

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
1	C

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Town

Northampton

Northside Prince Street

Block Name South Ward - 2

Original Ward - female patients

Present

Ownership: Private individual
Private organization

Public Comm. of Mass.

Original owner Comm. of Mass.

DESCRIPTION:

1856-1858

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

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

(Staple additional sheets here)

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 rarity. Most extant buildings of this style date from the period between 1890 and 1930. It had originally been made "popular" in this country 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 middle ward of the south wing, and extended southerly from the southwestern end of the first ward. Each floor contained a diningroom, large sitting room and attendants' room, as well as thirteen rooms for female patients and three rooms with "water-closet, sink and bath". In the center of the eastern facade was a three-story, brick bow window.

In 1893 under a directive from the State Legislature for "fireproofing", brick firewalls were constructed between each ward and new staircases of iron were built in each ward. Four years later, in 1897 a three-story, 20' square addition for toilet and bath purposes was constructed on the western side of this ward. It was about this time that new, taller windows were put in each of the bow and bay windows of the southwing.

In 1903 the women's infirmary was built and connected by a one-story corridor (subsequently raised to three stories) to the southern end of this ward.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Annual Reports: 1856-1858, 1885, 1893, 1897, 1903 - Forbes Library
Hampshire Gazette: February 26, 1856 p.2; January 12, 1858 p.2