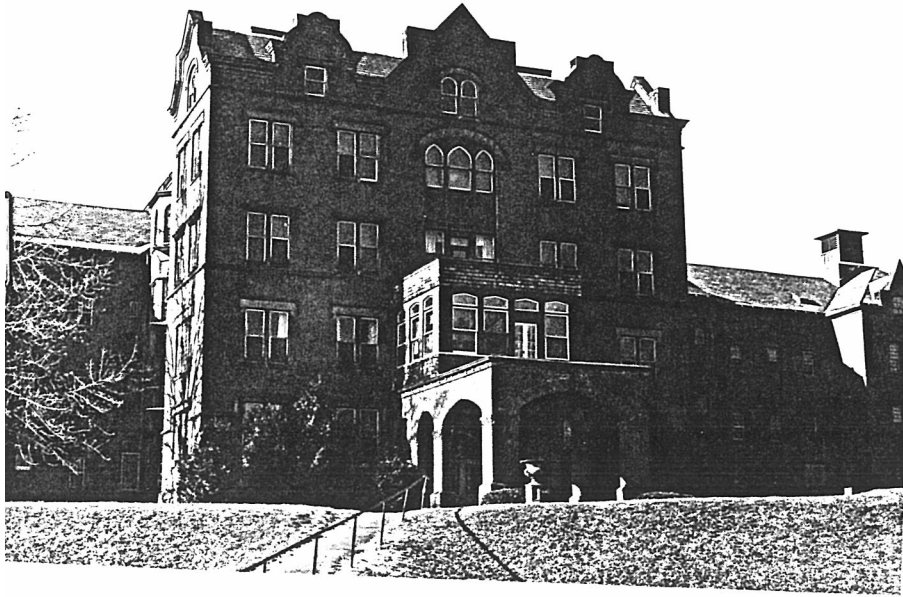


FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
1	A

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



cross streets and other buildings
 or geographical features.
Indicate north.

Northampton

s Northside Prince Street

ic Name Administration Building

iginal administration

resent "

hip: Private individual
Private organization

Public Comm. of Mass.

Original owner Comm. of Mass.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1856-1858

Source Annual Reports

Style "Elizabethan"

Architect Jonathan Preston

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates)

new portico (1877), extension (1898)

flooring over of Rotunda (1959)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage _____

Setting _____

Recorded by Ed Lonergan

Organization Northampton Histocial Commission

Date February, 1981

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

This is the central block of the original "Northampton Lunatic Asylum", designed by Jonathan Preston, a noted Boston architect of the mid 19th century. The styling of this original complex, contemporaneously described as "Elizabethan", now referred to as "Jacobethan", makes it somewhat of a rarity. Most extant buildings of this style date from the period between 1890 and 1930. It had originally been made "popular" in this country in the mid 19th century by Alexander Jackson Downing, but "actual buildings of the style from the period are few and far between, and have to be sought out".

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

The original institution included a central administration block, three wards stepped back from the northern and southern sides and a rear "working" wing. The central block was four stories in height and contained offices, dispensary, central rotunda, and an apartment for the superintendent.

The brick, front portico was replaced in 1877 by a much more solid structure built of Longmeadow

The growth of the State Hospital created a shortage of space in this building. In 1899 the State Legislature appropriated \$45,000 for repairs, mostly to this block. A four-story addition was made to the front of this block. This was three bays deep and five bays wide and built of brick with brownstone trim. The styling is similar to the original complex, with the ornamentation of a more substantial nature than the thin brownstone trim of the original. The 1877 portico was extended out two bays to form a porte cochere, and an enclosed porch, one bay deep was added above. This has recently been reshingled.

After a new house was constructed for the superintendent in 1940, the old quarters in the central block were converted to a surgical suite and infirmary for sick employees.

In 1958-59 the rotunda was floored over on all three floors. The resulting new areas served as visiting rooms for the North and south wards.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Marcus Whitten, 1966