

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Taunton Lunatic Asylum

other names/site number Taunton State Hospital (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Danforth Street N/A not for publication

city or town Taunton N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 005 zip code 02780

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☒ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough 12/8/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough Date Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Anders

1/21/94

Taunton State Hospital
Name of Property

Bristol County, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
38	4	buildings
3		sites
8	2	structures
		objects
49	6	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Mass State Hospitals & State Schools

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: institutional housing
AGRICULTURE: storage, field, animal
facility, outbuilding
HEALTH CARE: mental hospital

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE: mental hospital

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian - Renaissance; Stick/Eastlake
Late 19th/20th Revivals - Colonial Revival,
Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, asphalt
walls brick; wood - shingle, clapboard
roof stone - slate; asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
MA-1219
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

HEALTH/MEDICINE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1851-1940

Significant Dates

1851 - establishment of hospital

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Elbridge Boyden; Kendall & Taylor;
Hartwill & Swasey

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Taunton State Hospital
Name of Property

Bristol County, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 125 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	3256810	46425210
Zone	Easting	North	ing
2	19	3262610	46422810
5	19	325160	4641800

3	19	3258810	4641400
Zone	Easting	North	ing
4	19	3254810	4641260

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Candace Jenkins, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register
name/title Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1993

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Taunton (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

DESCRIPTION

Location/Surroundings: The Taunton State Hospital campus is located immediately northwest of Taunton center and is surrounded by densely developed commercial, residential, and industrial areas. The grounds encompass approximately 125 acres at present, although 134 acres were reported originally. They are bounded on the north and east by the gentle curve of the Mill River and Pond, and on the south and west by a high, drylaid stone wall (#18). Hemlocks and spruce are planted along much of that perimeter wall. These features seclude the campus from its urban/suburban environment and help to maintain a strong sense of tranquility. Major transportation corridors in the area include State Routes 140 and 44 to the south, State Route 138 to the east, and Conrail tracks to the west. Interstate Route 495 is further to the north. The primary viewshed is from the upper levels of the Main Building (#1-6; 13) southward toward Taunton center. This view has been changed by substantial expansion of the town center in the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Internal campus views from buildings to the river are also important.

Landscape: The campus is roughly bisected by the main drive, which runs south-north from the main entrance at Hodges Avenue and Morton Street to the rear entrance on Danforth Street. The drive is lined by maples and other trees, but not in the double rows mentioned in early reports. The front entrance is marked by paired granite posts. The inner set carries lanterns, while the remnants of decorative cast-iron screens attach the outer set to the perimeter wall. The rear entrance is simply marked by a canting down of that wall. The drive winds through an extensive wooded grove (#52) to approach the original asylum, which occupies the high ground at the north end of the campus. The grove includes a wide variety of mature trees. The south end of the drive continues to follow the route shown on early twentieth century maps, but the north end appears to have been changed somewhat to accommodate new construction to the rear of the main building.

The sloping lawn (#53) in front of the main building was originally conceived as a landscaped pleasure ground, with a greenhouse near the site of the present Superintendent's House (#41) and a flower garden near the river. The area on the west side of the drive was devoted to agricultural uses and dotted with several outbuildings including a cow barn, piggery, and hen house (#19). Most of the early support buildings are gone, but the agricultural landscape (#54) remains open and maintained in rough turf, with the exception of a fenced exercise area near Goss (#50). Both of these open spaces have been encroached upon by limited numbers of twentieth-century buildings and paved parking areas, but their original landscape character remains readily apparent. Along with the wooded grove (#52), they are important

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elements contributing to, and enhancing, the historic character of the campus.

Taunton's first superintendent, Dr. George C. S. Choate, provided the following glowing description of the hospital site and setting in the First Annual Report of 1854. His discussion of the secluded quality of the campus, despite its proximity to the town center, is particularly important in light of the period's reliance on an ideal pastoral environment to effect cures for insanity. Dr. Choate was correct in his estimate of the site's natural buffers, and the campus retains a strong sense of tranquility in the midst of intense commercial, industrial, and residential development.

The grounds of the institution consist of about one hundred and thirty-four acres, extending in a southerly direction to within half a mile of the centre of the town. With an exceedingly varied surface, a beautiful grove of more than sixty acres, and bounded by the river for nearly half its extent, the site has natural advantages which are rarely met with. As nearly all the land lies between the hospital and the town, and as its position is furthermore strengthened by having the river for a natural barrier, the institution will probably be able to hold at bay for many years the encroachments of an increasing population, and will avoid the difficulty into which many similar institutions have fallen--of being gradually drawn, in consequence of the increase of a flourishing town, into the heart of a large city.

The hospital building is situated on a gentle eminence, at the extreme northerly part of the farm, being about one mile from the town ... and from (the dome) there is a panoramic view of great beauty, embracing the neighboring town, with its many tokens of busy life, several flourishing villages, the numerous ponds and streams with which the surrounding country abounds, and reaching in the far-off distance even to the blue hills of Norfolk county.

Improvements to the grounds were undertaken immediately, with a perimeter fence and entrance gate erected in the second year to protect the privacy of the patients. Fifty or sixty forest trees and a large number of ornamental trees were planted around the building and along the main drive in 1856. By the next year, however, the reality of poor, thin soil had tempered the initial enthusiasm:

The site of the hospital, though healthful and abounding in many natural advantages, is singularly unfitted for farming. The land is generally poor, and much time, patience and labor will be required to convert sterility into fruitfulness. Every care has been taken to enrich the soil, that abundance may gradually be wrung from the reluctant earth, and an economy be consulted in

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compelling barren fields to contribute to the support of the institution (4th Annual Report 1857).

Greater efforts at improvement were undertaken in 1859 and 1860, with a lawn planted around the building (#53), the woods cleared of underbrush to make a pleasant grove of more than sixty acres (#52), stones removed from the fields to build a perimeter wall (#18), and the agricultural fields (#54) enriched with manure. By 1874 the grounds were once again considered an asset:

Our grounds are quite extensive and varied. Paroles are frequent and the possessors wander at their wills. The pleasant water-view, the long, green hillside, sloping to the river, the avenue, with its shaded walks and lines of beauty, the woods themselves, with their mossy seats and dark coverts, where the pines weave the carpets which the flowers embroider, all combine to make it beautiful from the time when spring drops her violets and brings back her singing birds, till now, when these gorgeous autumn days deck it with their hues of flame and sunshine. Indeed, I know of no hospital grounds that present more varied natural beauty or have such sweet beguilements for the mind (21st Annual Report 1874).

Buildings: Erected in 1851-1853, Taunton was the first Massachusetts insane asylum to be built according to the principles espoused by the influential Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride in his 1847 textbook. His ideas called for a massive, centralized structure that would house administrative offices, dining facilities, staff housing, and rooms for 250 patients. The building was to be sited on high ground and surrounded by pastoral, landscaped pleasure grounds with support buildings to the rear. This mid-nineteenth century image of an insane asylum remains clear at Taunton and is enhanced by the exceptional Renaissance Revival design of the main building conceived by Elbridge Boyden of Worcester.

Like all of the other nineteenth-century state hospital campuses, Taunton's original facilities were supplemented with additional buildings to accommodate a patient population that reached almost 2,000 by 1945. The earliest additions took the form of wings added to the main building in 1876 and 1892 in accordance with Boyden's original plans. Several well-designed, single-family staff houses dating from the late-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries were clustered near the main entrance. In the early twentieth century, handsome staff dormitories were constructed on the front and side lawns. It was not until the 1930s that additional patient care facilities were erected on the south side of the main drive, encroaching on the agricultural land for the first time. Taunton's buildings and landscapes continue to epitomize the ideals of

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mid-nineteenth century asylum design as described in the overview, while subtly evolving to meet changing needs.

Campus Integrity

The integrity of both buildings and landscapes at Taunton is very high. Until recently, buildings have been minimally affected by rehabilitation efforts that have added new windows, stair/elevator towers, fire escapes, etc. A major rehabilitation of Cain and Besse (#s 8, 9) is now under way, however. A larger problem is the long-term vacancy, neglect, and deterioration of the Main Building, which is the oldest and most architecturally distinguished state hospital building in the entire state system. The landscape, including lawns, tree groves, and agricultural area is generally well maintained. It has been primarily affected by the insertion of paved parking areas into lawn areas near buildings. The parking area in the front lawn (#53), which is a significant and prominent landscape area, is the most problematic.

Representative Buildings are described below.

Main Building Complex

#1-6; 13: West and East Choate, West and East Godding, West and East Extensions, Administration (1854-1892)

Dr. Choate provided a detailed description of the hospital building in the First Annual Report of 1854. It is included here to demonstrate how little the building has changed in 140 years, and as an accurate account of the original plan and use of interior space. It clearly reveals the original intimacy of accommodations, and the privacy offered to patients of early asylums that adhered to Kirkbride's 250-person limit.

(The hospital) consists of three principal stories, and is well and substantially built of brick, and covered throughout with slate. The centre building has a frontage of fifty-five feet towards the town, and projects from the main front about fifty feet. In this are the office, dispensary, apartments for the officers, and rooms for the reception of visitors and social intercourse of patients. It is surmounted by a dome, which rises seventy feet above the roof ...

Connected with the centre building, and passing east and west from it, are the two main wings, each one hundred and forty-six feet in length and forty-three feet in width. The east wing is occupied by females, the west by males, and their construction and arrangement are in all respects the same. Through the whole length of each story, in each of the main wings, extends a central corridor, or hall, fifteen feet in width and ten and a half in height; and communicating with this on each side are a

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dining-room, a parlor, a wash-room, conveniently fitted with marble basins, a clothing-room, where each patient has a box appropriated to his or her own use, a water-closet and ten dormitories, affording sleeping accommodations to about thirty patients. Running nearly to the north, at right angles with the main wings, and connected with them, are the return wings, which contain in each story a corridor, or hall, similar to that of the main wings, at the farther extremity of which are the water-closet and bathing-room, and on each side dormitories, fourteen in number, thirteen of them large enough for one person only, the other accommodating six or seven. A large bay window, about half way down the outer side of the hall, adds much to its light and cheerfulness, and is a favorite resort of patients. A door connects the hall of the return wing with that of the main wing, and affords means of access to the dining-room for the patients in the former. The room for the attendants is placed in the outer angle, where the two halls join, and from it is afforded a full view of the whole length of each hall. At the end of each return wing is another short wing, at right angles with it, seventy-seven feet in length, and containing the veranda, and originally the strong-rooms, but now a pleasant hall in each story, and six comfortable rooms opening into it, in most respects similar to those in the main and return wings. The veranda, which is a large, square room, two sides of which are made up of unglazed iron sash, is an excellent feature, affording the most ample opportunity for exercise in the open air, and being an excellent substitute, with a large proportion of patients, for airing courts....

From the rear of the centre building extends back the centre wing, of the same length as the two return wings, and forty feet in width....On the first story it contains a dining-room for the officers fifteen by forty feet, a kitchen twenty-five by fifty, two store-rooms, a bakery and a washing-room....The Chapel, a spacious, lofty, and well-lighted apartment, capable of accommodating with ease two hundred persons, together with the drying-room and ironing-room, occupy the second and third stories of this wing.... A beautiful and spacious stairway rises to the third story from the centre building; and in each of the wings are two others, affording ample means of egress from all parts of the building in case of fire.

Boyden created a masterful design, which de-emphasized the massive size of a Kirkbride-type building with major setbacks and projections as well as clear articulation of parts. The central pavilion (#13) with its flanking cross gables (#1, 2) almost seems to stand alone against the extreme setback of the later wings. Constructed of red brick on a granite foundation, the building is trimmed with pilasters

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carrying cast-iron Corinthian capitals and modillion cornice. Pediments with raking cornices contain oculi. Windows with brownstone sills and lintels contain multipane 6/6 and 12/12 sash. The main entry is fronted by a quatrastyle porch surmounted by a two-story, three-sided oriel window. The roof line is enlivened by an octagonal Baroque dome over the central section, with smaller domes and ventilating turrets over the wings.

Additional wings on each side, shown on the original plan, were added in 1874 (#3, 4, 5, 6). They were described in similar detail in the 21st Annual Report of 1874, with Hartwell & Swasey reported as architects. An additional set of infirmary wings was added in 1892 (#10, 11). They are fronted by massive bowed windows with balustrades to provide sunrooms at each floor, and are attached by elegant curved glazed walkways at the second story to provide isolation of infectious cases. The 1874 and 1892 wings maintain the three-story height, granite foundation, brick walls, brownstone lintels and sills, and slate roof of the original building. Detail is simplified somewhat by deleting the Corinthian pilasters and by replacing the cast-iron modillion cornice with one of brick. The 1874 wings retain original screened porches that were forerunners of similar but less attractive elements added to buildings throughout the system in the 1920s and 1930s. The hilltop siting and front lawns (#53) are important elements of this building's setting.

Support/Service Group

Typically, these buildings are sited behind the main building, near the rear entrance. The only exception is the original stable (#28), now the main garage, which is located on the east side. They date from 1854 to the 1950s and represent the full period of the hospital's development.

#28: Stable/Main Garage (1854)

The former stable is a red brick structure that rises two stories from a granite foundation to a slate hip roof with bracketed metal cornice. A brick beltcourse divides the stories. Central cross gables on the west facade contain arched garage bays, surmounted by smaller arches with double-leaf doors. Oculi light the gables. Arched windows contain 6/6 sash or are blank. Side elevations display cross gables. A one-story ell extends across the rear elevation.

#17: Power Plant/Laundry/Occupational Therapy (1874/1904)

This Eastlake-style red-brick structure originally served as the hospital power plant. It was described in 1874 as "an entirely new boiler-house, containing engine-room, machine-shop, and carpenter-shop, all of ample dimensions." In 1904, A. E. Swasey designed a second story to accommodate an expanded carpenter shop and

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storage. It was later converted to a laundry, probably the following year, after the new power plant was completed. It rises two stories from a high brick foundation to a slate hip roof with corbelled cornice and numerous decorative dormers. Brick beltcourses divide the stories. The twelve-bay north facade contains double-leaf entries with transoms in the inner fourth bays. Long segmental-arched windows contain 9/9 sash. The south elevation is similar to the north, but is only one story because the building is built into the north slope of the hill on which the main building stands.

#25: Powerplant (1905)

This utilitarian, red-brick structure was constructed at the turn of the century to serve the large numbers of new buildings added to the campus at that time. It was designed by Hollis, French, Allen & Hubbard, Engineers. It rises two stories from a brick foundation to a flat roof. Segmental-arched window openings contain 6/6 sash. Several segmental-arched entries are irregularly placed on the south facade. A section with smokestack that may be somewhat later is attached to the rear (N) elevation. It continues the segmental-arched window openings with 6/6 or 9/9 sash.

#26: Industrial Building/Storeroom (1896/ca. 1915)

The north end of this red-brick building originally served as an industrial therapy workshop; it was enlarged after 1910 in a compatible design. It is now a square seven-by-seven-bay structure that rises two stories from a high brick foundation to a slate hip roof with brick dentilated cornice. Segmental window openings contain 6/6 sash. A concrete railroad trestle, also post-dating 1910 (#51), enters the west side of the building.

#33: Pump House (1888)

The Pump House is a small three-by-three-bay, red-brick structure that rises one story to a slate hip roof with corbelled cornice and central cupola. A gabled entry pavilion with double-leaf door is centered on the north side. Small windows contain 6/6 sash. Very few buildings of this type and date survive within the state hospital and school system.

New Complex

The new complex is located on the west side of the main drive, with agricultural fields to the south and west, and a modern watertower to the north. It consists of four interconnected wings that date from 1937 to 1963. The older sections (#8 and 9) are more ornate, but the newer 1950s and 1960s wings are compatible in design. Functionally, this building replaced the infirmary wings (#10, 11) added to the main building in 1892. Constructed in part with WPA funds, this complex represents the growth of the state hospital system in the post-1930

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period and the increasing emphasis placed on health concerns. Northampton (see form) was the only campus that was developed with a larger complex in the 1920s and 1930s. This building is currently undergoing an extensive rehabilitation.

#7: Chambers (1957)

This E-plan Colonial Revival-style building now serves as the frontispiece for the complex. Designed by the noted firm of Cram & Ferguson, it faces east toward the central greenspace (#51). Construction began in 1955 and was completed in 1957. Rising three stories from a cast-stone foundation to a slate gable roof, it is constructed of red brick laid up in Flemish bond and is trimmed with cast-stone watertable, beltcourses and cornice. The facade is articulated by three strong, pedimented cross pavilions that project by eight bays. The central pavilion contains the main pedimented entry; four fluted pilasters rise above to the main entablature and a pediment with oculus. The three-bay end pavilions also contain oculi in their pediments. The connecting sections are nine bays each. Windows with cast-stone sills and splayed lintels contain six-pane hopper sash. This building is named for Ralph M. Chambers, M. D., who was superintendent from 1925-1948.

#8: Besse (1935-1937)

Besse was constructed as a surgical hospital with funds authorized by the WPA in 1934. Construction began in March 1935 and was completed in 1937. Kendall, Taylor & Co. were the architects. It is a long, rectangular structure, connected to the rear of Chambers by a one-story wing that partially obscures its original projecting entry. It rises three stories from a high basement to a slate gable roof and is constructed of red brick laid up in Flemish bond, trimmed with cast-stone watertable, banded quoins, and keystones. Typically, the long facade is broken up by central and end cross pavilions that are defined by quoins and contain oculi in their pediments. The central pavilion contains an unusual entry that projects by four bays, and is headed by stepped back porches at the upper stories. The door is framed by paired Tuscan pilasters and a heavy segmental pediment. The rear elevation is four unarticulated bays.

#9: Female Infirmary/Cain (1935-1937)

Cain was constructed as an infirmary with funds authorized by the WPA in 1934. Construction began in March 1935 and was completed in 1937. Kendall, Taylor & Co. were the architects. Not surprisingly, this large U-plan patient ward shares decorative details with Besse. It is constructed of red brick laid up in Flemish bond, and is trimmed with cast-stone watertable, banded quoins, keystones, and classical entry surrounds. It rises four stories from a high basement to a slate gable roof with cupolas. Projecting pedimented cross pavilions are centered on the west facade; they include porches at the upper

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stories. Four bay wings with three-part windows in each bay, divided by piers, extend out from the cross pavilions; fourth-story windows are set in elaborate segmental arches with radiating voussoirs. The main entrance is centered in the courtyard area formed by the wings. It is framed by sidelights and transom and is fronted by a balustraded Tuscan porch. The east courtyard elevation is centered on a five-bay bow framed by four-bay sections, three-bay pedimented cross pavilions, and seven-bay outer sections. This building mirrors some Boyden elements such as heavy gable cornices, oculi, and cupolas. The building was named for Dr. Charles C. Cain, Jr., who served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees in the early twentieth century.

#50: Male Infirmary/Goss (1963)

Goss is identical to Cain in its form, but its later date is revealed in its simpler detail. It was named for Dr. Arthur V. Goss, superintendent of the hospital from 1906 to 1922.

Multi-Unit Staff Residences

Staff residences, in the form of dormitories and single-family dwellings, began to appear on state hospital and school campuses in the late nineteenth century. They provided more comfortable quarters for staff, while freeing up space in the patient wards. On-site housing was a necessity for staff who worked seventy to eighty-hour weeks until the mid-twentieth century. The two earliest dormitories at Taunton are particularly handsome examples of their type.

#15: Female Nurses' Home/Learoyd Home (1902)

The Female Nurses' home opened at the same time that a nursing school was instituted at Taunton. It was designed in an opulent version of the Colonial Revival style that draws inspiration from the main building by the firm of Swasey & Stephenson. It is constructed of red brick laid up in Flemish bond and is trimmed with limestone watertable, beltcourse, window and entry trim. Rising three stories from a high basement to a slate hip roof with a wooden cornice displaying dentils and modillions, its third story is treated as an attic above a beltcourse. The eleven-bay east facade is organized with a three-bay central-entry pavilion. The entry is framed with leaded sidelights and transom and is protected by a flat-roofed porch with balustrade, supported on paired Tuscan columns. It is surmounted by a three-sided oriel with balustrade at the second story and a three-part window at the third, and a Palladian window in the gable. Windows with splayed lintels contain 12/1 sash. The north elevation displays a three-story balustraded porch, while a semi-octagonal bay is found on the south. Palladian dormers flank the center cross gable. The rear is also organized with a central gabled pavilion framed by secondary entries and Palladian dormers. The central pavilion of this dormitory was consciously designed to echo that of

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the main building that it faces. Sited on the edge of the original wooded grove (#52), it is surrounded by beech and cedar trees.

#16: Male Nurses' Home/Murray (1904)

Like the Female Home, this unusually well-detailed Colonial Revival-style structure was designed to echo the main building. Its architects were the firm of Swasey & Stephenson. It is constructed of red brick laid up in Flemish bond, and is trimmed with a limestone watertable and beltcourse. It rises three stories from a granite foundation to a slate hip roof with dentilated modillion cornice. Windows with limestone sills and splayed lintels contain 12/12 sash. The thirteen-bay north facade is centered on a three-bay pedimented pavilion that contains an entry with a flat-roofed portico supported on paired Tuscan columns, and is surmounted by a balustraded oriel. This well-detailed entrance treatment is derived from that of the main building. The west elevation displays a semi-octagonal bay, while the east has a two-story balustraded porch. The south elevation is organized with a center pavilion. An eight-bay rusticated concrete-block garage (#42) is located directly behind.

#14: Nurses' Home/Gifford (1937)

Constructed during a period of major expansion, this large U-plan nurses' home rises three stories from a high foundation to a slate hip roof with simple brick cornice. It is constructed of red brick and trimmed with cast-stone watertable, beltcourses, keystones, and quoins around the central pavilion; end pavilions are treated with brick quoins. Designed in the Colonial Revival style, the symmetrical 21-bay east facade is organized with projecting three-bay central and end pavilions. The central pavilion contains the main entry, which is framed by sidelights and fronted by a flat-roofed, balustraded porch supported on paired Tuscan columns. Windows contain 8/1 sash and are headed by splayed brick lintels with keystones. Third-story windows in the center pavilion are contained in relieving arches. The typical *oculi* are found in the gable fields. The ten-bay north end displays a cross pavilion at the east end and a center entry with metal hood. The rear elevation features semi-octagonal stairtowers attached to the outer wings, a three-bay center pavilion with double-leaf entry and cast-stone quoins, and paired windows with 6/1 sash. It is set behind a U-shaped drive and faces a grove of pines and beech trees.

#27: Married Couples Home/ Dorm (1927)

This red-brick, Colonial Revival-style structure rises two stories from a high basement with cast-stone watertable to a slate hip roof with a plain wooden cornice. The nine bay north facade is organized around a three-bay central pavilion with the typical *oculus* in the pediment. The center entry is framed by sidelights and transom and is protected by a porch with paneled piers. Windows with cast-stone

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sills and lintels contain 12/1 sash. Three-bay side elevations display hooded center entries. Like so many of the other twentieth-century buildings, it picks up on elements from the main building. In 1981 it was renamed for Kenneth Dorm, a trustee from 1948 to 1981. Like the adjacent Female Nurses' Home (#15) this building is set on the edge of the wooded grove (#52).

Single-family Staff Residences

Single-family residences for physicians, administrators, and other high-level staff were built at Taunton from the late nineteenth century to the 1930s. This coincided with construction of dormitories for nurses and attendants and served a similar purpose of providing more comfortable quarters for staff while freeing up space in the patient wards. The earlier houses, clustered near the main entrance, are very early and exceptionally well-detailed examples of their type within the state hospital system.

#36: Cottage #2 (1869)

Current hospital records date this well-detailed, L-plan, Stick Style cottage at 1899, but it is probably the cottage cited in the 1869 annual report. It rises 1 1/2 stories from a stone foundation to an asphalt gable roof with interior chimneys. The first story is sheathed with clapboard and decorative Stick Style trim, while the second story displays sawtooth vertical boarding. Overhanging gables are trimmed with pierced valances and queen-post trusses. An ornate porch with chamfered posts, braces, and a pierced valance is typically inserted at the junction of the wings on the south elevation, where it protects the entry. Windows display chamfered frames and 2/2 sash, with shed-roof heads on the north and west elevations. A bay window with cross-braced lower panels is centered on the east elevation.

#35: Cottage #1 (1899)

Near the main entrance is a 1 1/2-story cottage that displays elements of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Typical of the former style is the combination of materials, including stone foundation, brick first story and clapboard second story, the strong cross gambrel at the facade, and diamond-pane sash in the windows. The gambrel roof with interior chimneys and balustraded Tuscan porch are typical of the latter style.

#40: Cottage #8 (1923)

Near the main entrance is a well-detailed Dutch Colonial-style cottage constructed of red brick laid up in Flemish bond with burnt headers. It rises 1 1/2 stories to the typical gambrel roof, with full shed dormer across the front slope. The facade is centered on an entry with sidelights and a gabled porch flanked by three-part windows. An exterior chimney and balustraded sunporch are attached to the south

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elevation. A large stand of hemlocks is located behind this house, separating its domestic function from the agricultural fields (#54).

#41: Superintendent's House (1934)

This three-bay, red-brick Colonial Revival-style residence rises two stories to a slate gable roof with three segmental-arched dormers. The center entry with flat-roofed portico supported on slender fluted columns is flanked by three-part windows. Other windows contain 6/6 sash, and first and second-story windows are linked by cast-stone panels. A sunporch and exterior chimney are attached to the south elevation. A two-bay rear wing on the north side leads to a two-car garage. A sunken, walled garden is located behind the house. This was near the location of the greenhouse in 1910, and the garden may survive from that period.

Agricultural Buildings

The west side of the campus was originally devoted to agricultural uses as demonstrated by historic maps. In 1910, the buildings in this area included a large U-plan piggery, a cow barn with attached hay barn and wagon shed forming a protected barnyard, and several smaller buildings marked stable, ice house, wagon and tool shed, wagon house, cows, and hen house (#19). Construction of the hospital/infirmarium (#8, 9) and the new nurses' home (#14) in the 1930s encroached on the area, causing the loss of the barnyard ensemble. A larger poultry house had appeared by that time, however, along with the present root cellar (#46). The other buildings have since disappeared.

#19: Hen House/Feed Storage (1865)

This building served as a hen house in 1910, and by the 1930s had been converted to use as a feed storage shed after a larger poultry house had been erected nearby. It is a long, one-story, clapboard-clad shed enclosed by a gable roof with two ventilators. Entries and boarded windows are located at each end of the west elevation. A double-leaf vehicular entry is located on the east elevation. Windows with 6/6 sash are located on the north and south gable ends.

#23: Shed (1865)

The original use of this shed is unknown, as it does not appear on this site on historic maps. It is a small, octagonal, shingled structure rising one story to a pyramidal roof. It sits on a round stone foundation that may have been the well that originally served the hospital.

#24: Greenhouse (1941)

This greenhouse was constructed near the agricultural group after the Superintendent's House (#41) was constructed on its earlier site in 1934. It consists of a one-story, five-bay, center-entry, brick

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headhouse with two projecting glazed wings that extend to the rear. Headhouse windows have brick lintels and contain 6/6 sash. Arched windows are located in the gables.

#46: Root Cellar (1903)

Hospital records date this building at 1903, although it does not appear on the 1910 map. It is a fieldstone structure enclosed by an asphalt gable roof with ventilator that is built into a hillside south of the former agricultural group. It faces west toward the fields. The gable is shingled and contains a loading door flanked by windows. The entrance occupies the north bay of the basement story.

Archaeological Description

A high potential exists for the recovery of prehistoric archaeological survivals within the boundaries of the Taunton State Hospital. Two sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile), including one site in the hospital locale. Site 19-BR-58, reportedly a village site from which "many fine artifacts" are reported, has been documented but not systematically studied. The site was reported on the grounds of the state hospital south of the Kirkbride Main Building Complex in open fields near the Mill River. The physical characteristics of the hospital, well drained level to moderately sloping terraces and other land surfaces in close proximity to the Mill River and related wetlands, indicate favorable locational criteria for Native subsistence and settlement activities. These factors combined with extensive open, undeveloped areas of the hospital indicate a high potential for the recovery of significant prehistoric resources.

There is also a high potential for the recovery of significant historic archaeological remains on the grounds of the state hospital. Structural remains may survive from the farmhouse or outbuildings associated with the 134-acre farm that formed much of the original purchase of the hospital in 1851. No structures associated with the farm that predated the state hospital are known to survive today; however, their remains may exist in the western side of the campus in the area west of the drive to the main building. This area is devoted to agricultural uses and dotted with several agricultural outbuildings. The area is also the site of several agricultural outbuildings associated with late 19th/early 20th century state hospital land use. These survivals include the remains of a piggery, cow barn, wagon shed, and several smaller buildings including stable, ice house, wagon and tool shed, wagon house and cow/hen house. Occupational-related features (trash areas, privies, wells) also likely survive that were associated with mid-19th century state hospital land use and agricultural land use predating the hospital. An unmarked cemetery may also exist which was affiliated with the

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State Hospital and/or earlier farmstead. The lack of a known cemetery on the State Hospital property combined with the small size of the hospital and its close proximity to the town center may also indicate the existence of an agreement with the town to bury the hospital dead in existing municipal cemeteries.

(end)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Taunton State Hospital possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and associations. Established by Chapter 251 of the Acts of 1851 as the Taunton Lunatic Asylum, it was the Commonwealth's second facility for the insane, following Worcester (1833). With the demolition of the Worcester building in the 1970s, the original structure at Taunton (#1-2, 13) remains as the oldest insane asylum in the Commonwealth. Its significance is enhanced by the exceptional quality of its architecture, and by the fact that it was the first in the state to be organized on the influential congregate model espoused by Dr. Thomas Kirkbride of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane in 1847. Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden demonstrated currency with Kirkbride's concepts by creating a highly centralized main building whose domed administrative core was flanked by stepped back wings for 250 patients. His masterful and sophisticated Renaissance Revival-style design, use of fireproof cast iron, and modern ventilating techniques add to the hospital's outstanding significance. The siting and landscaping were also derived from Kirkbride's principles. The Taunton Lunatic Asylum provides a clear reflection of the early to mid-nineteenth century humanitarian reform movement for the insane and the resulting treatment programs, which emphasized creation of an ideal physical and moral environment to effect cures. Its later nineteenth and twentieth century development continues to reflect changing concepts about humane treatment of the insane at the state and national levels as described in the overview. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and is significant on the national, state, and local levels. Its period of significance extends from 1851 to 1940.

The Taunton Lunatic Asylum was authorized in 1851 as the result of an 1848 legislative study demonstrating an urgent need to relieve overcrowding at the pioneering facility established at Worcester in 1833. This study was the result of an eloquent and moving Memorial delivered to the State Legislature by Dorothea Dix in 1843. That Memorial documented the abysmal conditions that most localities provided for their insane citizens. Taunton Asylum was constructed at the same time as the state almshouses (see Monson and Tewksbury), and

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partially in response to the large influx of immigrants who arrived in Massachusetts at that time.

Chapter 251 of the Acts of 1851 authorized appointment of three commissioners to select an appropriate site and to oversee construction of a 250-patient hospital. James D. Thompson, George N. Briggs, and John W. Graves chose Taunton when the citizens voted to donate \$13,000 toward acquisition of the site. They purchased a 134-acre farm in the then-undeveloped Whittenton section. Separated from the town center by the Mill River, and in proximity to the Boston & Providence Railroad, it met the general hospital siting requirements for convenient access, adequate water, seclusion, and agricultural potential (1st Annual Report 1854).

Having selected an appropriate site, the commissioners proceeded to visit newly constructed hospitals in other states and to confer with in-state experts like Dr. Chandler at Worcester and Dr. Bell at the private McLean Asylum in Charlestown. Elbridge Boyden, of the firm Boyden and Ball, was selected as architect over several other firms. Building began in 1851 and was completed early in 1854. During the course of construction, the initial appropriation of \$100,000 was supplemented with an additional \$54,000. The building was equipped with gas supplied by the Taunton Gas Company (1st Annual Report 1854: 19).

Boyden's design is a masterpiece of the early Renaissance Revival style built on a fully developed, congregate, Kirkbride plan as detailed in the Description section of this nomination. The outer wings shown on the original plan were added in 1874 and 1892. Fire prevention and proper ventilation were considered especially important issues for asylums, perhaps because of the sometimes violent, unpredictable, and "filthy" nature of their inmates. Boyden's use of cast iron and masonry internal walls as fireproofing measures, and the incorporation of complicated ventilating system, is also noteworthy.

The Board of Trustees was appointed in July of 1853, and Dr. George C. S. Choate was appointed as the first Superintendent in October. The building was formally delivered to the Trustees on February 2, 1854. The first patient was received on April 7, and within eight weeks, the 250-patient capacity had been reached (1st Annual Report 1854). Despite the opening of a third asylum at Northampton (see form) in 1855, the population climbed steadily, reaching 365 in 1860 and 425 in 1862 (16th Annual Report 1869). By the time Dr. Choate was replaced by Dr. W. W. Godding in 1870, the hospital was seriously overcrowded. Shortly thereafter, in 1873-1875, two additional wings (#3, 4, 5, 6) shown on Boyden's original plan were added. This increased capacity from 250 to 600 and made Taunton the largest complete hospital in the state (21st Annual Report 1874). Immediately thereafter, in September

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1875, the population stood at 602.

This rapid growth clearly demonstrates the popularity of state asylums as a humane alternative to care of the insane at local poor farms, or jails, or at home. It also reveals the problems that immediately arose when reformist theory met reality. As early as 1855, the Trustees acknowledged the tendency of old, helpless, and chronically demented patients to accumulate, and by 1860 suggested that admissions be regulated by court order, by reason of danger to self or others, clear benefit to be derived from medical or moral treatment, or relief to family or neighbors. In 1867 it was reported that the State Board of Charities had transferred many chronic cases to less expensive institutions, probably the Almshouses at Monson, Bridgewater, and Tewksbury. In 1869 it was noted that most of the chronic patients were women, because more men were afflicted with physical problems such as alcoholism or syphilis that resulted in either cure or death.

Like other asylums of the period, Taunton depended on the individualized approach of Moral Treatment to effect cures. In early reports, the Trustees pointed with pride to the fact that they had demolished the "strong rooms," small, windowless, prison-like cells for "violent and filthy patients," and substituted human kindness in a "system in which humanity and sound policy go together hand in hand" (2nd Annual Report 1855: 4). The following year they said:

. . . whatever tends to render the place of confinement or retreat of the insane pleasant, cheerful, and home-like, does much to make them contented, happy, and easily governed, and constitutes the first and longest step towards their final recovery (3rd Annual Report 1856).

Overcrowding seriously compromised the asylum's ability to provide the required ideal environment, classification, and individual attention, and led to more dependence on physical and chemical restraints, although Taunton specifically avoided these.

The hospital was constructed for two hundred and fifty patients. It has now nearly one hundred over that number...Its halls are crowded, its rooms filled with beds, more numerous attendants are required, and a more constant supervision demanded. It becomes more and more difficult to test the efficacy of distinct classifications, made not only in reference to mental condition, but to past habits and associations.... All classes herd together, and in the various halls there is an indiscriminate mingling of nations, and tongues, of customs, tastes, and culture (4th Annual Report 1857).

Insane convicts were cited as a particular problem, that was finally alleviated by legislation passed in 1873 (21st Annual Report 1874).

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Chapter 223 of the Acts of 1862 renamed the facility as the Taunton Lunatic Hospital, underscoring the breakdown of the asylum approach.

As the building was enlarged and altered to meet changing conditions throughout the early years, so the hospital grounds were steadily improved to "render them more inviting and pleasing to its unfortunate inmates, and new objects of interest have been added, to attract, if possible, their wandering attention, and lead into pleasant paths their gloomy or unhealthy thoughts" (7th Annual Report 1860).

The improvements included a lawn (#53) and shade trees near the main building, grading of a hill to the rear, thinning of a wooded area to create a pleasant grove (#52), creation of paths, construction of a perimeter wall (#18) from large stones removed from the site, a main drive lined by a double row of trees, and enrichment of the poor agricultural soils (#54) with manure from the institution's livestock. The farm produced hay, potatoes, squash, peas, corn, beans, tomatoes, and cucumbers. Livestock included four horses, one colt, six fat cattle, two-yoke working oxen, two bulls, thirteen cows, eight heifers, one yoke yearling steer, six calves, thirteen hogs, and one hundred and four pigs (7th Annual Report 1860). Much of the grounds and farmwork was accomplished by male patients as work therapy and as a means of enticing them into the healthful sunlight and fresh air.

In 1877, Dr. Godding was succeeded by Dr. John P. Brown, who served until 1906, two years before his death. Under Brown's capable long-term leadership, the hospital was transformed with substantial numbers of new buildings and training programs for staff. As early as 1883, Brown recommended establishment of a school of nursing, which finally opened in 1894. This was accompanied by the addition of male and female infirmaries wings (#11, 10) for 75 patients each to the main building in 1892. These outermost wings, attached by elegant curved and glazed walkways, were part of Boyden's original design as seen in plans published with the First Annual Report (fig. #1). The female infirmery was named in honor of George Howland, a Trustee for thirty-eight years, while the male infirmery was named for the current Superintendent. The infirmaries required the presence of trained nurses and spurred establishment of the nursing school. By 1897, the school was expanded to a three-year course of study. The first class of four men and four women graduated in June 1898. At the same time, Miss Linda A. J. Richards, America's first trained nurse and a successful organizer of training schools, was named as head of the school; she served until 1903, when she left to establish a similar school at Worcester State Hospital (NR 1980).

The emergence of a well-trained nursing staff and overcrowded conditions in the main building necessitated construction of nurses' homes. A female nurses' home (#15) was completed in 1902, and a Male

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Nurses' Home (#16) opened two years later. At the same time, the weekly working hours for nurses and attendants was reduced to seventy. It was further reduced to forty-eight hours in 1935.

In 1906, Dr. Arthur V. Goss, who had been associated with the hospital since 1892, was appointed as the fourth superintendent at Taunton. Shortly thereafter, Chapter 504 of the Acts of 1909 changed the name of the facility to the present Taunton State Hospital. During his tenure, a very early outreach program consisting of a monthly clinic was established in 1908. This expanded to a weekly basis in 1914, and was extended to Fall River and New Bedford. Programs such as this typified the mental hygiene movement of the early twentieth century, as described in the overview.

Dr. Ransom A. Greene briefly served as superintendent from 1922 to 1925, when he became superintendent of the Fernald State School in Waltham (see form). He was succeeded by Dr. Ralph M. Chambers, who served until 1948. Major building expansion occurred during his tenure. A Married Couples Home (#27), including apartments and single rooms, was completed in 1928, and in 1930-1931, cafeterias (#12) for employees and patients were added to the rear of the main building. The Public Works Administration approved plans for a new hospital (#8) and infirmary (#9) in 1934. Designed by the well-known firm of Kendall, Taylor & Co., these buildings were started in 1935 and completed in 1937. They provided accommodations for 300 patients. A year later, a large new Nurses' Home (#14), also designed by Kendall, Taylor & Co., was completed. Additionally, several single-family cottages were constructed, including a Superintendent's Home (#41) in 1934.

The 1945 Governor & Council Report noted that the population of the hospital at the time of their March visit was 1,900, well above the normal capacity of 1,510. The staff of 219 was well below the quota of 473 due to World War II, an event that was noted as the cause of many shortages ranging from personnel to bedspreads. The report stated that the hospital was in good condition despite its age, and that food was plentiful and good. No mention was made of farming operations, although contemporary maps continue to show outbuildings including a cow barn, piggery, and hen house (#19) that were probably in use. The report recommended addition of another infirmary, a new admissions building, another kitchen/dining room, and a building for "disturbed" patients so that they would not disrupt the other wards.

Due to the exigencies of the Depression and World War II, little else occurred in the 1930s and 1940s, but expansion resumed in the mid-1950s. At that time the Female Nurses' Home was converted to a residence of Staff Physicians and renamed Learoyd. Completion of the Chambers Building (#7) in 1957 as a frontispiece to the 1935 hospital

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building, brought Taunton's official capacity up to 1,652, although the population at that time was 1,860. A Men's Infirmary (#92), designed to complement and balance the 1935 infirmary, was completed in 1963 as the final major component of the campus.

Archaeological Significance

Although numerous prehistoric sites have been identified along the Mill River drainage in general, fewer sites have been identified along the Mill River in Taunton and even fewer sites have been systematically studied in that area. These factors indicate that any surviving sites within the state hospital would be significant. The potential significance of prehistoric remains on state hospital property is further indicated by the preliminary identification of a potentially large village site (19-BR-58) on the hospital grounds. These remains indicate potentially high-density cultural remains covering wide-range of activities relating to prehistoric settlement, subsistence, technology, and social organization. Prehistoric sites in the area can contribute to a greater understanding of the importance of the main branch of the Taunton River to local and regional prehistoric settlement and subsistence and the relationships of sites in the area with those along its tributary streams and wetlands.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential to provide detailed social, cultural and economic information related to the 19th and possibly 18th century farmstead that predated the state hospital and mid-19th through 20th century life for patients and staff in the hospital. Further documentary research accompanied with archaeological survey and excavation can document the function and location of structures associated with the farm that existed on the state hospital grounds prior to 1851. This research can also indicate which structures, if any, were incorporated into agricultural operations at the hospital. The use of pre-existing agricultural structures has been documented at other state hospitals in Massachusetts. Careful analysis of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) from the earlier farmstead can provide detailed information on the life of individuals on the farm as well as the nature and extent of agricultural practices employed. This information can be used as a basis of comparison with patients and staff of the hospital and the types and extent of agricultural operations they were involved in. These comparisons can provide valuable insights into mid 19th through 20th century institutional versus private life, especially those in agriculturally based residences and economies. Occupational-related features, particularly trash, areas also undoubtedly exist for the state hospital.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached maps.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nomination is confined to the present campus boundaries, which are
the same as the original boundaries.

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**TAUNTON STATE HOSPITAL
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MAP#	BUILDING NAME	DATE	STYLE	ARCHITECT/DESIGNER	STATUS	RESOURCE
1	Main, West Choate	1854	Renaissance Revival	Elbridge Boyden	C	B
2	Main, East Choate	1854	Renaissance Revival	Elbridge Boyden	C	B
3	Main, West Godding	1874	Classical Revival	Hartwell & Swasey	C	B
4	Main, East Godding	1874	Classical Revival	Hartwell & Swasey	C	B
5	Main, East Extension	1874	Classical Revival	Hartwell & Swasey	C	B
6	Main, West Extension	1874	Classical Revival	Hartwell & Swasey	C	B
7	Chambers	1957	Colonial Revival	Cram & Ferguson	NC	B
8	Besse	1937	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
9	Cain	1937	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
10	Main, Howland; walkway	1892	Classical Revival		C	B
11	Main, Brown; walkway	1892	Classical Revival		C	B
12	Food Service/Dining	1930	Utilitarian	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
13	Main, Administration	1854	Renaissance Revival	Elbridge Boyden	C	B
14	Nurses' Home/Gifford	1937	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
15	Female Nurses'/Learoyd	1902	Colonial Revival	Swasey & Stephenson	C	B
16	Male Nurses'/Murray	1904	Colonial Revival	Swasey & Stephenson	C	B
17	Power Plant/Laundry	1874/1904	Eastlake	Boyden/A. E. Swasey	C	B
18	Stone perimeter wall	1860s	n/a		C	St
19	Grounds Shed #1/hen hse.	1865	Utilitarian		C	B
20	Fertilizer Shed	1910s	Utilitarian		C	B
21	Grounds Shed #2 (Lumber)	1953	Utilitarian		NC	B
22	Water Tower	1953	n/a		NC	St
23	Octagonal shed	ca. 1860s	Utilitarian		C	B
24	Greenhouse	1941	Utilitarian		NC	St
25	Power Plant, stack	1905	Utilitarian	Hollis, French, Allen & Hubbard		CSt
26	Main Storeroom	1896/1915	Utilitarian		C	B
27	Married Couples'/Dorm	1927	Colonial Revival		C	B
28	Stable/Main Garage	1854	Classical Revival		C	B
29	Mason Shop	1927	Stucco Vernacular		C	B
30	Carpenter Shop	1927	Stucco Vernacular		C	B
31	Blacksmith Shop	1927	Stucco Vernacular		C	B
32	Paint Shop	1927	Stucco Vernacular		C	B
33	Pump House	1888	Utilitarian		C	St
34	Engineering Storage	1927	Stucco Vernacular		C	B
35	Cottage #1	1899	Queen Anne/Col. Rev.	C	B	
43	garage	ca. 1930	n/a		C	B
36	Cottage #2	1869	Stick Style		C	B
37	Cottage #4	ca. 1870	Eastlake		C	B

**TAUNTON STATE HOSPITAL
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MAP#	BUILDING NAME	DATE	STYLE	ARCHITECT/DESIGNER	STATUS	RESOURCE
38	Cottage #5	1926	Colonial Revival		C	B
45	garage	1927	n/a		C	B
39	Cottage #6	1926	Dutch Colonial		C	B
40	Cottage #8	1923	Dutch Colonial		C	B
41	Cott. #9/Supterintendant	1934	Colonial Revival		C	B
44	garage	1934	n/a		C	B
42	Murray Garage	1931	Concrete Block		C	B
46	Root Cellar	1903	Utilitarian		C	St
47	Tunnel Ventilator	ca. 1900	Utilitarian		C	St
48	Tunnel Ventilator	ca. 1900	Utilitarian		C	St
49	Tunnel Ventilator	ca. 1900	Utilitarian		C	St
50	Men's Infirmary/Goss	1963	Classical Revival		NC	B
51	Railroad Trestle	ca. 1910s	n/a		C	St
52	Wooded Grove	1860s+	n/a		C	Si
53	Front Lawn	1850s+	n/a		C	Si
54	Agricultural Area	1850s+	n/a		C	Si
55	Shed	ca. 1920s	n/a		NC	B

TOTAL RESOURCES: 49 Contributing; 6 Noncontributing

38 Contributing Buildings	4 Noncontributing Buildings
8 Contributing Structures	2 Noncontributing Structures
3 Contributing Sites	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Taunton State Hospital

MULTIPLE NAME: Massachusetts State Hospitals And State Schools MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 12/09/93 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/21/93
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/06/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/23/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93001484

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 1/21/94 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This 125 acre campus encompasses the oldest extant facility for the treatment of the mentally ill in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The hospital is historically & architecturally significant and meets the property type registration requirements detailed in the MPS cover.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C
REVIEWER Patricia W. Andrews
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 1/21/94

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



1-33 11/91

Main Building
Taunton State Hospital

Taunton, MA

Candace Jenkins, photographer

17 Stade St, Belmont, MA - neg location

view facing NW



Taunton 2-0 12/91



1-34 Taunton 11/71
leaved from NW



1-36 Taunton 11/91

Main. w wing from w



1-35 Taunton 11/91

Structure/Stake from W



1-30 Taunton 11/91
Murray from E.

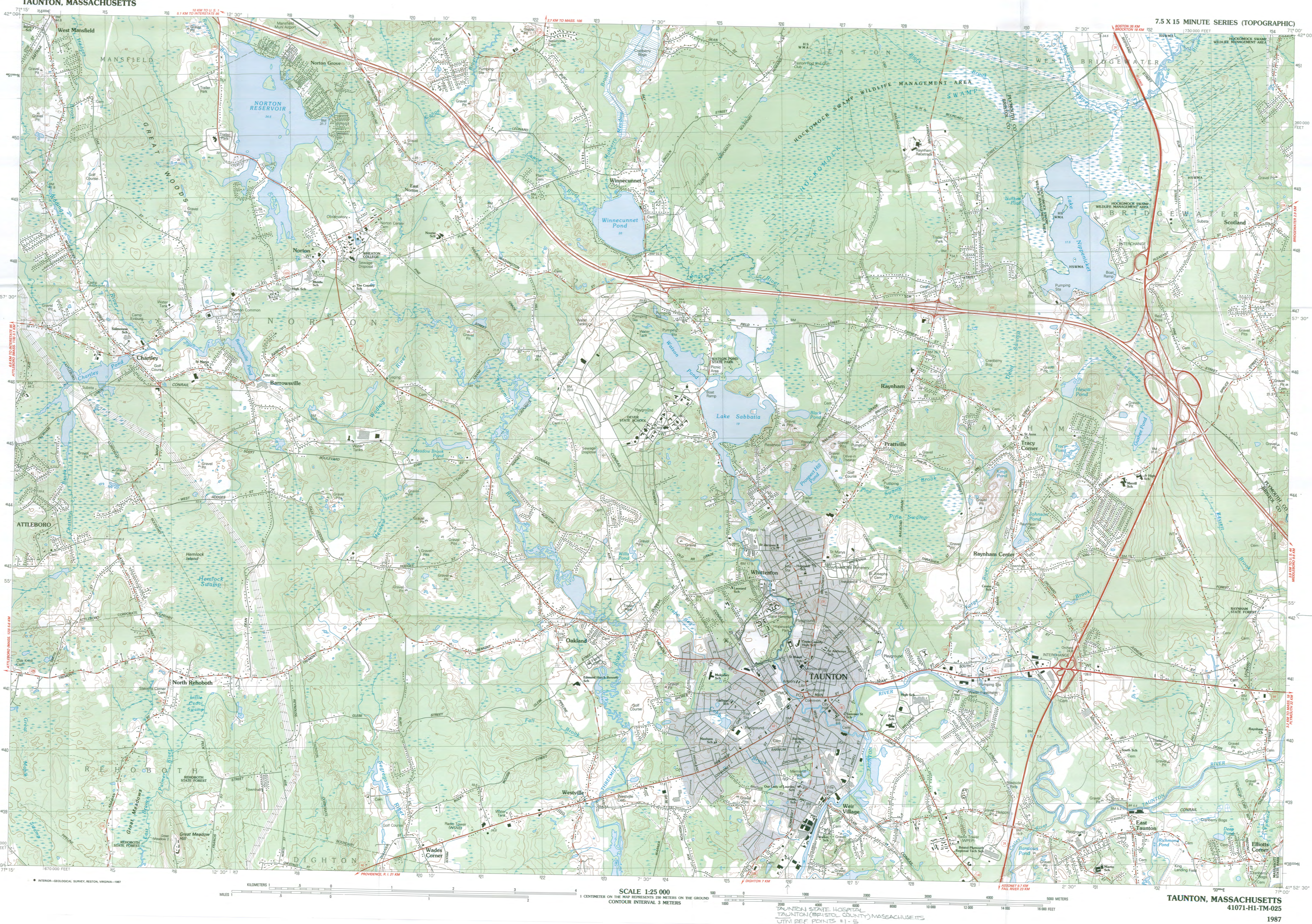


1-31 Taunton 11/91

Cain, rear courtyard from S

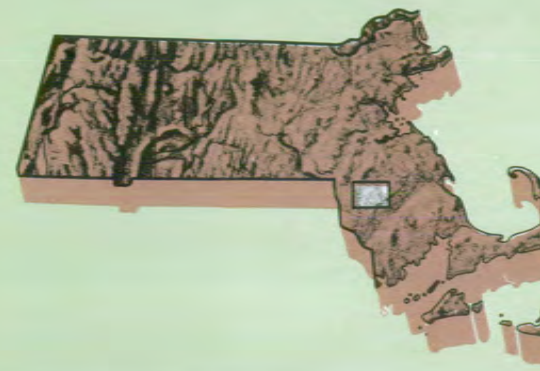


1-32 Taunton 11/91
Main Body from S



Taunton MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Norton and Taunton 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1979 and 1978
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19
Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS				
Meters	Feet		1	2	3	4	5
1	3.2808		Franklin	Brookline	Waltham	Needham	Quincy
2	6.5617		Waltham	Needham	Quincy	Providence	Southwest
3	9.8425		Providence	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest
4	13.1234		Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest
5	16.4042		Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest
6	19.6850		Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest
7	22.9658		Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest
8	26.2467		Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest
9	29.5275		Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest
10	32.8084		Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest	Southwest

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary
- National, with monument
- County, parish
- Civil township, precinct, district
- Incorporated city, village, town
- National or State reservation; small park
- Land grant with monument; found section corner
- U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section
- Range, township; section line: location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam, dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or ore
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
- Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available, on request



Old Colony Historical Society

66 Church Green
Taunton, Massachusetts 02780-3445
(508)822-1622

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APR 20 1993

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Marcus A. Rhodes, Jr.
President

April 15, 1993

Miss Lisa A. Compton
Director

Ms. Judith B. McDonough
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

RECEIVED

DEC 09 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

To Whom It May Concern:

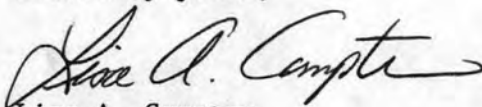
I cannot attend the meeting in Wrentham on April 22, 1993, but I wish to write in support of placing the Taunton State Hospital building on the National Register.

Not only is this structure a magnificent example of hospital architecture, it also played a significant part in the development of humane treatment for the mentally ill. As the second such facility in Massachusetts, it was once a bustling place, known throughout the state.

I enclose a copy of an article I wrote for our quarterly Newsletter on the history of the hospital.

I sincerely hope that favorable action is taken regarding this application. The Taunton State Hospital is seriously endangered, and should receive National Register status.

Sincerely yours,


Lisa A. Compton
Director

LAC/emb
Enc.