
5. Description

Date  1908

Source  Annual Report

Construction material  brick

Dimensions  15' x 15'

Setting  in rear of Main Complex

Condition  good

6. Recorded by  Ed Lonergan

Organization  Northampton Historical Commission

Date  February, 1981

Original use "fireproof" paint shop

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Historical significance.

Fire was always a matter of concern at large institutions so it was necessary to take precautions with flammable substance. Originally the trade shops and their storage space had been in the basement of the hospital building. This was built of brick, but had wooden floors and partitions. The shops were soon moved to small out-buildings at the rear of the hospital. However, in time it was felt that a separate structure solely for the painters was the best way to prevent fire damage.

In 1905 the State Hospital trustees requested $2500 for the construction of a "fireproof shop" for the painters. This was built in 1908 at a cost slightly in excess of $2000. It is one-story in height, with hipped roof and finial. Brownstone is used for the sills and lintels of the tall windows.

9. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

Annual Reports: 1905, 1908 Forbes Library