892; still in use.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Statement of significance including important peoples names; include key words for search of events and areas of significance. | I11                                          | Among first such sports facilities built for women; site<br>of first women's basketball game.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Other surveys, include number of habs or haer drawings                                                                         | #C                                           | P15 Icn                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Ownership/agency                                                                                                               | #I                                           | Private                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Date of entry                                                                                                                  | I12                                          | (4-30-76)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Areas of Significance (circle those which apply to property)                                                                   | I13                                          | 1. historic archeology 2. prehistoric archeology<br>3. agriculture 4. architecture 5. art 6. commerce<br>7. communication 8. conservation 9. economics<br>10. education 11. engineering 12. exploration 13. industry<br>14. invention 15. landscape architecture 16. law<br>17. literature 18. military 19. music 20. philosophy<br>21. politics/government 22. religion 23. science<br>24. social/humanitarian 25. transportation 26. entertainment<br>27. health 28. recreation 29. settlement 30. social/cultural<br>31. urban and community planning |
| Indexing Items                                                                                                                 | CE<br>CE<br>CE<br>CE<br>CE<br>CE<br>CE<br>CE | Smith Alumnae Gymnasium, MA:<br>Brocklesby, William C. :                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 20 Apr 76  
Reviewer INITIALS: *[Signature]*

NR DOE

(4-30-76) ✓

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: *Smith Alumnæ Gymnasium* ✓

OTHER NAMES:

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

CODE

## OWNER OF PROPERTY:

(Circle)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE)

N. ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST

MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST

WEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

### INTERIOR

- Substantially intact-1
- unknown - 4
- not applicable - 7

### EXTERIOR

- Substantially intact-2
- unknown - 5
- not applicable - 8

### ENVIRONS

- Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 6
- Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

### CONDITION -

- EXCELLENT
- ☒ GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED
- Unexcavated

- UNALTERED
- ☒ ALTERED
- Reconstructed
- Excavated

- ☒ ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
- Unknown

### ACCESS -

- ☒ restricted
- Yes-unrestricted
- No access
- Unknown

### historic district?

YES

☒ NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

☒ NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

☒ NO

IF YES, NAME:

## ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

## Saved?

YES

NO

## FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- *Sports Facility, ed.*

now- *same*

## SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

- AGRICULTURE

- ☒ ARCHITECTURE

- ART

- COMMERCE

- COMMUNICATIONS

- CONSERVATION

- ECONOMICS

- ☒ EDUCATION

- ENGINEERING

- EXPLORATION

- INDUSTRY

- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- LAW/Gov't/politics

- LITERATURE

- MILITARY

- MUSIC

- PHILOSOPHY

- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION

- SCIENCE

- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

- TRANSPORTATION

- OTHER (SPECIFY)

- entertainment

- health

- ☒ recreation

- settlement

- socio/cultural

- urban & commun

- planning

## Claims

"first?" YES

NO

"oldest?" YES

NO

"only?" YES

NO

*among gyms for women*



## ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder: William C. Brocklesby

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

## ETHNIC GROUP:

## NAMES:

(label role

&

appropriate date)

personal Senda Benson - 1st Smith College director of physical education

events First women's basketball game

institutional Smith College

## DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1890

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1892 addition

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

## SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

## ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

## COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

dark red brick with red mortar, accents of brownstone  
irregular rectangular shape  
gables rise above roof, with hipped roof buttresses  
string courses of molded brick, some terra cotta decoration  
peaked wooden hoods over front entrances  
steeply pointed square cupola.  
Jacobethan

## SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

~~Built by a~~ A well designed Jacobethan brick gymnasium  
built by the alumnae of Smith College in recognition of the  
importance of physical education in women's education.  
Site of the first women's basketball game.



~~Brick, rectangular~~

Brick, 2 stories, irregular rectangular shape,  
intersecting gabled and hipped roof sections,

brownstone and terra-cotta trim;

Brick, 2 stories, irregular ~~rectangular~~ shape, intersecting gabled and hipped roof sections, interior chimneys with corbeled caps, peaked hoods over front entrances, double-door round-arched rear entrance with fanlight, cupola, ~~with louvered arches, and steeply pitched roof, molded~~ brick string courses; ~~brownstone and terra-cotta trim~~; rear addition, 1892; moved, 1977. Eclectic with Late Gothic Revival, Romanesque and Jacobethan elements. Built by Smith College alumnae in recognition of importance of physical education in women's education; site of first women's basketball game.

with elements of Late Gothic Revival,  
Romanesque, and Jacobethan styles. Built  
by the alumnae of Smith College in  
recognition of the importance of  
physical education in women's education;  
site of the first women's basketball  
game.

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~~Brick, rectangular~~

Brick, 2 stories, irregular rectangular shape, intersecting gabled and hipped roof sections, interior chimneys with corbelled caps, peaked wooden hoods over front entrances, double-door round-arched rear entrance with fanlight, cupola with louvered arches and steeply pitched roof, molded brick string courses, brownstone and terra cotta decorative trim; 1892, rear addition; 1977, moved to new nearby site. Eclectic design by William C. Bracklesby with elements of Late Gothic Revival, Romanesque, and Jacobethan styles. Built by the alumnae of Smith College in recognition of the importance of physical education in women's education; site of the first women's basketball game.

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