

Smith College building dorms on Paradise Road following demolition of 3 buildings

By Fred Contrada on June 27, 2015 at 7:25 AM

NORTHAMPTON – Smith College has demolished three buildings on Paradise Road for the construction that has begun on dormitories that will be ready by the end of the year.

The college had to file for demolition permits to take down the buildings at 66, 69 and 70 Paradise Road. The city's Historical Commission nonetheless imposed the demolition delay ordinance on two of the properties in 2013. The demolition delay has since been lifted, and Smith has taken them down.

Although the Paradise Road Apartments, as they are called, are scheduled for completion by December, Smith does not plan to house students there in the spring semester but has scheduled them for occupancy in summer 2016 for students in its School for Social Work, according to Samuel A. Mastiner, the associate vice president for college relations.

The building at 70 Paradise Road, built in 1866, was the longtime home of Sunnyside, a day-care business that relocated to Route 10. Prior to that it was a residence for nurses who worked at the college infirmary across the street at 69 Paradise Road.

The house at 66 Paradise Road, built in 1887, had been used as a single-family residence. Smith paid taxes on that building, but school property is otherwise tax exempt. The new student housing will replace the Friedman apartment complex between Round Hill Road and Henshaw Avenue, which accommodated 52 residents.

Click here for a live webcam of the project:
<https://www.workzonecam.com/projects/smithcollege>

