FORM B - BUILDING

Town Northampton
Address Westside Earle Street
Historic Name Power Plant
Use: Original Power Plant
Present
Ownership: □ Private individual
□ Private organization
□ Public Comm. of Mass.
Original owner Comm. of Mass.

DESCRIPTION:
Date 1934-1935
Source Annual Reports
Style
Architect E.C. Brown Co. - Engineers
Exterior wall fabric brick
Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates)

Moved Date

Approx. acreage

Setting

Recorded by Ed Lonergan
Organization Northampton Historical Commission
Date February, 1981

(Staple additional sheets here)
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

This building is very "monumental" in scope, with an absence of historical ornament, a fitting expression of its basic and utilitarian nature.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

This Power Plant replaced the 1893 boiler house which had been located near the rear wing of the original State Hospital. The new plant was constructed at a cost of $377,000, through the Public Works Administration program, a federal project designed to alleviate the effects of the Depression on the construction industry. It was put in operation June 12, 1935. "The entire heat and hot water supply for the institution is derived directly and indirectly from this plant, the steam mains being carried in tunnels that are mostly available for subway travel as well."

Across the street is a small, brick structure housing the conveyor belts which brought the coal under Earle St. to the power plant. A 300 ft. siding from the railroad on the east brought the coal cars to this site. The state had purchased this small lot on the east side of Earle St. early on to provide a drop-off for the coal. At some time during the 1950's the power plant was converted to oil.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Annual Reports: 1934 - 1935 - Forbes Library
Original Plans: NSH Engineer's Office