
5. Description
Date 1886
Source Annual Report
Construction material brick
Dimensions 24' x 190'
Setting west of Main Complex
Condition fair

6. Recorded by Ed Lonergan
Organization Northampton Historical Commission
Date February, 1981
7. Original owner (if known) Comm. of Mass

Original use piggery

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Historical significance.

This large piggery was constructed in 1886, replacing a smaller structure. The main building was 24' wide and 190' long, with a crosswing at the southern end 20' wide and 80' long. Midway on the front of the main building was a 20' square room for slaughtering. It was built of brick with a slate roof and concrete floor.

This solid and functional building exhibits the size of the agricultural operation at the State Hospital. The materials used in this structure: brick, brownstone and slate, were the same used in the finest commercial, residential and institutional structures of the day.

The raising of pigs was a major part of the farm operation since the State Hospital opened in the late 1850's. The farm quickly built a solid reputation, and the hogs were much sought after. In 1886, the year this piggery was built, 58 hogs, with a total weight of 21,503 pounds, were slaughtered.

In 1966 the decision was made to eliminate the hog herd at the State Hospital, and the piggery was no longer used.

9. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

Annual Reports: 1886 - Forbes Library