

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

519

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

1. Town Taunton

Address Norton Ave.

Name Taunton Alms House

Present use Nursing Home

Present owner City of Taunton

3. Description:

Date 1876

Source Date Plaque

Style Italianate

Architect E.C. Chandler

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features See attached.

Altered NO Date _____

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: WARD-7, PLAN-22, BLOCK-41-NO LOT

One acre or less ☒ Over one acre 120 A.

Approximate frontage 2400'

Approximate distance of building from street
500'

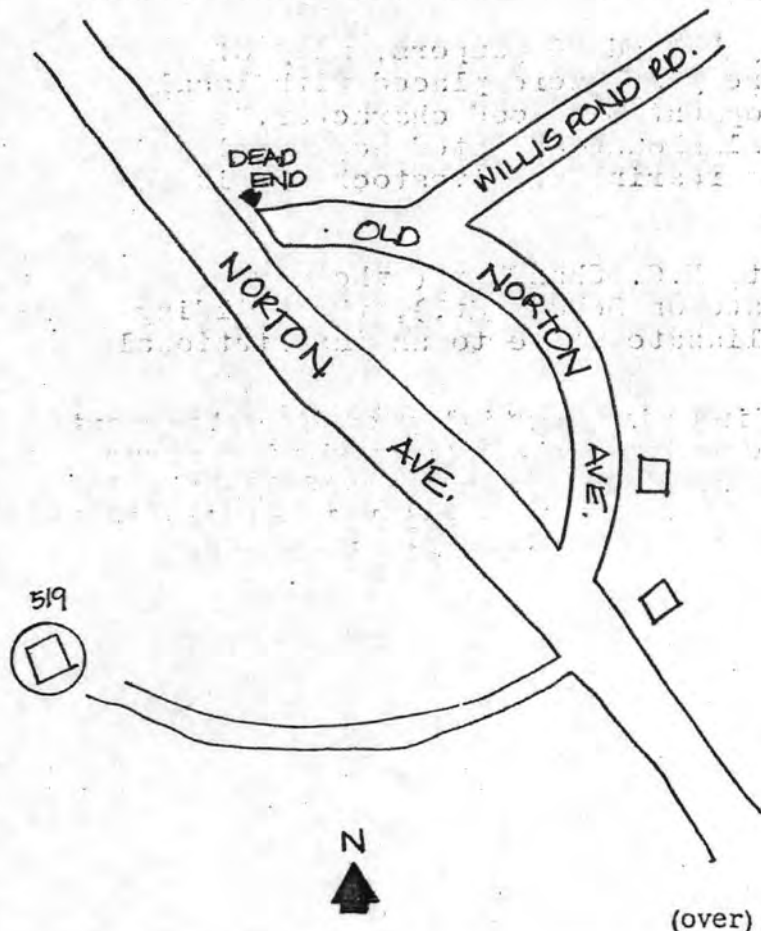
6. Recorded by T.W./C.C.

Organization T.C.H.S.

Date 10/79

UTM: 19/323150/4642715

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Taunton

Original use Alms House

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Nursing Home

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	Exploration/ settlement	☐	Science/ invention	☐
The Arts	☐	Industry	☐	Social/ humanitarian	☒
Commerce	☐	Military	☐	Transportation	☐
Communication	☐	Political	☐		
Community development	☐				

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

The Taunton Alms House was the first substantial city-maintained institution for the relief of the poor. Constructed on the site of a pre-existent almshouse, this structure epitomized the social reform consciousness of the late 19th century that sought to better housing, health care and educational conditions.

Built in 1876, the facility housed 60 paupers, many of whom were children, who after one year, were placed with local families to encourage the development of "good character." Partially self-supporting, the almshouse operated a communal farm and enlisted inmates in the rearing of livestock and in growing legumes, fruit and hay.

Designed by local architect, E.C. Chandler (who also designed the Fuller-Dauphin Estate on School St.), the building is a good adaptation of the Italianate style to an institutional structure.

Description: The 2½-story building with partially exposed basement displays a 9-bay facade, punctuated by windows trimmed with stone lintels and sills. The central entrance, framed by sidelights, is given greater definition by its placement in a slightly projecting gable-fronted pavilion. Staggered quoins ornament the corners.

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

Municipal Register, 1878

Charles Crowley

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Taunton	Form No: 519
Property Name: Taunton Alms House	

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

9. Historical Significance (continued)

The Taunton Alms House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent local example of masonry (brick) institutional architecture designed in the Italianate style by area architect E.C. Chandler as a significant reflection of social reform movements in the late 19th century in Taunton.

Boundaries are confined to the house itself and 12' of land measured out from the foundation on all sides.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

MAY 21 1984

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 7 29

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Taunton Multiple Resource Area
State Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 61. School Street School | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |
| 62. Staples, Sylvanus N., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |
| 63. Stone House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |
| 64. Sweet, Albert, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |
| 65. Taunton Alms House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |
| 66. Taunton Public Library | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |
| 67. Thomas, H. P., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |
| 68. Tisdale-Morse House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |
| 69. Union Congregational Church | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |
| 70. Union Mission Chapel-
Historical Hall | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> | <u>7/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Taunton Alms House (Taunton MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 21 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 6/21/84 - 7/5/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7-5-84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



#519

Taunton Arms House

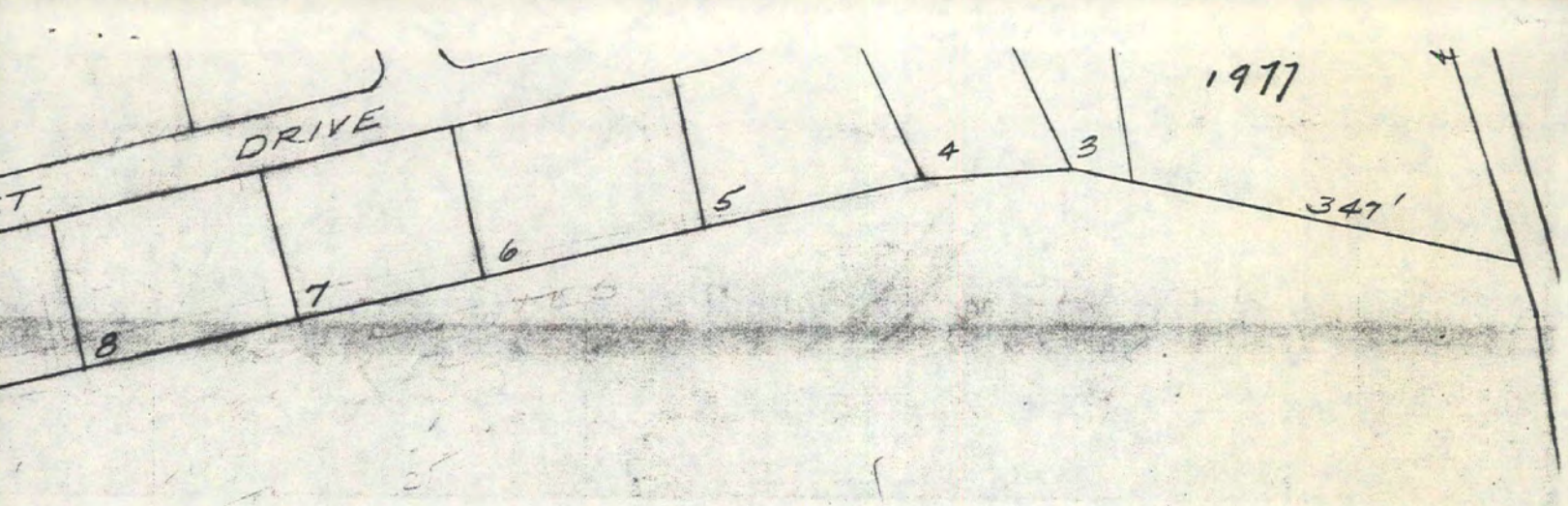
Taunton NRA, Ma

MAY 1980

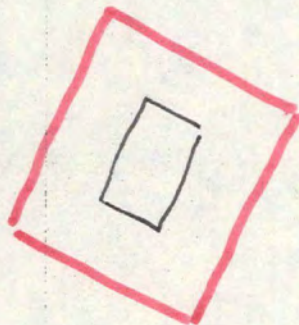


by Berkey

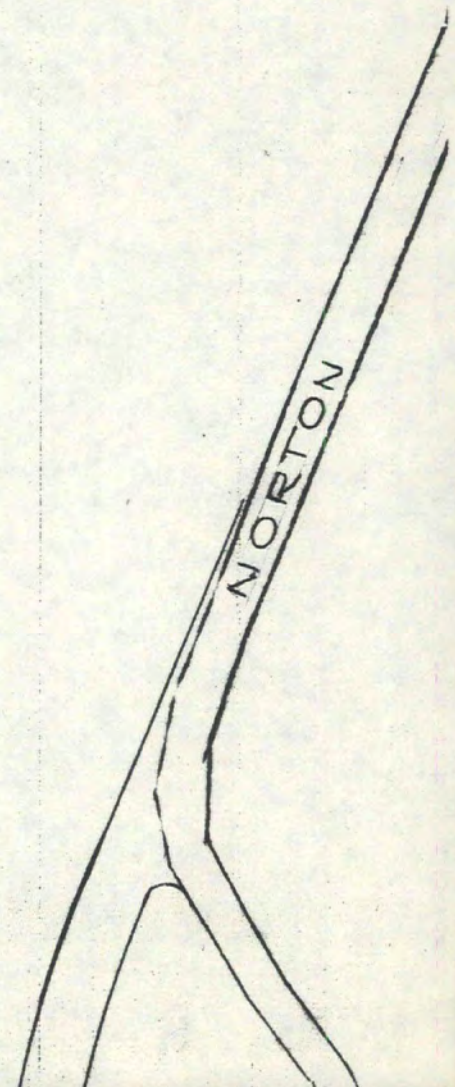
MAY 1980



XLI



CITY INFIRMARY



TAUNTON MULTIPLE RESOURCE
NOMINATION

FORM NO. 519

OLD TAUNTON ALMSHOUSE

SCALE: 1" = 160'

MAP NO. Wd 7, Plan 28, Lot 26

ACREAGE *less than one*

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000297