

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
	32A-58

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

1. Town Northampton

2. Union Street

3. House of Correction

4. Jail

5. Hampshire County

6. Description:

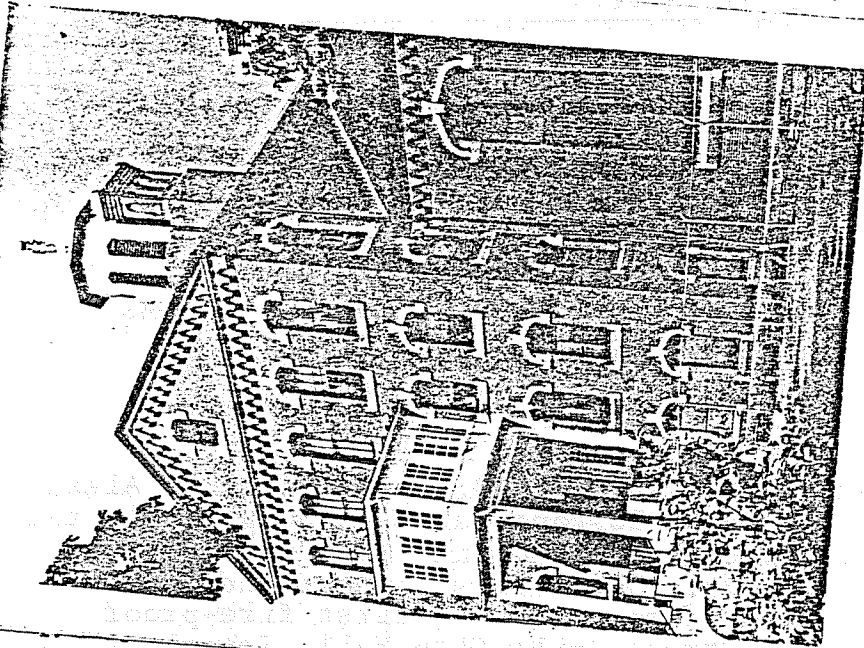
1851

Daily Hampshire Gazette
March 25, 1851

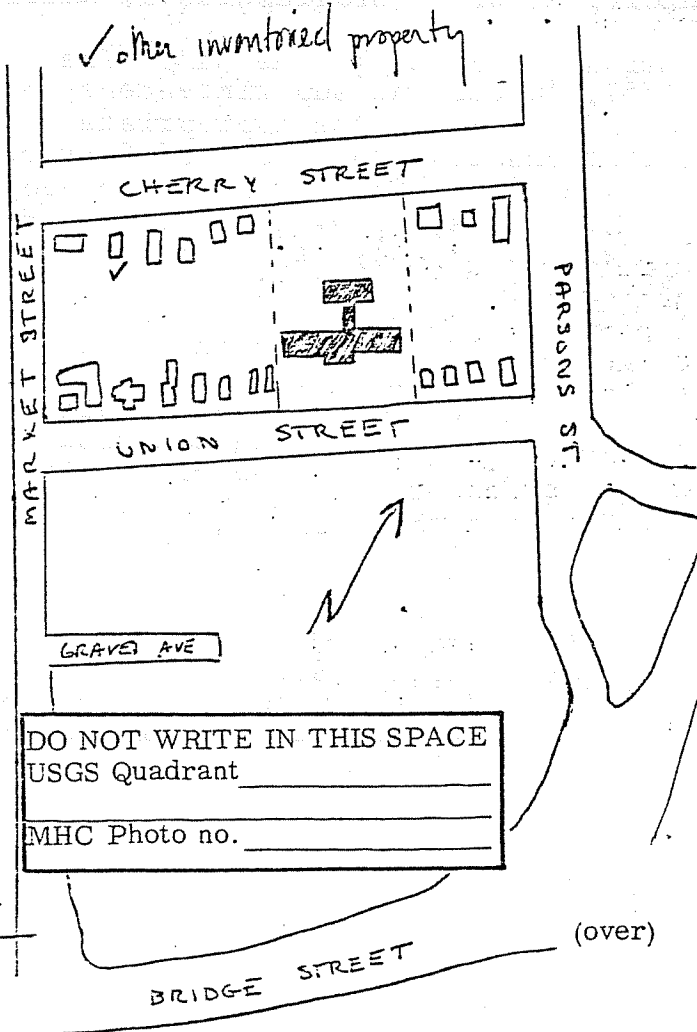
Victorian Commercial

Gridley J. E. Bryant

brick



in relation to nearest
other buildings. Indicate north.



Outbuildings (describe) Garage, sheds
Other features central portion 40X60;
wings 67X45; white stone window
surrounds; cupola.

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 200 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

100 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dible

Organization Northampton Historical
Commission

Date June 1, 1975

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Hampshire County

Original use House of Correction

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates House of Correction and Jail

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Gridley James Fox Bryant (1816-1899). apprenticed to Alexander Farris; 1837, began to practice in Boston; carried on "probably the largest and most lucrative practice in the city in which he designed... numerous city halls, jails, court and customs houses, and business buildings: Registry of Deeds, Tremont Street, first fire-proof building in the city; Charles Street Jail; City Hall, School Street 1861-65; addition to rear of State House; City Hall, Lynn; City Hall Gloucester; State Capitol, Concord, N. H." (Biographies of American Architects (deceased))

Gridley Bryant received the commission to design the ^{Louis Dwight and} Hampshire County House of Correction in 1851, "under the superintendency of the latter." Northampton was considered to be the appropriate location for social reform institutions like the House of Correction and the state Insane Asylum built in 1856. County and state projects were the province of the Boston architects, however: the 1851 HOC and the 1856 Insane Hospital represent the only major commissions not captured by Wm. Pratt in this period.

The House of Correction consists of a central structure and two identical wings. Massive three story windows in the wing sections admit light and air to the cell blocks. Stone arches with prominent keystones accentuate the window areas and lend the proper solidity to the institutional structure. The cool-toned stone contrasts with the warm brick wall surface and fine brickwork at the cornice. A prim white cupola rises above the jail complex and the roofs of the neighboring residences.

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

November 12, 1850
 Daily Hampshire Gazette, March 25, 1851, November 25, 1851
 Biography of American Architects (deceased), Gridley J. F.

Bryant.