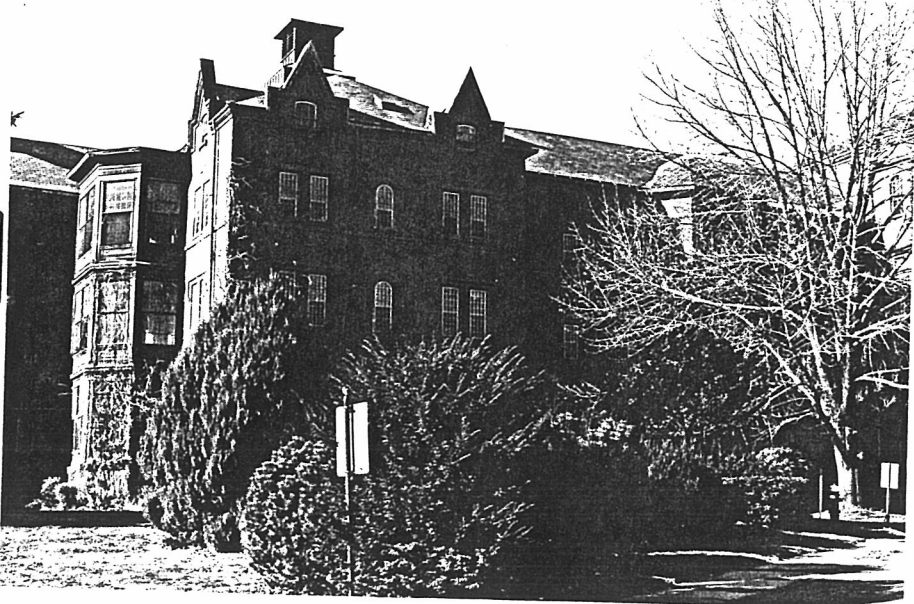


FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
1	B

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Location in relation to
 cross streets and other buildings
 or geographical features.
Indicate north.

Northampton

S Northside Prince Street

ic Name South Ward - 1

iginal Ward - female patients

resent —

ship: 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) _____

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage _____

Setting _____

Recorded by Ed Lonergan

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date February, 1981

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

This ward is part of the original complex which was designed by Jonathan Preston, a noted Boston architect of the mid 19th century. The styling of the complex contemporaneously described as "Elizabethan", now referred to as "Jacobethan", makes it something 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 in 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 "Northampton Lunatic Asylum" included a four-story, central administration building, and three-story wings stepped back from both the northern and southern sides. These wings each contained three wards for patients and were segregated by sex.

This was the first ward of the South wing and extended southerly from the southern side of the central building. It was originally set up for the most responsive female patients. Each floor contained a large sitting room, dining room, attendants' room, two rooms for physically ill patients, a sitting room for patients visitors, nine patients rooms and a room with "water-closet, bath and sink." In the center of the eastern facade is a three-story, hexagonal bay window.

In 1893 brick firewalls were constructed between each ward, and new stair cases of iron were also built in each ward. It was about this time that new, taller windows were put in each of the bow and bay windows in the southwing.

In 1914-15 a three-story, octagonal bay window, 20' wide and 10' deep with walls "almost wholly of window surface" was attached to the southern end of this building. This was "to afford more light and furnish better facilities for open-air treatment."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Annual Reports: 1856-1858, 1885, 1893, 1914, 1915 - Forbes Library
Hampshire Gazette: February 26, 1856 p.2; Jan. 12, 1858 p.2