

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
1	K

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



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

Town Northampton  
 s Northside Prince Street  
 ic Name South Infirmary  
 riginal Women's Infirmary  
 'resent \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by Ed Lonergan  
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission  
 Date February, 1981

Setting southern end of Main Complex

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 southern most 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 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

Annual Reports: 1893, 1895, 1901-1903, 1914, 1915, 1925-1927 - Forbes Library  
 Original Plans: (no date); Sept. 1913; Feb. 19, 1957 - NSH Engineer's Office

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 1-K
Property Name: South Infirmary	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

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.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom