FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Town: Northampton
Address: Northside Prince Street
Street: South Ward - 3
Type: Female patients
Present: ______
Ship: □ Private individual
□ Public organization
□ Public Comm. of Mass.
Original owner: Comm. of Mass.

IPTION:
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

(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 contemporaneous 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 dining room, 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 5' 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 southwestern corner.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES


Hampshire Gazette: Feb. 26, 1856 p.2; Jan. 12, 1858 p.2