

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
1	G

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Town Northampton

Address Northside Prince Street

Public Name North Ward - 3

Original ward - male patients

Present

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 sough 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 north wing, and extended westerly from the northern end of the second ward. it was used for the more disturbed male patients, and also contained rooms for suicidal patients. Each floor contained a diningroom, room for attendants, and nine rooms for patients, as well as a room with "water-closet, sink and bath." In the center of the northern side is a three-story brick, bow window.

Between 1895 and 1897 major renovations were undertaken in the north wing. Brick firewalls were erected between wards and iron staircases, were installed in each ward. New taller windows were put in each of the northwing's bow and bay windows. A three-story extension to the western end of this ward provided new washrooms, bathrooms and water-closets.

In 1920 a tunnel connected this ward to the new North home, while in 1922 a 300' tunnel, 4' wide and 6' long, was built from the heating plant (demolished in 1936 for the Main Kitchen) to this ward. In 1925 a fourth ward building was extended northerly from the western end.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/c REFERENCES

Annual Reports: 1856-1858,1885,1895-1897,1920,1922,1925 - Forbes Library
Hampshire Gazette: Feb. 26, 1856 p.2; Jan. 12, 1858 p.2