MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

FORM F - STRUCTURE

In Area no. Form no. 31

n. Northampton

ress. Northside Prince Street

ie. Airing Court

sent use

sent owner Comm. of Mass.

e of structure (check one)

gate

al pound

p. powder house

l. street

tower

tunnel

wall X

lighthouse windmill

other

5. Description

Date 1872

Source Annual Report

Construction material brick

Dimensions

Setting south of South Infirmary

Condition fair

6. Recorded by Ed Lonergan

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date February, 1981

(over)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

-73-075074

Original use Airing Court

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Historical significance.

This is a remnant of one of the "airing courts" constructed during 1872. "The Superintendent and the other medical officers of the institution being unanimous in the opinion that one of the greatest defects of the hospital, in a sanitary point of view, was its want of suitable enclosures whereby the patients might be enabled to be in the open air a much larger proportion of the time than is otherwise practicable." Therefore, two courts were built for the patients, one at each end of the third ward. They were constructed of brick, the men's having 9' walls and the women's having 8' walls, and they were capped with brownstone slabs. Every 23' were 20" square brick pilasters, rising 5" above the wall and covered with 2' square brownstone caps.

The North walled court has been totally removed, while only part of the South court remains. The south Infirmary (built 1903) took away the eastern wall, and the 4th Ward South took away the northern and part of the western walls. Today, the walls average 3' height.

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

Annual Report: 1872 Forbes Library