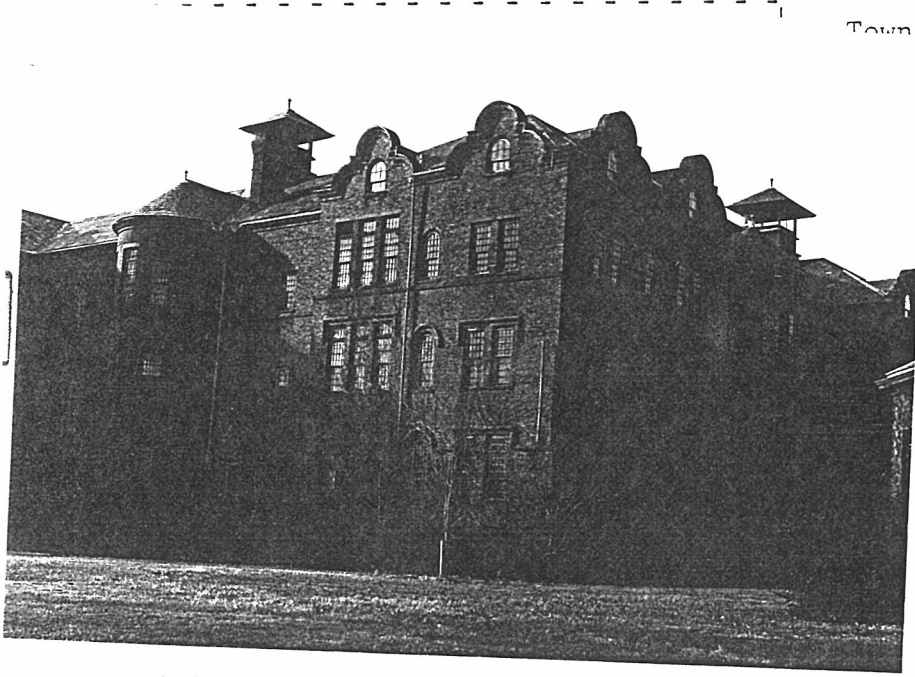


FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
1	F

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Town Northampton

Address Northside Prince Street

Block Name North Ward - 2

Original Name Ward - Male Patients

Present Name -

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public Comm. of Mass.

Original owner Comm. of Mass.

DESCRIPTION:

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

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

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 southern sides. These wings each contained three wards for patients and were segregated by sex.

This was the middle ward of the northwing and extended northerly from the north western end of the first ward. Each floor contained a diningroom, large sitting room and attendant's room, as well as thirteen rooms for male patients and three rooms with "water-closet, sink and bath". In the center of the eastern facade was a three-story, brick, bow window.

Between 1895 and 1897 major renovations were made to the north wing. Brick firewalls were erected between wards, and iron staircases were installed in each ward. A three-story addition for wash rooms, bathrooms and water-closets was made to the western side of this ward. New and taller windows were put in each of the north wing's bow and bay windows.

In 1905 the men's infirmary was built and connected to the northern end of this ward by a one-story corridor.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Annual Reports: 1856-1858, 1885, 1895-1897, 1903-1905 - Forbes Library
Hampshire Gazette: February 26, 1858 p.2; Jan. 12, 1858 p.2