

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
1	D

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Town Northampton

Northside Prince Street

ic Name South Ward - 3

original ward - female patients

resent \_\_\_\_\_

hip:  Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_

Public Comm. of Mass.

Original owner Comm. of Mass.

RIPTION:

1856-1858

cross streets and other  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by Ed Lonergan

Setting \_\_\_\_\_

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 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 third and most distant ward of the south wing and extended westerly from the southern end of the second ward. It was used for the more disturbed female patients and also contained rooms for suicidal patients. Each floor contained a diningroom, a room for attendants and nine rooms for patients, as well as a room with "water-closet, sink and bath". In the center of the southern side was a three-story, brick bow windows.

In 1892 a 22' square, three-story addition was made to the northern side of this ward for additional washrooms, bathrooms and water-closets, as well as a 20' x 25' extension on the western end. This was three stories high and contained two rooms for patients, as well as a large open bay at the end of the corridor, on each floor. During 1892 and 1893 brick firewalls were constructed between each ward and new staircases of iron were built in each ward. It was about this time that new, taller windows were put in each of the bow and bay windows of the south wing.

In 1920 a tunnel connected this ward to the new south home, while in 1921 a 220' tunnel, 4' wide and 6' high was built from the heating plant (demolished in 1936 for the Main Kitchen) to this ward building. In 1925 a fourth ward building was extended westerly from the wouthwestern corner.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Annual Reports: 1856-1958, 1885, 1892, 1893, 1920, 1921, 1925 - Forbes Library  
Hampshire Gazette: Feb. 26, 1856 p.2; Jan. 12, 1858 p.2