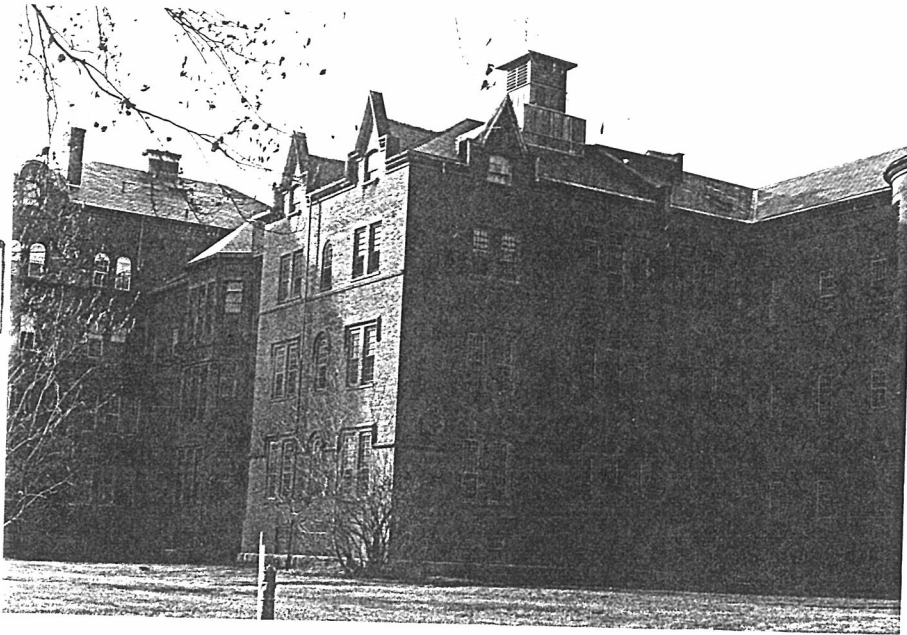


FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
1	E

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



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

Northampton

Northside Prince Street

ic Name North Ward - 1

iginal ward - male patients

resent                     

hip:  Private individual  
 Private organization                     

Public Comm. of Mass.

Original owner Comm. of Mass.

RIPTION:

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

(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 first ward of the North wing and extended northerly from the northern side of the central building. It was originally set up for the most responsive male 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 was a three-story, hexagonal bay window.

Between 1895 and 1897 major renovations were made to the northwing. Brick firewalls were constructed between each ward, and iron staircases were installed in each ward. New taller windows were put in each of the northwing's bow and bay windows. There was a three-story addition made to the western side of this ward for washrooms, bathrooms and water-closets.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Annual Reports: 1856-1858, 1885, 1895-1897 - Forbes Library

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