FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Town: Northampton

Street: Northside Prince Street

IC Name: South Infirmary

Original Women's Infirmary

Present: 

Ship: 

Private individual

Private organization

Public Comm. of Mass.

Original owner: Comm. of Mass.

IPTION:

1901-1903

Source: Annual Reports

Style:

Architect: Ellsworth & Kirkpatrick

Exterior wall fabric: brick

Outbuildings:

Major alterations (with dates):

Additions & renovations (1960):

Moved: Date

Approx. acreage:

Setting: southern end of Main Complex

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)

The original South Infirmary was built from plans of Ellsworth and Kirkpatrick, a Holyoke architectural firm that also designed the North Infirmary.

The major features of the original block were two 3½ story pedemented pavilions on the eastern side, and two more on the western side. The southernmost of each side's pavilions projected enough to form a cross wing on the block. Each pediment had a stylized Palladian window within. The southern end of the building has a three-story bow window.

The additions of 1960, while of brick, have much larger expanses of glazed (cont.)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

In 1900 the Superintendent made a request for the building of male and female infirmaries to prevent further outbreaks like the previous year's typhoid fever. This was a need that had been realized for quite sometime (plans had been made in 1895), but the near-epidemic made the need imperative.

In 1901 the State Legislature appropriated $55,000 for a female infirmary. This was finished in 1903 and accommodated seventy patients, as well as having dormitory space for twenty-five nurses. Due to the sloping ground the southern end of the building was a full four stories high, providing extra space for twenty-five patients when needed. This proved to be very soon, and in 1904 this lower floor was fitted up and utilized.

Originally, the building had been connected to the southern end of the second ward of the south wing by a fifty-foot, one-story corridor, but this was raised to three-stories in 1915.

Between 1925 and 1927 additions were made at the southeast and southwest corners of the infirmary to accommodate more patients. A brick stair tower was also built to provide added fire protection.

By the mid 1950's it had been decided to undergo a program of complete renovation and remodelling of the Main Complex, most of whose buildings were a century old. The State Hospital was suffering from severely overcrowded conditions, "mainly as the result of admission rate of the senile group". Many of these patients were completely bedridden, and needed extra attention. This factor led to the female infirmary being chosen for the renovation project first. It was necessary to replace the old (cont.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES


Original Plans: (no date); Sept. 1913; Feb. 19,1957 - NSH Engineer's Office
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

surfaces (glass brick and small lights) than the original block, and alter the character of this block. This is the only block of the Main Complex to undergo such substantial modernization.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

wooden floors with new ones of reinforced concrete to insure the complete fireproofing of the block. Additions were also made, at the northern and southern ends of the eastern facade, so that the building was able to accommodate 212 senile, female patients (25% of whom were bedridden).

By the time the work was finished in January, 1960, at a cost in excess of $250,000, the Superintendent reported that the fireproofing of "old functionless building is unsatisfactory" and it was" advisable...to replace the remaining one hundred year old building with new buildings rather than fireproof them.