FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph

Topographic or Assessor's Map

Assessor’s Number | USGS Quad | Area(s) | Form Number
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UMASS No. 117 | Williamsburg | N/A | |

Town: Amherst
Place: University of Massachusetts

Address: 105 Hicks Way

Historic Name: Munson Hall Annex

Uses: Present: Academic
Original: Veterinary (Equine) Science Laboratory

Date of Construction: 1899

Source: University of Massachusetts Facilities Dept.

Style/Form: Eclectic

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:
Foundation: Stone
Wall/Trim: Brick
Roof: Slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: UMass Building #116 Munson Hall

Major Alterations (with dates): Replacement of barn doors with windows on E; Blocking of single door on E; Replacement of second story door and installation of fire escape on E; Enclosure of wraparound open arcade at SE corner; Removal of chimney at NW corner; Removal of four cupola ventilators; Replacement of barn door with single door and brick infill at NW corner; Addition and removal of shed where three brick flues remain on W (dates unknown).

Condition: Good, with the exception of the main block’s eaves, which show water damage, and several windows in the W ell, which are missing muntins.

Moved: no | X | yes | Date 

Acreage: Total Campus Acreage: 1,348 Acres

Setting: Located in well-landscaped area of historic campus core, adjacent to Building #116 Munson Hall, Building #121 Hicks Physical Education Building and Building #122 Hicks Physical Education Cage.

Recorded by: W. Maros/C. Weed/C. Beagan

Organization: VHB/Pressley Associates

Date (month / year): May 2009

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.
Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:
Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Munson Hall Annex consists of a two-story brick main block, with a one-story brick and wood L-shape wing on its south side and a one-story brick rectangular ell on its west side. The building’s style is eclectic, with some Queen Anne features, such as the complex roofline with its multiple gables and the decorative brickwork that originally was part of the northwest corner chimney (now removed above the roofline).

Munson Hall Annex’s main block has a hip roof with a deep overhang and central gables, containing louvers in the gable peaks, on all four sides of the structure. The main block is three bays wide and four bays deep. The main entrance is the east elevation’s second story, at the top of a metal fire escape stairway, just below the gable peak louvers. The door has a single pane in its upper half and two rectangular panels in its lower half. Two rectangular awning windows with diamond-pattern muntins are located at either side of this door. The east elevation’s first story contains a central pair of 4/4 windows with 2/3 transoms. A single 4/4 window with a 2/3 transom is located at either side of the paired windows. All these windows have brick lintels with stone keystones. Historic photographs on file at Special Collections and Archives, W.E.B Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst show that this elevation has undergone several changes since 1918, when (1) the second story door was a double-leaf loft door with no stairway, (2) a double-leaf barn door was situated where the paired first story windows now exist and (3) a single door was located at the north end of the east elevation in a space that is now blocked with brick. Interestingly, the paired first story windows that were installed after 1918 replicate the first story’s original single windows. Historic photographs also show that a chimney with a flared cap once existed at the northwest corner of the main block. With the exception of the removal of the brick chimney from its northwest corner, the west elevation of the main block appears unchanged from its 1918 appearance. The second story contains a central 6/2 window in the gable peak, below the louvers. A rectangular awning window with diamond-pattern muntins is located to the south of the central window.

Historic photographs show that the L-shape wing’s roof originally covered a deep open-air veranda that wrapped around an enclosed room at the center of the wing. The east and south perimeter of the veranda consisted of widely spaced square posts, with chamfered corners, that supported the wing’s roof. At some point in time after 1918, the open verandah was enclosed with vertical board walls between these posts and the wing was extended to the west. The chamfered verandah posts remain in place and are visible elements of the L-shape wing’s existing exterior wall.

The L-shape wing has a hip roof with a shallow overhang. Counting the wall spaces between the exposed verandah posts, the wing is six bays wide and five bays deep. Reading the east elevation of the L-shape wing’s bays from south to north, bay 1 has a single 1/1 window; bay 2 has a double-leaf door, where each leaf has a single pane and two wood panels but the dimensions of the panes and panels are different in each leaf; bays 3, 4 and 5 have blind walls; and bay 6 has a single door. Reading the south elevation of the L-shape wing’s bays from west to east, bay 1 has a blind wall and a shed roof; bays 2, 3 and 4 each have a single 1/1 window; and bay 5 has a double-leaf door, with a small square pane in the upper half of each leaf. The south slope of the wing’s hip roof contains three ventilation flues. Historic photographs show that the wing contained four ventilation cupolas in 1918, which no longer exist. Historic photographs also show that the west elevation of the L-shape wing contained four square windows and one larger rectangular window in 1918. An undated photograph that appears to be more recent than that shows a one-story shed roof structure with three brick chimneys on the west side of the wing, located on what had been open ground in 1918. In September 2008, the one-story shed roof addition was gone, but the three chimneys still exist as part of a perimeter wall around what currently appears to be a roofless rear patio or yard.
The rectangular ell on the west side of the main block also has a hip roof with a shallow overhang. The ell is five bays wide. Although the north and south elevations of the ell are currently hidden by shrubbery and fencing, historic photographs indicate that the ell was three bays deep in 1918. In addition, the 1918 photograph shows that the ell’s west elevation had an off-center double leaf barn door, with one 6/2 window to its north and three 6/2 windows to its south. Currently, the west elevation has a single modern door and brick infill where the barn doors once existed. The four windows from 1918 appear to remain in place but are missing two or more glazing bars.
Landscape – Visual/Design Assessment
Munson Hall Annex is located to the west of Munson Hall on a site that slopes from the north to the south. On the east side of the building is a bituminous concrete drive and parking area. On the south side of the building deciduous trees shade a lawn with a row of deciduous shrubs along the edge. Pole lights are located along the south side of the site. Vegetation on the north side of the building consists of lawn with tall evergreen shrubs.

2005 orthophotograph of Munson Hall Annex (center, left) and surrounding landscape, north is up (MassGIS).
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Overview

The University of Massachusetts, Amherst was chartered as the Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1863 but did not accept its first class until 1867. As one of two land grant universities in Massachusetts, the university’s original mission was agricultural education. Its mission, however, evolved within the first 20 years in response to the changing needs of the United States. While agriculture remains, even today, a mainstay of the University’s mission, the University now also supports engineering, science, education, and liberal arts colleges and departments.

A full historical narrative of the University of Massachusetts from its founding to 1958 is contained in the survey report. This narrative was prepared in 2009 by Carol S. Weed, Senior Archaeologist with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Shown below are selected highlights from the text of the full historical narrative, along with additional information pertinent to the specific building that is described in this Massachusetts Historical Commission Building Form. This section contains: (1) highlights of the historic periods in the development of the University of Massachusetts, leading up to and including the period when the building was constructed, (2) information about the university in the decade when the building was constructed, (3) information about the circumstances that led to the construction of the building, along with information about its architect, if known, and (4) an analysis of the historic landscape of the building.

1863-1867: Administration and Initial Campus Layout

As the educational mission evolved in the years after 1863, so did the university’s approach to its facilities and its landscape. There was no accepted plan for the layout of the college, despite the preparation of various plan proposals in the 1860s, including separate proposals from the country’s preeminent landscape planners, Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted, who had formerly worked together on the winning design for New York City’s Central Park. Neither Vaux’s plan, nor Olmsted’s plan to create a campus around a central green, were accepted by the University Trustees.

Manning’s plan designated three distinct sections of the campus, the Upland, Midland and Lowland Sections. Each section was intended to be the locus of specific functions, with clusters of purpose-built structures to serve those functions. For example, one section would be designated for faculty, women’s and horticultural facilities. A second section would contain administration, research, science and student life (dormitory, dining hall, and sports) facilities. The third section would be dedicated to poultry, farming and sewage disposal facilities.

Although Manning’s Upland, Midland, and Lowland sections are not fully realized, it is apparent that discipline specific groupings were developed. Building clusters, especially those related to agriculture, administration, and the hard and earth sciences (physics, chemistry, and geology) continued to expand through the present day.
1890-1900

By the early 1890s, the Trustees had determined that the ongoing growth of the Massachusetts Agricultural College as an institution meant that the campus would have to undergo a substantial reorganization in terms of land use. Additional dormitories and lectures halls were badly needed; the logical place for these buildings was within the core campus, where the College’s agricultural facilities were presently located; and the Trustees were quite aware that putting new residential and classroom buildings in close proximity of barnyards would be exceedingly undesirable for students and faculty. The farms would have to be relocated farther away from the core, not only for hygienic and esthetic reasons, but also for logistic reasons: the Trustees thought that the existing farm setup was becoming inconvenient from a farmer’s point of view. The Trustees were concerned that farmers would have to spend too much time and expense carting materials from fields to barns that had become (or would become) stranded among non-farm campus buildings. The challenge of relocating the farms was also regarded by the Trustees as an opportunity to create new, sanitary, model barns and veterinary laboratories where hard-to-eradicate problems like tuberculosis among livestock might be overcome. During this decade and into the 20th century, new state-of-the-art agricultural facilities were built, including the 1894 Horse Barn, Munson Hall and Munson Hall Annex.

Munson Hall Annex

Munson Hall Annex served as a hospital stable for horses. The building was associated with adjacent Munson Hall (known as Paige Laboratory until the early 1950s) which contained animal veterinary laboratories and lecture halls, despite having the outward appearance of a large and costly house. The laboratories were fitted with tiled surfaces that could be thoroughly washed in order to keep these spaces as sanitary as possible. Paige Laboratory was named for James Paige, who was Head of the Veterinary Science Department at the Massachusetts Agricultural College from 1891 to 1922.

Landscape Analysis

The buildings to the west of the Campus Pond were historically organized along two circulation routes, neither of which is extant. The eastern façade of buildings closest to the pond, including the Chapel and Memorial Hall, were organized along Olmsted Road/Ellis Drive overlooking an open space indicated as Front Slope on a 1901 campus plan and the Campus Pond. Olmsted Road/Ellis Drive was an historic tree-lined street that curved along the west side of the campus pond, connecting to North Pleasant Street at both its northern and southern ends.

The western façade of the buildings faced an extension of Lincoln Avenue (no longer extant). Historically, the northern terminus of the Lincoln Avenue axis was occupied by North College (no longer extant), which stood on the approximate site of Machmer Hall (1957). The southern axis of Lincoln Avenue was obstructed by the construction of Whitmore Hall in 1967. Historically, Lincoln Avenue was tree-lined and featured some open lots interspersed with athletic fields.

Munson Hall (1898) Munson Hall Annex (1899) included and access drive perpendicular to Lincoln Avenue. With the addition of the Hicks Physical Education Building and Case in 1931, access to the building was reconfigured and included a loop around Munson Hall. Early historic photographs show no planting near Munson Hall, but later photographs show shrubs at the foundation. The foundation of the building remains un-vegetated, matching the historic appearance. The configuration of walks and roads surrounding the buildings has changed dramatically from the time the buildings were constructed, while the vegetation associated with the buildings retains its historic appearance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

__, 30th Annual Report of the Massachusetts Agricultural College (1893)
__, 37th Annual Report of the Massachusetts Agricultural College (1900)

Figures

Detailed Map
Munson Hall Annex, view northwest, September 2008
Munson Hall Annex, view northwest, September 2008
INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Munson Hall Annex, view southeast, September 2008
Munson Hall Annex, 1918
Courtesy Special Collections and Archives, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Munson Hall Annex, 1918

Courtesy Special Collections and Archives, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Munson Hall Annex at the right, no date (circa 1900), with Munson Hall (UMass Building #116) at the left. 
Courtesy Special Collections and Archives, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
Munson Hall Annex, no date (mid to late 20th century)
Courtesy Special Collections and Archives, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst
First established in 1863 under the provisions of the Federal Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act, the University of Massachusetts Amherst retains a significant collection of buildings dating from its first period of operation as the Massachusetts Agricultural College (1863-1931). These include, but are not limited to: substantial brick and masonry classroom, laboratory, research and administrative buildings dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, barns and stables related to its function as an agricultural college, pre-existing wood frame buildings (including two 18th century buildings [117, 118]) incorporated into campus functions, the power plant [107], the Chancellor’s House [124], and the Old Chapel [126] and Memorial Hall [112], historic centerpieces of the campus. The historic buildings from the “Mass Aggie” period for the most part are concentrated in three areas: (1) an arc that extends west to east between the Mullins Center and the Northeast Residential Area, including the Grinnell barn complex [109, 110, 111], Blaisdell [108], the power plant [107], Flint [104], Stockbridge [105], Draper [103], Goessmann [106], and West [114] and East [113] Experiment Stations; (2) a smaller grouping that includes, Wilder [115], the University Club buildings [117, 118], Clark [116] and Fernald [119]; (3) and the group of South College [128], Old Chapel [126] and Memorial Hall [112] at the center of the campus. Other individual buildings [including 120, 124, 125] also survive outside these areas. Although the campus has expanded significantly in and around the Massachusetts Agricultural College core, both individual buildings and groups of buildings that still convey their relationship to each other as part of the Agricultural College are campus plan, are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at the state level.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst also retains a significant collection of buildings dating from 1931-1958, which is a period characterized by the expansion of the school’s mission and physical plant that began in the 1930s with its name change to Massachusetts State College. At this time, the Trustees made a concerted effort to modernize and increase campus facilities, through the post-World War II mid-20th century period when there was unprecedented growth in the size of the university student population and a concurrent growth in specialized academic research and degree work.
Significant buildings that were constructed to meet the University’s needs between 1931 and 1958, as well as significant buildings predating 1931 which have no prior Form B on file with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, include (listed in order of construction date): [UMass 58]; Hatch Laboratory, built 1891 [UMass 118]; Clark Hall Greenhouse, built 1907 [UMass 84]; French Hall Greenhouse, built 1908 [UMass 105]; French Hall, built 1909 [UMass 104]; Waiting Station Shelter, built 1911 [UMass 63]; Apiary Laboratory, built 1911 [UMass 74]; Hicks Physical Education Building, built 1931 [UMass 121]; Hicks Physical Education Cage, built 1932 [UMass 122]; Thatcher House, built 1935 [UMass 30]; Research Administration Building, built 1939 [UMass 579]; Lewis House, built 1940 [UMass 28]; Butterfield House, built 1940 [UMass 5]; Greenough House, built 1946 [UMass 24]; Chadbourn House, built 1947 [UMass 6]; Mills House (New Africa House), built 1948 [UMass 29]; Skinner Hall, built 1948 [UMass 128]; Gunness Laboratory, built 1949 [UMass 91]; Brooks House, built 1949 [UMass 4]; Hamlin House, built 1949 [UMass 25]; Knowlton House, built 1949 [UMass 26]; Marston Hall, built 1950 [UMass 92]; Paige Laboratory, built 1947 [UMass 6]; Hasbrouck Laboratory, built 1950 [UMass 124]; Baker House, built 1952 [UMass 3]; Crabtree House, built 1953 [UMass 12]; Leach House, built 1953 [UMass 27]; Worcester Dining Hall, built 1953 [UMass 85]; Arnold House, built 1954 [UMass 2]; Durfee Range, built 1955 [UMass 96]; Van Meter House, built 1957 [UMass 32]; Machmer Hall, built 1957 [UMass 111]; Student Union, built 1957 [UMass 131]; Wheeler House, built 1958 [UMass 33]; and Johnson House, built 1959 [UMass 36].

The recommended University of Massachusetts Amherst historic district meets Criterion A for its association with the ongoing mission of this state university to meet the educational requirements of a rapidly changing world. From the inception of the University in 1863 as the Massachusetts Agricultural College, through the current day, the Trustees have sought to provide educational programming and facilities that would enable students to advance the practice of agriculture and a steadily increasing host of other fields, meet the needs of a rapidly-industrializing world, and succeed in leading a post-industrial information and technology-based economy.

The historic district also meets Criterion C for its stock of buildings and landscape features whose forms and functions reflect the evolving and expanding mission of the University in the 95 years between its 1863 founding and 1959 (1959 being the 50 year cut-off for National Register consideration). A number of architects, landscape architects and planners of local, regional and/or national prominence were involved in the design of the individual buildings and the overall plan of the current University of Massachusetts Amherst campus. The aggregate efforts of these design professionals produced a distinctive public university campus landscape, primarily of the mid-19th to mid-20th century, which is unique in Massachusetts.

Despite the loss of certain buildings and landscape features up to the present time in 2009 and incremental physical changes seen in new window, door and roofing replacements, as well as siding replacements in a small number of buildings, the district retains integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, association, workmanship, and materials.