

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received DEC 28 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic State Lunatic Hospital at Danvers (Dist)

and/or common Danvers State Hospital

2. Location

street & number 450 Maple Street N/A— not for publication

city, town Danvers N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Essex code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied (Partially)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: mental hospital

4. Owner of Property

name Department of Mental Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

street & number 600 Washington Street

city, town Boston N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex County Registry of Deeds

street & number Federal Street

city, town Salem state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the
title Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date March 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description State Lunatic Asylum at Danvers, 450 Maple St., Danvers, Mass.

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Danvers State Hospital, an extensive mental health care facility dating from 1874 to the present, reflects changing attitudes toward treatment of the insane in its exceptionally well preserved buildings and grounds. It is dominated by the 1874 Kirkbride Complex, a huge brick with granite trim structure designed by noted Boston architect Nathaniel J. Bradlee in the Victorian Gothic style. Closely modeled on the precepts of Thomas S. Kirkbride, it includes space for patients, attendants, and administration, reflecting a centralized approach to care. Later buildings such as the Male and Female Nurses Homes (15,13) represent the segregation of patients and staff; the male & female tubercular buildings (5,4) and the Bonner Medical Building (14) represent specialization of medical treatment; the cottages (24-31) repair shops (10) and farm buildings (16,17,21,22,23) represent an increased self-sufficiency for the hospital, an emphasis on occupational therapy and increased dispersal of the hospital population. A circumferential and interior road network services the entire complex.

Danvers State Hospital occupies a hilltop site of over 500 acres with a commanding view of Boston 18 miles to the south. Variously known as Hathorne Hill, Prospect Hill, and Dodge's Hill, the site is a glacial drumlin with a rocky northern slope. When the Commonwealth purchased the site in 1874, it was covered with established oak, pine, and apple groves. Visually and functionally, the hospital grounds now consist of four distinct areas. The first is the southeastern highland area, topped by the 1874 Kirkbride Complex, auxiliary buildings and reservoir. Second are the northeastern lowlands bordering the Maple Street entrance which include a scattering of turn of the century cottages as well as the hospital's power/service/agricultural complex. Third, is the central section dominated by the Hogan Center for the Mentally Retarded, an extensive, modern, one-story treatment complex. The fourth and westernmost parcel, extending into the neighboring town of Middleton, includes the Middleton Colony constructed at the turn of the century for long term custodial female patients. At this time, only the first two areas are being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. (see boundary justification)

1. Kirkbride Complex (Photos #1,2,3; figure map #2). Nathaniel J. Bradlee, architect; 1874-1878; 313,000 sq. ft.; 1100' length.

Plan: The massive 3½ story Kirkbride Complex occupying the crown of Hathorne Hill, is the original central element of the Danvers State Hospital. It was designed in the Victorian Gothic style by prominent Boston architect N. J. Bradlee who followed the current planning principles espoused by Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride (1809-1883). Typically, it consisted of a central administrative core (E, F; Photo 1) flanked by three identical stepped back wings to each side which housed female patients to the right (B,C,D) and males to the left (G, H, I; Photo 2). Designed for a total of 258 patients, each of these six wings contained a dorm room, 14 single rooms plus front and rear stair halls per floor; attic infirmaries could house 30 additional patients. In keeping with the Kirkbride plan requirements for fireproofing and fresh air, there was built "a fire proof passage from one building (wing) to another... with double iron doors at each end. The ventilating towers (were placed) over these passages and were built up with brick above the highest point of adjoining roofs, thus becoming a fireproof barrier between them". (Bradlee, N., Final Report of the Architect; B77) Terminating the complex, but actually constructed first, were two wings for "excited patients" connected to the main building at right angles by octagonal entrance towers (A, J; Photo 3). Built for a total of 72 patients, they contained 12 single rooms, an attendant's rooms and a dining room plus storage, pantry, and back stair hall per floor.

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Materials: The requirements for building materials were clearly spelled out by the architect in his Specifications and Articles of Agreement for the Erection of Six Wings of a Hospital for the Insane at Danvers. Bradlee called for hammered Rockport (MA) or Concord (NH) granite trim on a building of red Danvers brick. Walls were to be laid up with Thomaston or Rockland lime mixed with Plum Island sand and Rosendale cement, and to be bonded every seventh course. The roof was to be covered with Maine slate, sealed with elastic oil cement and pine tar, and flashed with copper. The building was to be framed in spruce with clear pine. Interior finishes were not specified but early 20th century photographs reveal light colored plaster walls with chamfered corner doors with etched and stained glass panels, pressed metal ceilings, uncovered wood floors and elaborate plaster brackets in the entries to the more important rooms. These same fashionable Eastlaskan details are also seen in Worcester State Hospital of 1877 (NR; 1980).

Exterior: Despite its symmetrical, centralized plan, the Kirkbride Complex achieves complexity through its massing and detail. The form is enlivened by steep slate roofs, projecting towers and pavillions, facade gables and picturesque ventilating turrets over the wings. Its surface is enriched by the contrast of red brick with granite trim which forms belt courses, flat topped window arches, quatrefoil windows in the gable fields and coping. These design elements, which are consistent throughout the building, are generally well preserved despite the later additions and alterations described below.

Alterations: The Kirkbride Complex has lost the upper stages of its central tower (removed April 1970 due to structural problems) and a porte-cochere to the right of the main entrance (removed ca. 1920 for addition of a stair tower). See Section F of Map #2 and Photo #1. Additionally, the building has lost several copper leaders as well as some iron cresting and roof slates resulting in minor conservation problems.

The following major additions to the Kirkbride Complex have also been made:

- 1897 - compatibly designed, three story brick annexes to the ends of high security wings A and J, presumably to house additional chronic patients.
- 1902 - one story brick Surgery Building with hipped roof and segmental arched windows to the front of A.
- 1926 - compatibly designed, three story brick hydrotherapy units to the rear of B and I.
- 1921 - three-story glazed sunporches across the fronts of B and I (photo #3).
- 1932 - three-story glazed sunporches across the fronts of C and H.
- 1932 - one story plus high basement Kitchen/Cafeteria Annex in the Renaissance Revival style with arcaded fenestration to the rear of E.

The sunporches of 1921 and 1932 are the only alterations which have served to obscure the original design of the building.

Interior: Limited interior access revealed retention of a substantial quantity of original hardware, etched and stained glass panels in doors, and marble mantels; pressed metal ceilings may remain under the present drop panels. Additionally, the John B. McDonald Medical Library, ca. 1920s, remains intact. The original heating and ventilating system remains operative although it is now fired by a 1921 plant at the base of the hill (#18).

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The auxilliary structures surrounding Kirkbride are described below:
Immediately in front of Kirkbride:

2. Reservoir Gate House (Photo #4) 1876; repaired 1912. Although the hospital reservoir dug immediately west of Kirkbride and adjacent to wings I and J was filled and paved in the early 20th century for safety reasons, the original gatehouse remains. Typically, it is a small, one-story structure of pentagonal plan, enclosed by a low pitched slate roof. Materials, consisting of red brick with granite window trim are the same as those of the main building.
3. Summer House (Photo #5) 1889; two open pavillions (one for male and one for female patients) were erected on the front lawn of the hospital to enhance patients' enjoyment of the healthful open air. These rustic structures, of a simple cross plan, consisted of squared, braced corner posts rising from a lattice screened foundation to a hipped roof. The summer house for male patients has been lost while that for the females remains in poor but intact condition.
4. Female Tubercular Building; 1906; this somewhat more substantial building was erected adjacent to the summer house for the day-time treatment of tubercular patients. At some unknown date, it was converted for use as an Art Cottage. It is a simple one story, wood-frame structure with a T-shaped plan. A bracketed, over hanging gable roof is supported by squared posts. Currently infilled with glazing, it is likely that screens existed originally. The building is in fair condition.
5. Male Tubercular Building; 1906; identical to Female Tubercular Building. At some unknown date it was converted for use as a Music Cottage.

Behind Kirkbride:

6. Garage; 1908-1927; A one-story brick, mansard roofed garage was constructed behind Kirkbride in 1908; a shed-roofed extension was added in 1927.
7. Covered Stairway; date unknown; a covered wooden stairway with an open-wall, gazebo-like entrance facing the rear of Kirkbride, leads north down Hathorne Hill toward the hospital's main entrance on Maple Street. Although an exact date is not known, its appearance and the known dates of buildings to which it leads, suggests construction in the late 19th century. The stairway is presently in poor condition.
8. Head House/Pump House; 1921/1929; two small, interconnected, one-story concrete block buildings were constructed behind Kirkbride in the 1920s to improve and increase the water supply. Although they are architecturally undistinguished, they contribute to an understanding of the over-all functioning of the hospital.
9. Sewerscreen House ; 1948; similar in scale, function and importance to the Head and Pump Houses is the 1948 brick sewerscreen house.

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10. Repair Shops; 1904-1933; a utilitarian, brick two-story building was constructed behind Kirkbride in two stages. It is called by various names such as Repair Shop, Machine Shop, Paint Shop, and O.T. Unit. It was likely used as a space where general repairs could be performed in part by patients as part of their treatment, and in part by staff.

11. Old Laundry; 1912; also behind Kirkbride, is a two-story laundry building with a T-shaped plan. Constructed of brick, it has paired segmental arched windows at the first story; at the second story, paired windows are framed into an over hanging bracketted cornice.

Facing Kirkbride on Circuit Road:

12. Gray Gables; 1898; Gray Gables was constructed twenty years after the hospital opened as a residential facility for nurses. It was the second such facility in the state. The symmetrical Queen Anne style building rises 3½ stories from a fieldstone foundation to a steeply pitched hip roof pierced by irregularly placed chimneys. It is clad in weathered shingles with painted wood trim consisting of simple window surrounds, verge boards, and a Tuscan columned verandah. Minor alterations include the addition of stair towers to the lateral end and reshingling. Presently boarded and vacant, its condition appears fair.

13. Female Nurses' Home (Photo #8) ca. 1930; this brick, Colonial Revival style dormitory was built to replace Gray Gables. The 18 bay building rises three stories from a raised basement to a gable roof of moderate pitch. Its simple design, enriched primarily by quoins and oculi in the gable fields, is typical of state hospital construction in the 1920s and 1930s. Currently used for administrative functions, the building appears to be in good repair.

14. Bonner Medical Building (Photo #7); 1955; the Bonner Building is a handsome late addition to the hospital; it was named for Charles A. Bonner, Superintendent (1927-53). Built as a complete surgical facility, it is a 31 bay, four-story, brick building rising from a full basement to a blank parapet. Stylistic references, drawn from the Beaux Arts tradition, are concentrated on the central pavillion which is articulated by quoins and elongated arches linking second and third story windows.

15. Male Nurses Home (Photo #6); 1927; predating the Female Nurses Home by only a few years, this dormitory is even simpler in form and detail with few references to any architectural style. The 23 bay, three-story brick building is terminated by a blank parapet. It is detailed by slightly projecting end and central pavillions and by two main entries with heavy segmental pediments. Although not currently in use, it appears to be in good repair.

Non-Contributing Structures surrounding Kirkbride:

A. St. Luke's Chapel - 1964; built to serve patients of the various Protestant faiths, St. Luke's is a modern, one-story brick structure with a steeply pitched gable roof.

B. Our Lady of the Hill Chapel - ca. 1955; this modern, one-story brick structure was built to serve Catholic patients.

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C. Water Tower - ca. 1960; at some time in the mid-20th century, perhaps when the reservoir was filled, a standard metal water tower was constructed behind Kirkbride.

Maple Street Area

The Maple Street area which includes the main entrance to Danvers State Hospital offers a contrast to the immediate vicinity of Kirkbride to the south. It occupies relatively flat open land and was developed with small scale, free-standing buildings. It is divided roughly in half by the entrance road with primarily service buildings to the west and residential cottages to the east. Individual buildings are described below:

✓ 16. Grove Hall (Photo #10); 1902; Grove Hall was constructed in 1902 to house male patients who worked in the extensive dairy facilities located in the field below (north). Constructed between 1905 and 1950, these barns and storage sheds were razed in 1980. Grove Hall itself is a 2½ story brick structure enclosed by a hipped roof with gabled dormers. It is articulated by stilted segmental window arches, belt courses and a corbeled, dentilated cornice. Presently used as a detoxification center for the North Shore, Grove Hall is in good condition.

✓ 17. Farm Hall (Photo #9); 1931; constructed almost thirty years later than Grove Hall, Farm Hall was probably used for similar purposes. It is a 2½ story brick structure whose details are derived from the Arts and Crafts style. It is distinguished primarily by its complex hipped roof (slate) intersected by cross gables with oculi in their fields.

18. Power House; 1924; In 1924, the hospital built its own power plant at the base of Hathorne Hill which is a two story brick and concrete structure with a characteristic smokestack.

19. Trestle; ca. 1924; North of the Power House and adjacent to the B and M Railroad is a concrete trestle which was likely used as a spur supplying the Power House with coal.

20. Service Building; 1919; a two-story brick and concrete service building was constructed near the hospital entrance in 1919. Its original use is presently unknown.

21. Vegetable Storage Barn; 1924; with the destruction of the dairy complex in front of Grove Hall, this is one of the only early farm buildings remaining on the hospital grounds. It is a large two story wood frame structure, enclosed by a flat roof with two metal ventilators. Original 6/6 sash is retained. The building appears to be in good condition.

22. Slaughter House; 1917; the Slaughter House is a small square building whose facade terminates in a false parapet. Constructed of concrete block, it was reportedly built by patients. Adjacent are the visible stone foundations of a former barn.

23. Hennery; 1897; the Hennery is a series of low wood frame sheds. It is presently in poor to deteriorated condition.

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24-31. Cottages (Photos #11, 12); ca. 1850-1932; perhaps the most characteristic feature of the lower (north) hospital grounds are the eight staff cottages with their detached garages. Ranging in date from ca. 1850 (predating hospital construction) to 1932, they represent a variety of stylistic expressions but are united by their domestic scale. They are all closely related in form and detail to contemporary residential suburban development.

24. Cottage #7(1918); constructed for use by the farm overseer, is now isolated from the other cottages by the hospital service area (buildings dating from 1922 - ca. 1960). Originally it was surrounded by the henery, slaughter house, and a large barn complex in which its residents may have worked. The "cottage" itself is a simple two story wood frame double house enclosed by a hipped roof with cross gables on the side elevations. It is ornamented chiefly by a Tuscan porch. Its foundation and garage are constructed of concrete block. It is presently vacant and in poor condition.

25. Cottage #6 (1894); standing at the intersection of the entrance road, Middleton Road and Eastern Avenue, is presently used by the hospital's security force. Like Cottage #7, it is a simple two story, wood frame building with a hipped roof. It is in good condition.

26. Cottage #3 (1882; Photo #11); overlooking Grove Hall on Eastern Avenue, was the first of the cottages constructed by the hospital. It is a two-story wood frame building enclosed by a gambrel roof. Drawing on both the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles, it is sheathed with clapboards at the first story and with shingles cut in various decorative patterns at the second story and in the gable fields. Sash is generally 8/2. The building is in good-fair condition. A wood frame, gambrel roof garage (1882) stands behind the house.

27. Cottage #10 (1932); the most recent of the cottages is a Dutch Colonial style gambrel roof building, constructed of brick. It is symmetrically designed with a center entry.

28. Cottage #2 (1909); although constructed 27 years later, is almost identical to Cottage #3 (map #26). Its garage was constructed in 1934.

29. Cottage #1 (1888; Photo #12); located at the northeast corner of the hospital grounds, is one of the most charming. Completely assymetrical in its massing and varied in its surface treatments, it reflects the Queen Anne style more fully than any of the others. Hospital records indicate that it was built for staff. It is in good-fair condition.

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30. Cottage #5 (ca. 1850); facing Maple Street, is one of two which predate construction of the hospital. It is a simple wood frame, Greek Revival style house with a side hall plan and several rear additions of later date. Records indicate that its garage also predates the hospital. The cottage is in good-fair condition.

31. Cottage #4 (ca. 1850); is the other residence predating the hospital. Standing at the entrance to the hospital, it is similar in appearance and condition to Cottage #5.

32. Salvage Yard (1922); located adjacent to Cottage #7 (map #24), the Salvage Yard is composed of a series of low, wood frame, shed roof structures. Its construction marked the beginning of this area's use for service functions.

Non-Contributing Structures in the Maple Street Area:

D. New Laundry (ca. 1965)

The laundry is a large, utilitarian, one-story brick building. It currently services Metropolitan State Hospital (1930s) and the Fernald School in Waltham as well as Danvers State Hospital.

E-H- Tractor Shed, Farm Garage, Implement Shed, Hay Barn; constructed in the 1950s, these are one story, utilitarian sheds of corrugated metal.

8. Significance State Lunatic Asylum at Danvers, 450 Maple St., Danvers, Mass.

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) mental health
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1874 - present **Builder/Architect** Nathaniel J. Bradlee (Kirkbride)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Danvers State Hospital, originally known as the State Lunatic Hospital at Danvers, is significant in both architectural and social history. Designed in 1874 by noted Boston architect, N.J. Bradlee, it is a handsome and intact implementation of the nationally recognized Kirkbride plan. When built it represented the latest contemporary advances in technology and engineering as well as architecture. Later additions reflect changes in mental health care philosophy and contribute to an understanding of the overall functioning of the hospital. Historically, Danvers State Hospital is significant for its leading role in treatment of the insane including an advanced occupational therapy program, early training facilities for staff, and a long term concern with community health issues. Thus, Danvers State Hospital possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association while meeting criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Concern for the disadvantaged, including the poor, the sick, and the mentally disturbed, has been recognized as a responsibility of the public sector in Massachusetts since its early 17th century settlement period. Until the mid-19th century, the charge for their care rested primarily with the towns in which they resided through locally established poor farms. As the towns' duties in this regard became unwieldy and largely unfulfilled, due in part to the pressures of immigration and rapidly increasing numbers of unsettled poor, the state stepped in, first establishing the Board of Commissioners of Alien Passengers (1851) and in 1863 the Board of State Charities. Though still administratively combined, different facilities and types of care were gradually provided to victims of varying types of misfortune. For example, by 1863, three state hospitals specifically to care for the insane had been built: at Worcester (1833), at Taunton (1854), and at Northampton (1858).

The towns' inability to cope with a rapidly rising and undigested anti-social population was not the only impetus behind state involvement in mental health. A other important component was the move away from "demonology" toward moral treatment of the insane, a cause which was loudly and publically championed by such social reformers as Boston's Dorothea Lynde Dix. Her energetic career (1841-1887) had significant local as well as national and international impact.

At mid-century the humanistic approach toward care of the insane was generally accepted, yet controversy still surrounded the form or building arrangement such institutions should assume. Some, heavily represented on the State Board of Charities, favored the dispersion of the dependent as opposed to their congregation. The other faction in the controversy, which found many supporters in the Association of Medical Superintendents, favored a large, highly centralized complex. Chief proponent of the centralized plan was Thomas S. Kirkbride,

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kelso, R.W. The History of Public Poor Relief in Massachusetts, 1620-1920. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1922.
Moyhahan, Frank E. (Publisher) Danvers, Massachusetts. Danvers: Danvers Mirror, 1899.
Tapley, Harriet Silvester. Chronicles of Danvers (Old Salem Village). Danvers: The Danvers

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 178

Quadrangle name Salem

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	3	8	4	4	0	4	7	1	6	1	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

1	9	3	3	8	0	0	0	4	7	1	5	5	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

1	9	3	3	7	4	4	0	4	7	1	6	3	3	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

1	9	3	3	7	7	9	5	4	7	1	6	7	3	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification Danvers State Hospital is bounded by Maple Street and a discontinued B&M Railroad line to the north, the Newburyport Turnpike to the east, a line roughly following the contour of Hathorne Hill to the south and an arbitrary line
(Continued)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Preservation Planning Director, with Marcia Cini, Boston University and Richard Trask, Danvers Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission **date** October, 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street **telephone** (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston **state** MA 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Patricia L. Webster*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/20/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Allouez Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 1/26/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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M.D., L.L.D. (1809-1883), a founder of the American Psychiatric Association, physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, and friend of Dorothea Lynde Dix.

Kirkbride devised a specific institutional model, thereafter known as the Kirkbride Plan, which was built upon in all thirty states then in existence and in several European cities. H.H. Richardson, for example, built a variation of the Kirkbride Plan hospital in Buffalo, NY in the early 1870s in cooperation with Frederick Law Olmsted.

The Kirkbride Plan provided that mental hospitals should:

1. be built "in the country", though accessible at all seasons
2. be set on grounds of at least 100 acres
3. house a maximum of 250 patients
4. be built of stone or brick with slate or metal roof and otherwise made as fireproof as possible
5. be composed of 8 wards, separated according to sex, and built according to other specifications as to size, location, and material of accommodations
6. be organized with wings flanking a central administration building
7. house the most "excited" patients in the end or outermost wings
8. provide "an abundance of pure fresh air"

Kirkbride's hospitals were intended as monuments to the belief that most insane are curable and thus that the function of the hospital is primarily curative and not custodial. That curative process was to be greatly enhanced by pleasant surroundings, fresh air, and pure water. Fully developed Massachusetts' examples of the Kirkbride Plan exist at Danvers and at Worcester (1877; NR 1980).

The immediate crisis which precipitated the building of a mental hospital north of Boston was the imminence in the early 1870s of the closing of the city facility at South Boston. By 1873, Worcester, Taunton, and Northampton and the 1866 Tewksbury Asylum for chronic patients were already housing 1300 patients in facilities designed for 1000; another 1200 were scattered about in other less specialized institutions. In that year, authorization was given for a "state lunatic hospital" at Danvers. It was to serve primarily Essex County patients and to accommodate an overflow from South Boston of at least 200.

Prominent Boston architect, Nathaniel Jeremiah Bradley, was selected to design the new facility. Bradley (1829-1888) a Boston man of important family, entered the office of George M. Dexter at age 17. After an extended apprenticeship, he succeeded to Dexter's practice in 1856. By the time of his commission at Danvers, at the apex of his career, Bradley was architect for a phenomenal 500 plus buildings of all varieties in the Boston area. Bradley practiced with Walter Winslow between 1872 and 1883 when they were joined by George Wetherell. Following Bradley's death in 1888, Winslow & Wetherell remained in partnership. In addition to his activities as an architect, Bradley served on the Boston city water board from 1865-77 and from 1868-70 as its president. Nathaniel Bradley's civic stature led to his nomination to the mayoralty of Boston in 1876 and 1887.

Bradley's plan for Danver's State Hospital was based on his unbuilt 1867 scheme for an insane asylum at Winthrop. A logical choice of the Danvers commissioners in December 1873,

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he prepared for this project by researching hospitals at Worcester, MA Poughkeepsie, NY, Concord, NH, Philadelphia, Trenton, and one under construction at Morristown, NJ. On this basis, he asked for \$900,000 almost half again what the commissioners had allotted in April and picked a draftsman, James F. Ellis.

The Danvers site, originally 197.25 acres purchased for \$39,542.50, was chosen for its beauty, privacy, view, and farming potential. Eighteen miles north of Boston, 2 miles west of Danvers, 7 miles from the coal port at Salem, accessibility to visitors and a supply of heating fuel were also deciding factors. The "Swan's Crossing" station on the Lawrence Branch of the Eastern Railroad sat on the northern border of the tract. Under the supervision of Lynn engineer Charles Hammond, an overall site plan was drawn up, locating the main building on the crown of Hathorne Hill and providing also for a support network of roads and room for a farming operation.

Bitter controversy over the building of Danvers State Hospital centered around its configuration, ornamentation and cost. Construction begun May 1, 1874, eventually cost a whopping \$1,464,940.57. Many agreed that "Danvers rank(ed) among the foremost in its facilities for convenience in practical operation, its provisions for securing that purity of atmosphere which is necessary to the perfection of hygienic conditions and in its general adaptation to the purpose for which it was intended." They lauded "the plan, the style, the architect, and the thoroughness and permanence of the work already performed." (American Journal of Insanity, pg. 20).

In 1877 an inquiry was held into cost overruns during which the issue of the hospital's style, dubbed "Domestic Gothic" by Bradlee, inevitably surfaced. The Commissioners defended their plans which, when exhibited at the International Exhibition in Philadelphia, received the only award made to this country for plans for an insane hospital. Others lined up behind Senator Sanborn who, calling it the "Hospital Palace at Danvers", argued that "even many a royal palace.. is neither so large nor so pretentious architecturally as the hospital at Danvers." (Sanborn, E.F.; The Hospital Palace at Danvers; 1877).

Pliny Earle, then Superintendent at the State Lunatic Asylum in Northampton "decried the trend to excessive ornamentation in hospital architecture, preferring comfortable interiors to 'gorgeous exteriors', suggesting that domes, towers, and turrets are very appropriately situated 'at universities like Harvard and Yale but are scarcely appropriate' when they stand as monuments over the misfortune and the miseries of men." (Lucy Sanborn, p. 11. The towers and turrets were in fact necessary to the building's ventilating system, not merely stylistic features.)

The investigating committee concluded that several errors in judgment had been made. While the hospital commissioners were "superceded" early as a reprimand, a \$150,000 appropriation was awarded to allow the completion of construction. The first patient was admitted May 13, 1878.

Provision of pure water, an important component in 19th century mental health therapy, was also the subject of argument during the construction and early years of the hospital. The nearby Ipswich River was explored early as a source. Ultimately, the town of Danvers,

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Continuation sheet State Lunatic Hospital in Danvers Item number 8 Page 3

which had in 1874 established its own water supply from Middleton Pond at Wills' Hill, indicated its willingness to service the hospital's needs as well. In 1876, an agreement was struck whereby the town would build its own intermediate reservoir on the grounds to supply a gravity feed system via a series of ten 5000 gallon tanks in the attic.

By the turn of the 20th century, Danvers State Hospital had outgrown its site and facilities. Therefore, in 1902 an additional 100 acres straddling the towns of Danvers and Middleton, was purchased and a major building campaign was undertaken. Twentieth century additions to the hospital reflect not only growth of the patient population, but also an increased emphasis on occupational therapy and current theories of decentralized care. Large barns (demolished) were built as were new buildings for the men who helped out the farming venture (Grove Hall - #16-1902; Farm Hall - #17-1931) and for women chronic patients (Middleton Colony - not included - 1903). In fact, after the very first year of its operation, once the layout was decided, roads, fences, piggery, corn barn, wagon shed, manure cellar, and apple orchard were in place. After only the second, 50 cords of wood and 10,386 lbs. of fresh pork were realized.

The farm continued to grow and prosper and soon became a famous model. The Danvers onion, locally derived by the Gregory Seed Co., was among the many vegetables grown. Elaborate pleasure gardens were established adjacent to the Kirkbride complex to supplement recreational therapy programs. In fact, the Danvers State Hospital was so remarkable that it attracted 12,000 yearly visitors as early as 1880. In addition to visiting patients, they brought contributions of books, magazines, and flowers and conducted religious services. Thus, was established a pattern of community involvement for which the hospital would later become noted.

As originally established, the Danvers hospital was to be run by a resident Superintendent appointed by an unpaid lay Board of Trustees, chosen by the Governor. Central authority lay with the Board of State Charities (after 1879-The State Board of Health, Lunacy and Charity). In 1898 the leadership role of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts radically advanced with the information of the State Board of Insanity, the first in the United States. Landmark legislation:

1. took the poor out of the almshouses and put them under state control.
2. introduced occupational therapy and social services.
3. emphasized mental hygiene, and
4. called for professional training of nurses and attendants.

Danvers State Hospital became a leader in the implementation of these progressive and humanitarian tenets, becoming one of "the most advanced institutions of the kind in the country providing all practical means possible for intelligent treatments of insanity as a disease." (Frank E. Moynaham (Publisher), Danvers, Massachusetts (Danvers: Danvers Mirror, 1899), p. 71)

Danvers State made extensive early use of occupational therapy. In addition to working the farm and greenhouses, patients repaired facilities (like the reservoir-1912), dug tunnels (like the one to the Nurses' Home-1913), and built small buildings (like the 1917 slaughterhouse built from patient-made concrete blocks). They also made shoes and participated in other crafts and Montessori kindergarden exercises. Patient crafts were sold to the public and exhibited (along with displays about the hospital's

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latest therapeutic techniques) at exhibitions like the Boston Mechanics Hall Textile Show (1916) and the one at Stoneham (1919).

Mental and physical hygiene at Danvers State was guided by the most advanced contemporary thinking (despite epidemics such as the great outbreak of bacillary dysentery of 1908 in which 36 died). Primary ingredients in the program were recreational therapy (gardens, etc.) fresh air supplied by an advanced ventilating system, and especially hydrotherapy. It was believed that the use of water baths to ameliorate the clogged condition of the brain would allow for the discontinuance of irritating restraints and depressing drugs. An advanced pathology department supported the hygiene effort.

Danvers State Hospital established the second nursing school in Massachusetts (1889) and the second nurses' home in the state (Gray Gables-1898). It had already pioneered by being the first Massachusetts mental hospital to hire a woman doctor (1879). By the end of the 1920s, two large nurses' homes had been built on the property, one for female nurses and the other for male.

The hospital was a leader in the area of community involvement from the start. As early as 1907, the Superintendent was advocating a preventive mental health program. In 1909 the "Danvers Series" was inaugurated to share the results of research at the hospital. By 1912 there was an active community mental health program. "From such beginnings grew the Massachusetts Plan in which the state hospital is regarded as the center of mental hygiene and psychiatric activity throughout the district."

About the same time the Massachusetts Plan was being popularized, 1938, the current Department of Mental Health was set up. It succeeded the Commission on Mental Diseases, which had replaced the State Board of Insanity in 1916, and runs the state mental hospital network today.

The last decade has seen a change in emphasis on the part of the Department of Mental Health in favor of deinstitutionalization made possible in part by advances in drug therapy. Danvers, today housing 260 patients down from a high of 2600, is one of the five state mental hospitals which are expected to be phased out.

Archaeology: the land associated with the Danvers State Hospital should be considered to contain significant and perhaps extensive remains of subsurface features and material culture deposits as well as evidence of past land use related to its function as a major mental health care facility from the fourth quarter of the 19th century to the present. Careful research using the evidence contained in documentary sources in conjunction with archaeological survey and excavation techniques has the potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the history of the institution and its site.

Evidence may also be present in the archaeological record associated with previous historic period ownership and agricultural activities dating as early as 1647 when William Hathorne built a "mansion house" and three barns on the crest of the hill. Investigation of this component may help in understanding early settlement in the Danvers area. Finally, the area is highly sensitive for the presence of prehistoric cultural remains due to the nature of its topography, closeness to the Ipswich River, and relationship to known sites.

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Continuation sheet State Lunatic Hospital in Danvers
Item number 8

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Considerable attention by avocational and professional archaeologists in the region has resulted in the identification of a large number of archaeological sites. Over 100 sites are known to be located within a 10-15 mile radius and five within a mile of the hospital which appear to represent The Archaic through Woodland periods. As little professional research has occurred in the area, systematic archaeological work conducted on the Danvers State Hospital lands may provide an excellent opportunity to address a variety of pertinent research questions regarding settlement and subsistence patterns, lithic technology and the like.

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State Lunatic Hospital in Danvers

Continuation sheet

Item number 9, 10

Page 1

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In Memoriam, Nathaniel Jeremiah Bradlee. Boston: Young Mens' Christian Union, 1889.

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Annual Reports of the State Board of Charities (1874-77).

Final Report of the Massachusetts Commissioners upon the Erection of a State Hospital for the Insane in the Northeastern Part of the Commonwealth. 1877.

Report of the Progress made by the Commissioners in the Erection of a State Hospital for the Insane at Danvers. Boston: Wright and Potter, 1875.

Reports of the Trustees of the State Hospital at Danvers. Boston: Rand, Avery and Co., 1879-1938.

Specifications and Articles of Agreement for the Erection of Six Wings of a Hospital for the Insane at Danvers. Boston: Wright and Potter, 1875.

Kirkbride, Thomas S., M.D., L.L.D. On the Construction, Organization, and General Arrangements for Hospitals for the Insane delivered to the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, Philadelphia, 1854.

Sanborn, F. B. Arguments of F.B. Sanborn: The Hospital Palace at Danvers. Boston: 1877.

CONTINUATION SECTION 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Verbal boundary description and justification

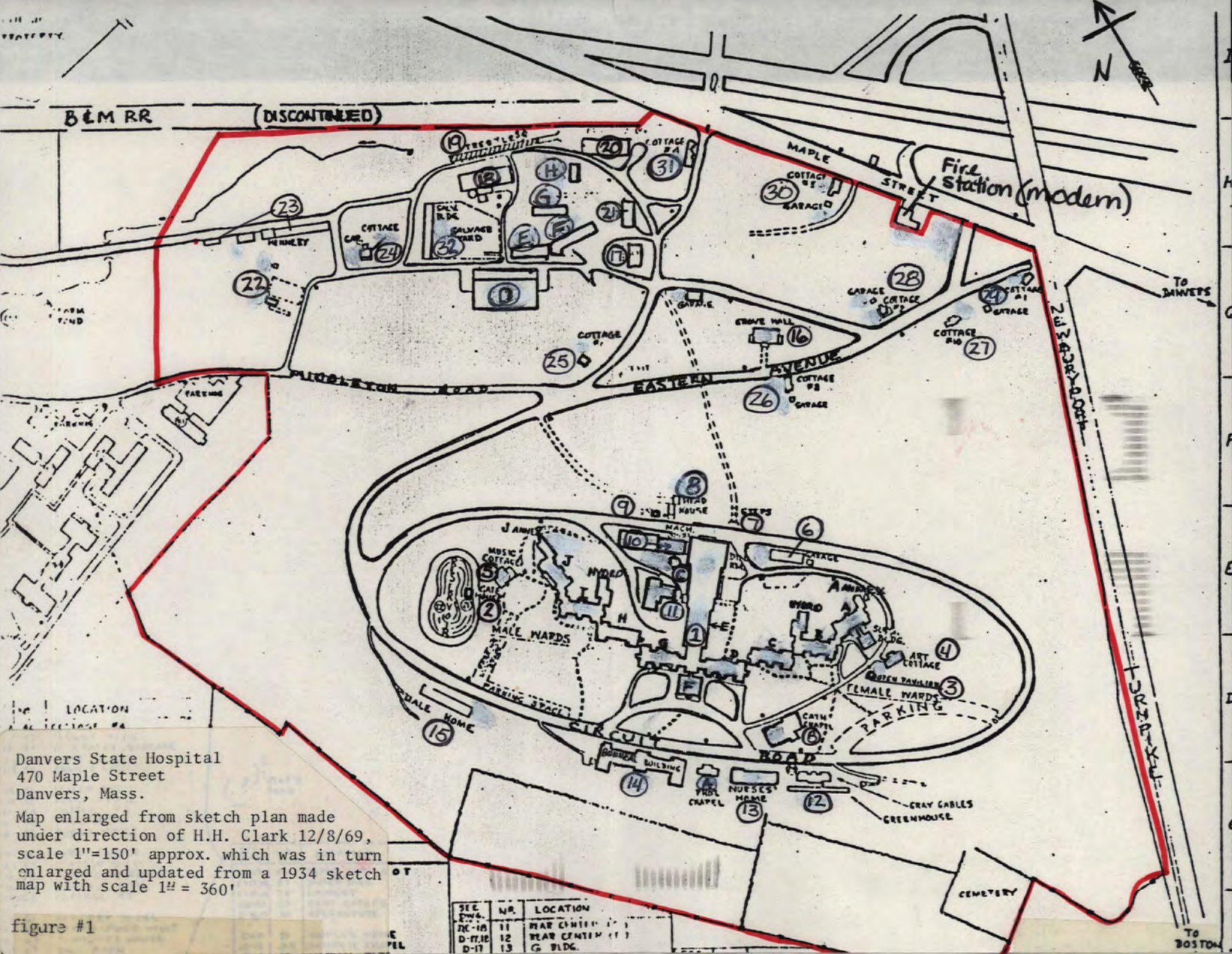
drawn to delete the Hogan Center to the west. Please refer to attached maps. The boundary was drawn to include the original acreage purchased by the Commonwealth for a Lunatic Asylum in 1874 while excluding the modern Hogan Center for the Mentally Retarded. The early 20th century Middleton Colony, on the far western edge of the hospital grounds, appears to meet the National Register criteria. It has not been included in this nomination due to lack of thorough research (it is located in the town of Middleton, while the town of Danvers prepared the nomination). This nomination should be reassessed when more information on the Middleton Colony is available to determine whether or not it meets the National Register criteria and whether it should be added to this nomination or considered on its own merits.

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Map #	Contributing Status	Historic Name	Construction Date	Material	Style
1	C	Kirkbride Complex (see Section 7 and Map #2 for additions)	1874-78	Brick	Victorian Gothic
2	C	Reservoir Gatehouse	1876	Brick	n/a
3	C	Summerhouse	1889	Wood	Stick Style
4	C	Female Tubercular Bldg. (later Art Cottage)	1906	Wood	Arts and Crafts
5	C	Male Tubercular Bldg. (later Music Cottage)	1906	Wood	Arts and Crafts
6	C	Garage	1908; 1927	Brick	Mansard; n/a
7	C	Stairway	1900 (?)	Wood	Stick Style
8	C	Head/Pump House	1921/1929	Concrete	n/a
9	C	Sewerscreen House	1948	Brick	n/a
10	C	Repair Shops	1904-1933	Brick	n/a
11	C	Old Laundry	1912	Brick	n/a
12	C	Gray Gables	1898	Wood	Queen Anne
13	C	Female Nurses Home	1930	Brick	Colonial Revival
14	C	Bonner Medical Bldg.	1955	Brick	elements of Beaux Arts
15	C	Male Nurses Home	1927	Brick	elements of Colonial Revival
A	NC	St. Luke's Chapel	1964	Brick	Modern
B	NC	Our Lady of the Hill Chapel	ca.1955	Brick	Modern
C	NC	Water Tower	ca.1960	Metal	utilitarian
16	C	Grove Hall	1902	Brick	astylistic
17	C	Farm Hall	1931	Brick	Arts and Crafts
18	C	Power House	1924	Brick/Concrete	utilitarian
19	C	Trestle	ca.1924	Concrete	utilitarian
20	C	Service Bldg.	1919	Brick/Concrete	utilitarian

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Map #	Contributing Status	Historic Name	Construction Date	Material	Style
21	C	Vegetable Storage Barn	1924	Wood Frame	utilitarian
22	C	Slaughterhouse	1917	Concrete	utilitarian
23	C	Hennery	1897	Wood Frame	utilitarian
24	C	Cottage #7	1918	Wood Frame	astylistic
25	C	Cottage #6	1894	Wood Frame	astylistic
26	C	Cottage #3	1882	Wood Frame	Queen Anne
27	C	Cottage #10	1932	Brick	Dutch Colonial
28	C	Cottage #2	1909	Wood Frame	Queen Anne
29	C	Cottage #1	1888	Wood Frame	Queen Anne
30	C	Cottage #5	ca.1850	Wood Frame	Greek Revival
31	C	Cottage #4	ca.1850	Wood Frame	Greek Revival
32	C	Salvage Shed	1922	Wood Frame	utilitarian
D	NC	New Laundry	ca.1965	Brick	utilitarian
E	NC	Tractor Shed	after 1955	Metal	utilitarian
F	NC	Farm Garage	1955	Metal	utilitarian
G	NC	Implement Shed	after 1955	Metal	utilitarian
H	NC	Hay Barn	1951	Metal	utilitarian



Danvers State Hospital
 470 Maple Street
 Danvers, Mass.

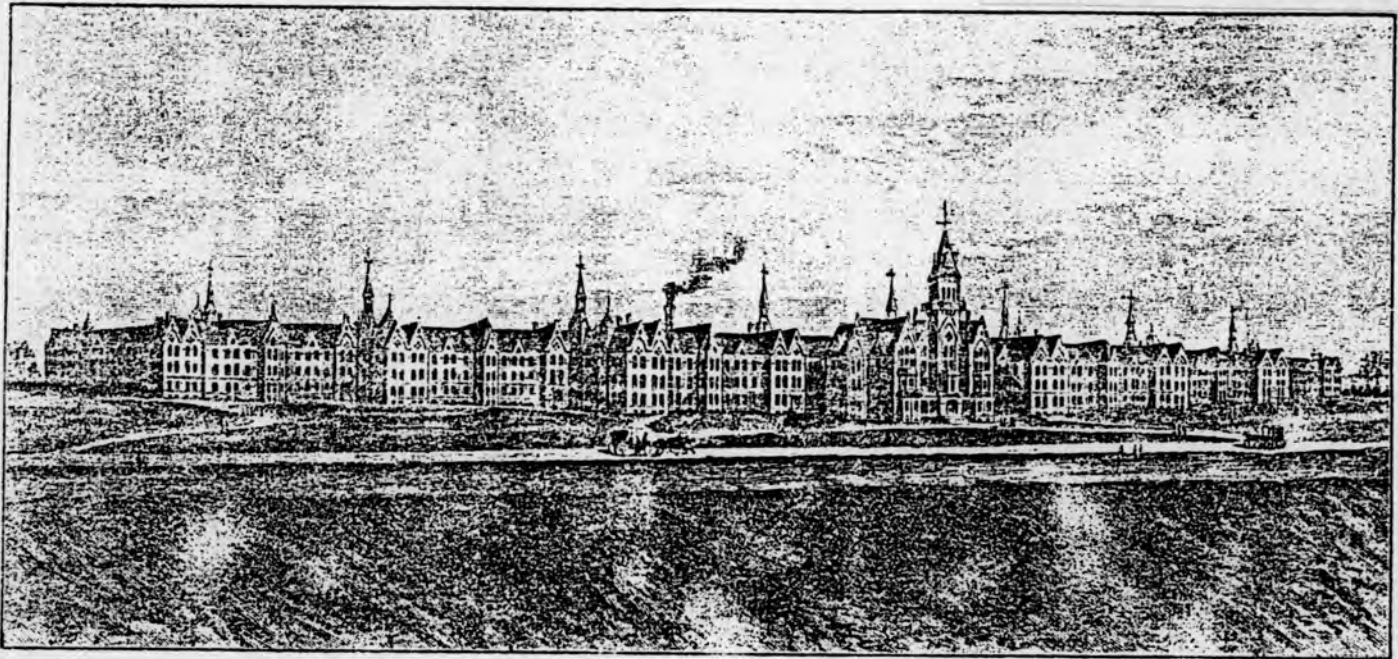
Map enlarged from sketch plan made
 under direction of H.H. Clark 12/8/69,
 scale 1"=150' approx. which was in turn
 enlarged and updated from a 1934 sketch
 map with scale 1"= 360'

figure #1

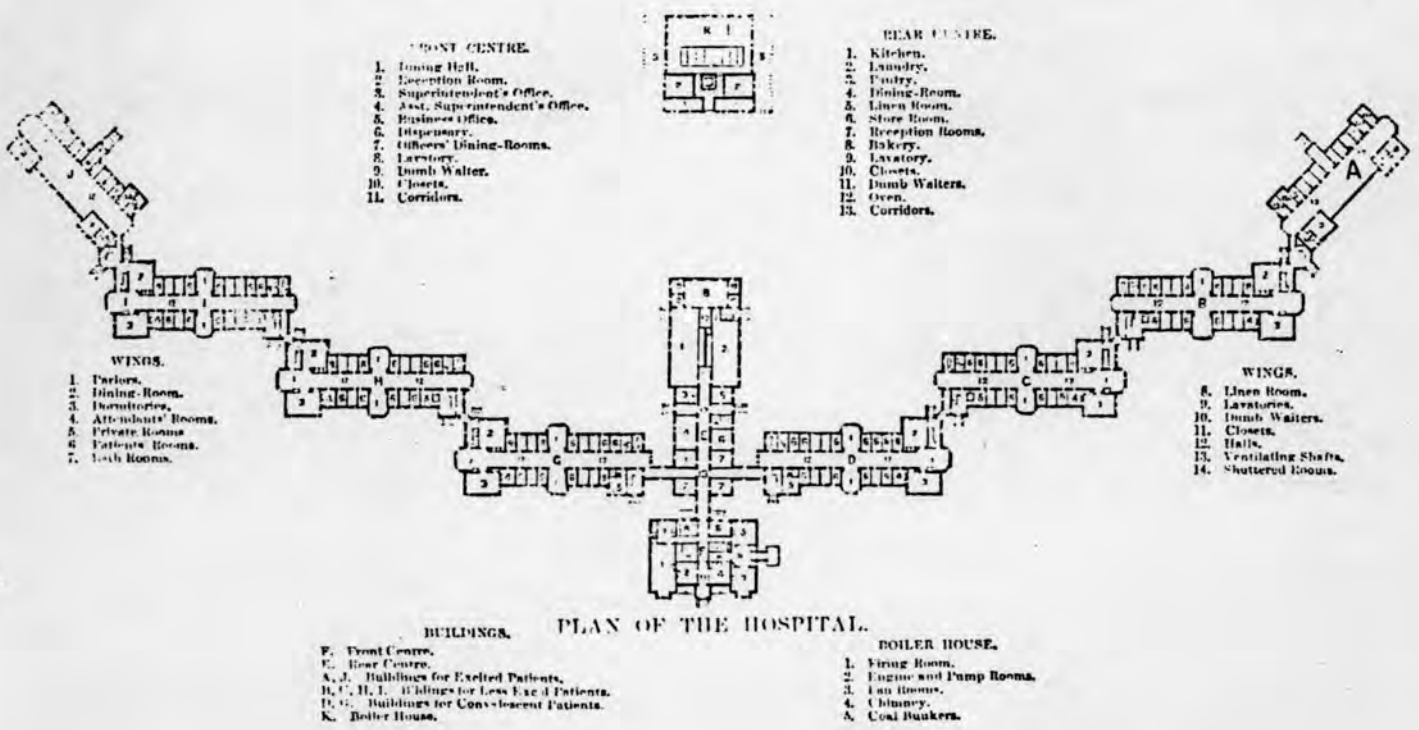
SEE	NR.	LOCATION
DC-10	11	REAR CENTER
D-17.10	12	REAR CENTER (1)
D-17	13	G. BLDG.

Danvers State Hospital
 470 Maple Street
 Danvers, Mass.,

Figure #2



STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL AT DANVERS.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

State Lunatic Hospital at Danvers
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. DEC 28 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 1/26/84 - 2/11/84
Action: ACCEPT 1/26/84
 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

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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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: _____



Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Kirkbride bldg. - Central section
Photo by Richard B. Trask 3/81
Negative - Danvers Archival Center
Photo 1 of 12



Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Kirkbride Complex-SW Wing Area
Photo by Richard B. Trask 3/81
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 2 of 12



Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Kirkbride Complex-SE Wing Area
Photo by Richard B. Trask 3/81
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 3 of 12



4



Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Reservoir Gate House
Photo by Richard B. Trask 3/81
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 4 of 12





Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Summerhouse SW of Kirkbride
Photo by Martin Riddle 7/82
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 5 of 12



Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Male Nurses' Home
Photo by Martin Riddle 7/82
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 6 of 12



Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Bonner Medical Building
Photo by Martin Riddle 7/82
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 7 of 12



Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Female Nurses' Home
Photo by Martin Riddle 7/82
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 8 of 12



Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Farm Hall
Photo by Martin Riddle 7/82
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 9 of 12



Danvers, Massachusetts

Danvers State Hospital

Grove Hall

Photo by Martin Riddle 7/82

Negative-Danvers Archival Center

Photo 10 of 12





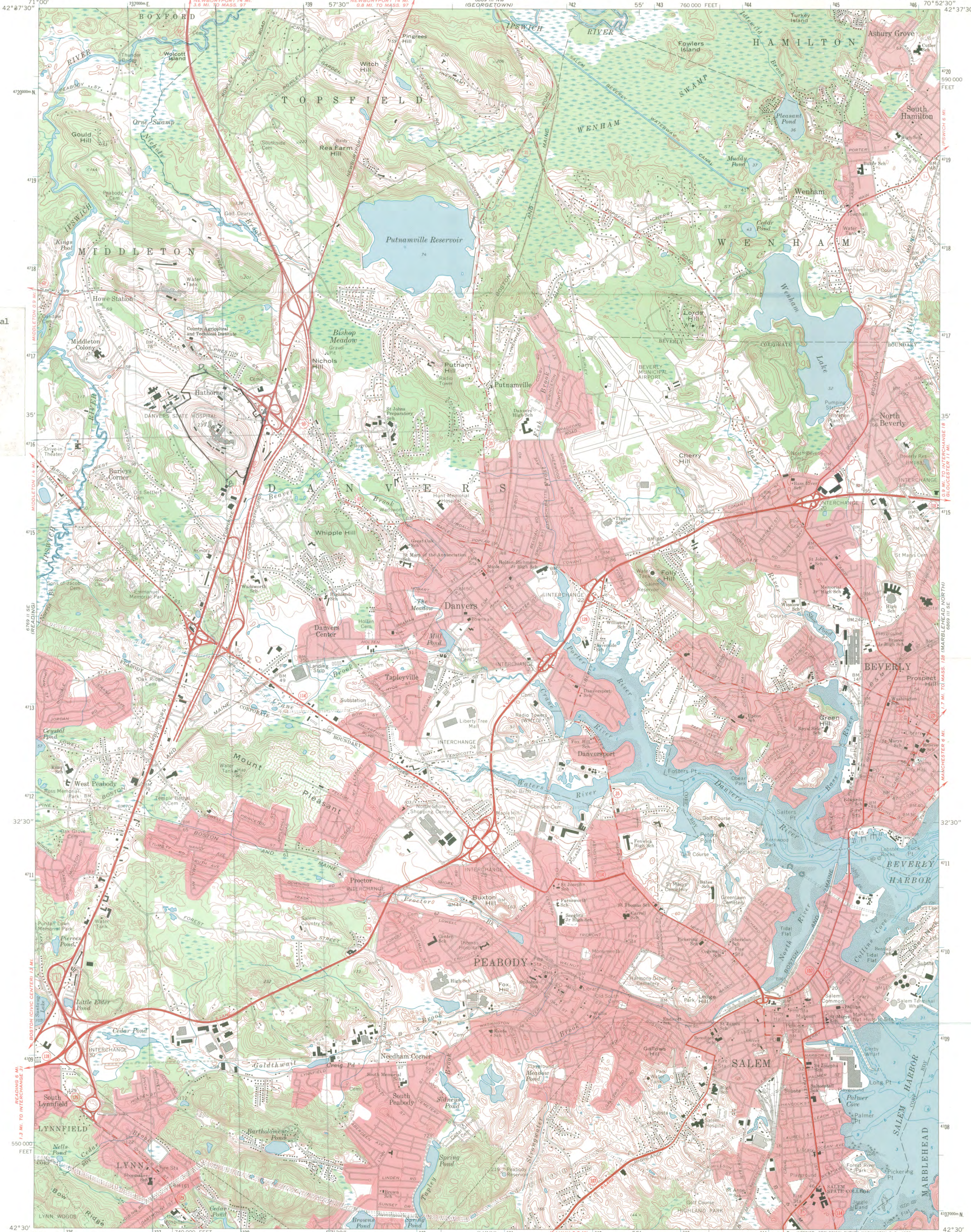
Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Engineer's Cottage
Photo by Martin Riddle 7/82
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 11 of 12



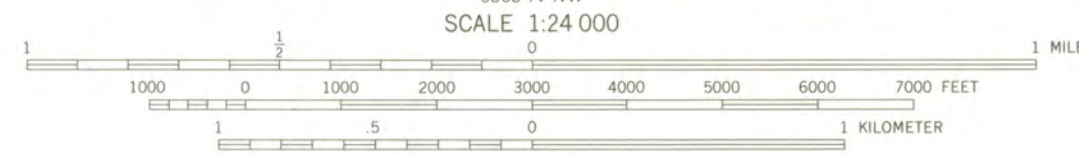
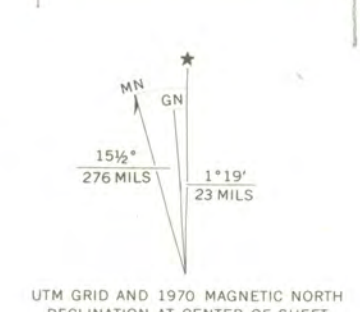
Danvers, Massachusetts
Danvers State Hospital
Staff Cottage
Photo by Martin Riddle 7/82
Negative-Danvers Archival Center
Photo 12 of 12



Danvers State Hospital
Danvers, Ma.
UTM Reference
A 19/338440/4716180
B 19/338000/4715500
C 19/337440/4716330
D 19/337795/4716730



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1938. Topography by planetable surveys 1942
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240 and
241 (1970). This information is not intended
for navigational purposes.
Polyconic projection 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved surface
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

SALEM, MASS.
N4230 - W7052.5/7.5
1970

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

December 21, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination form:

Danvers - Danvers State Hospital (state)

It has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Preservation Planner Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/hi
Enclosure

