

FORM B - BUILDING

ref no 90000594

In Area no.	Form no.
	127-A-1

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

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

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

Roll 1

1. Town Worcester
Address 189 May Street
Fairlawn Estate (Now Fairlawn
Name Hospital)
Present use hospital

Present owner Fairlawn Hospital, Inc.
189 May Street
3. Description: Worcester

Date 1893
Source Norcross biography and
building notice

Style eclectic Victorian

Architect James A. Norcross (?)

Exterior wall fabric rock-faced sandstone

Outbuildings (describe) original stable

Other features central three-storey bow
window with cupola, rounded corner bay
semi-circular porch on stone columns,

complex slate roof

Altered wings added Date 1951,
ca.1970

Moved no Date _____

UTM: 5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 51, p.14
Lot A 22.84 acres
A 19/265870/4682360 One acre or less _____ Over one acre x
B 19/266100/4682640
C 19/266270/4682350 Approximate frontage 900'
D 19/266020/4682130 Approximate distance of building from street _____

G. Persons
6. Recorded by ed. B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
Date revised April 1979

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) James A. Norcross
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates hospital (1922 to present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	<u> x </u>	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u> x </u>				

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

Occupying more than twenty-two acres of the former Fairlawn Estate of James Norcross, Fairlawn Hospital contains Norcross's house as its central section with later wings added (east and west). The Norcross House is a two and one-half storey structure, constructed of brown sandstone, and has outer dimensions of 70' x 125'. The house's exterior bears few stylistic references to the revivalist styles which were popular in the 1890s; instead, it is dominated by the heaviness of its stonework and by its idiosyncratic details. Centered on the facade and on the rear wall are semi-circular bays; the facade bay is surrounded by a one-storey porch (set on slender stone columns) and rises three full stories above which is a domed cupola. At each of the four corners of the house's front section is a three-storey, semi-circular bay, connected to the main roof by a shed roof. To the east of the main house is a three-storey brick addition, built for the hospital in 1951. To the west of the main house's rear wing is a brick addition (ca.1970). Both additions are set away from the main house and connected to it by smaller hallway structures. Neither addition damages important features of the original house.

To the rear (southwest) of the house is a one and one-half storey stable built of brown sandstone and covered by a pitched roof with jurkin-head gables. A change in stone discoloration on the stable's south wall suggests that the property's original one-storey greenhouse was located here and has been removed in the mid-twentieth century. A building notice for the stable and greenhouse names James Norcross as the owner, architect and builder of these buildings. It is equally likely that Norcross

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

American Architect and Building News, vol. 38, 12/17/1892, p.xxi (building notice, stable and greenhouse)

Worcester Historical Society. Hospital file. Biographical file.

Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. vol. XXXII, no.2, May 1973. "O.W. Norcross, Richardson's Master Builder", pp.104-113

Worcester Magazine, Oct. 1903, pp.113-117.

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. IV, pp.633-634 (Norcross biography)

Rice, F. Worcester of 1898, pp.695-700 (photos)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 127-A-1
Property Name: Fairlawn Estate	

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

9. designed the main house, or that he supervised draughtsmen employed by his firm (Norcross Brothers) in proposing the design.

James Norcross came to Worcester in 1868 with his brother, Orlando. Although the two brothers had worked as building contractors prior to 1868, their greatest fame came about in the 1870s and 1880s when they served as masons and contractors for the construction of several of Henry Hobson Richardson's most famous buildings, including Trinity Church, Boston, and the Marshall Field Warehouse, Chicago. Having firmly established a national reputation for excellence and for their expertise in masonry construction, the Norcross Brothers received contracts all over the United States and worked with the leading architects of their time such as Peabody & Stearns and McKim, Mead & White, in addition to their long-standing association with H.H. Richardson and his successors, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge. Locally, the Norcross Brothers became a major manufacturer of architectural fittings (see Norcross Factory - Form #131-G) and built a large number of the city's churches, commercial buildings and public buildings. In 1878-1880, the Norcross Brothers built what may be Worcester's first Queen Anne style houses (see Form 141-B-3), at the same time introducing the heavy rock-faced masonry which characterized much of the firm's work. In the early 1890s James Norcross, who served as the firm's business manager, began buying land on May Street, eventually assembling it into a 66-acre estate which he named Fairlawn. At the time of the house's construction it was the subject of several newspaper articles, all of which suggest that much of the house's idiosyncratic design resulted from Norcross's desire to make full use of the property's hilltop site. In 1893 the house was described: "In the general arrangement of the residence there will be many points of vantage and many unique conceptions gathered and utilized by Mr. Norcross in his varied business experience and travels in both America and Europe." In reference to the stable, the same account continues: "The novel ideas comprehended in the general construction of the barn were, many of them, gleaned from an inspection of like structures by Mr. Norcross while abroad and are in effect a combination of the best ideas observed and suggested to him in his travels and studies to the end that he might have an ideal carriage-house." Norcross occupied the estate from the time of the house's completion (1893-1894) until his death in 1903, after which the property remained in the possession of his heirs until 1922 when the estate of Mary E. Norcross sold it to the Fairlawn Hospital.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79

Excellent multiple resource nomination for the entire city of Worcester. Both the general description or statement of significance & the individual inventory sheets are well done. Each type of property included is well justified & reasons are listed for not including others at this time (e.g. 3-deckers). ^{Down} opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Concur with Bruce's comments on 102-L-3, 116-CBD-11, 117-E, and 130-CBD-50 and 44. Integrity and/or boundaries need to be addressed specifically on individual forms. DOBIE

ARCHEOLOGIST

116-CBD-11 - Destroyed, cannot be listed.
130-CBD-44 - I am not convinced this has lost integrity. See attached.
102-L-3 - Period of significance and categorization of 1 bays need to be discussed with State.

OTHER

ALEX
MACDONALD
2/28/80

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. ~~Both~~ ^{both} technically and to determine significance. Although some of the forms did not contain strong statements of significance the resource categories were thoroughly discussed in the body of the nomination; therefore significance was established. VBDS were not necessary because

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. ^{reference} was missing on some properties but ~~is~~ ^{is} now included after the 2/11/corrections. The only properties that I do not recommend listing are
✓ 116-CBD-13 - destroyed by fire MD - 16 CBD - 11
130-CBD-44 - does not retain integrity for individual eligibility

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~was~~ ^{am} not convinced about boundaries but believe they could be OK. ~~based~~ ^{based} on additional documentation submitted - I defer judgement.

Recommend listing all ^{now} properties ~~except~~ ^{except} these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to discuss further} w/NR staff + State. DOBIE

BRANCH CHIEF

Return 102-L-3 to state for correction;
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state

3/5/80
DOBIE

KEEPER

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:
Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & debris from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding file from state)

Spedden
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.5.81 Re-submit _____ SEE 3/13/80 REPORT



127-A-1

Fairfax

189 May St.

Worcester MA, Ma

west + South
elevations

30 AUG 1979



Fairfax

127-A-1

Worcester MRA, Ma

189 May St.

north + west
elevations

30 AUG 1979

N 461,000
E 510,000



FORM 127-A-1

FAIRLAWN HOSPITAL

COES RESERVOIR

INDICATES NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

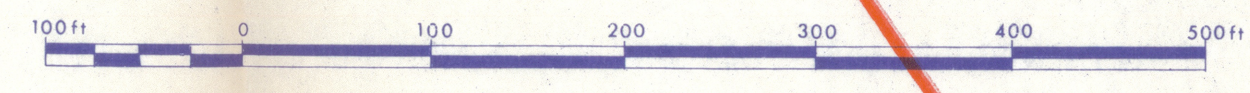
COMPILED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS

moore survey & mapping corp.

CONTROL BY MASS. GEODETIC SURVEY, U.S.C. & G.S., & M.S. & M. CORP.

UPDATED BY _____ DATE: _____

THIS MAP REPRODUCED FROM MAPPING MEETING NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS AT A SCALE OF 1"=200'



500 FOOT GRID BASED ON MASS. RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM

INDEX		
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CITY OF WORCESTER MASSACHUSETTS

PLANIMETRIC BASE MAP

PROJECT: M.S.M. 2517

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 4-22-75

SHEET 127 OF 220 SHEETS



40
Worcester Multiple Resource
Center
9-11-79

FAIRLAWN HOSPITAL, INC.

189 MAY STREET, WORCESTER, MASS. 01602 (617) 791-6351

MA

PRESIDENT
MR. ROBERT S. SCHEDIN

October 24, 1979

Mr. Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior, Pension Bldg.
440 G. Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Attn: NOM

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Re: 663
Fairlawn Hospital, Inc.
189 May Street
Worcester, Mass. 01602
RE: Worcester Multiple Resource Area

This is in response to your letter of September 27, 1979 informing us of the nomination of the Norcross Building of Fairlawn Hospital, Inc. for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

We wish to inform you that we would be pleased and proud to have this building so listed.

The building, which formerly was a residence and which housed the hospital when it was founded in 1921, now occupies the central hub of those buildings which were subsequently added.

Because of its central location, we intend to retain the building and would appreciate your support, and even your assistance, in maintaining its exterior integrity, while at the same time, modifying its interior to meet the hospital's needs and the requirements of changing and more demanding health and safety regulations.

The building was originally the estate home of James Atkinson Norcross. It is located on one of Worcester's prominent hills and bore the name "Fairlawn" - hence the hospital name, Fairlawn Hospital, Inc.

Records indicate that it was constructed in 1894.

James Norcross, and a brother, Orlando, were considerable builders of Worcester. Among their products were - the Worcester City Hall, Worcester Art Museum, and the State Mutual Building on Main Street.

Records also indicate that James Norcross served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

A newspaper article, which appeared in the Worcester Sunday Telegram February 22, 1976, contained the following:

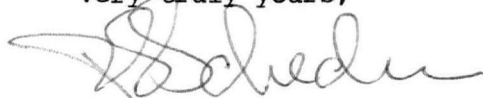
"Will this dominating mansion section be lost, in any future development of the hospital?

'No,' explained hospital president Robert S. Schedin. 'We are considering a proposal to redo the interior...but the shell is historic and sturdy. The inside might have to be gutted but we don't want to disturb the exterior... the building ties the hospital together.'"

A copy of this newspaper article and another article from the Worcester Medical News December 1968 are enclosed.

We will appreciate your favorable action on this request.

Very truly yours,



Robert S. Schedin, President

lmb
encl.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE

OCT 30 1979

DATE

INITIALS

W/S

ing for housing development, the cottages and stable sold, leaving the manor house and garage, and space for breathing room.

Many people may recall this as "the Ellis estate." It was owned by Theodore T. Ellis, former publisher of the Worcester Telegram and The Evening Gazette, from 1928 and occupied by his widow until her death in 1940. It was bequeathed by her to The Memorial Hospital, which declined the property and took cash value instead. Sale was made to real estate developers Anton A. Aksila and Ames Aksila; Anton lived in the mansion and the property was parceled out as a development.

Known as "Knollwood," the property was acquired by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur for a girl's academy in 1951.

Early Builders

Two of the city's major industrialists were responsible for construction of the impressive estate house and annexes.

History relates that construction began in the early 1900s by Lyman Francis Gordon, a partner with Horace

Winfield Wyman in the drop forging business (Wyman-Gordon Company). Gordon died at his summer home in Grafton in 1914. Reportedly, the mansion was then incomplete.

About 1918, the property was sold to Lucius James Knowles, president of Crompton & Knowles Loom Works. He named it "Knollwood" and apparently finished the construction. The estate was occupied by Knowles, then his widow (who later became Mrs. Pierpont Stackpole) and the Knowles children, until about 1928 when it became Ellis property.

Grand Style

The main building with its ornate glass-canopied entrance still has the aura of a grand hotel.

Sister Kathleen, accompanied by her friend, Heidi (a German shepherd dog), met me at the door. Heidi's barks echoed in the vaulted foyer. We chatted in what may have been the ladies sitting room with its huge fireplace, mirror and sconces and original silk tapestry wall panels. A door from that room led to a

circular powder room and lavatory with its own side entrance.

A central hall to the right of the lobby-like foyer led to the main sitting room at one end — a room still used for student sessions and club meetings. What may have been the ballroom, a long room at the rear, is now the school chapel. The central foyer, graced with two massive glass chandeliers, winding staircase (with ornate iron railings and alcoves for statuary) opened to a glass enclosed loggia at the rear. This led to a vast stone patio overlooking the once-resplendent formal and sunken gardens, where the traces of a fountain still exist.

Upstairs, Downstairs

To the left, on the first floor, was the library and dining room (now a parlor), and a central hall leading to the scullery (several rooms including the kitchen, pantries, laundry room) — both walls of the hall were lined with closets for china and linens.

Turn to ACADEMY Page 4E

A Turreted Hospital Building

From the grounds or from the turrets of the big brownstone mansion anchored on a lofty hill above May and June Streets, James Atkinson Norcross had a clear and commanding view of the city. "Fairlawn" was the name of the estate, and Fairlawn Hospital, Inc. it has been since 1921.

Now the central or "service center" of the hospital, attached to two new

wings, the husky slate-roofed structure and outbuildings was constructed by James A. Norcross in 1894, his home until his death there in 1903, and the residence of his heirs until its sale to the Hospital Association of the city's Scandinavian community in 1921.

James Norcross and a brother, Orlando, natives of Maine and formerly of Salem, as Norcross Brothers were considerable builders of Worcester — among their products were City Hall, the Worcester Art Museum, old Classical High School (now torn down) and the State Mutual Building on Main Street (now the Commerce Building).

Before "Fairlawn," Orlando lived at 16 Claremont St. and James at 18 Claremont St. James served in the Union Army during the Civil War; later went into the construction business with his brother in Salem, coming to Worcester in 1869.

Wings Arrived

The Norcross mansion, some 27 main rooms, served alone as the hospital until 1954 when the "south" addition was completed. In 1961, construction began on the massive flaring contemporary

"north" wing which was to become the main hospital as we see it now.

Its interior renewed many times over, the "Mansion" section no longer has patient areas — it houses support services, kitchens, cafeteria, sterile supply area, therapy rooms and the chapel, midway and easily accessible to the outpatient area and laboratories on one side and the main hospital on the other.

Will this dominating mansion section be lost, in any future development of the hospital?

"No," explained hospital president Robert S. Schedin. "We are considering a proposal to redo the interior...but the shell is historic and sturdy. The inside might have to be gutted but we don't want to disturb the exterior...the building ties the hospital together."

Reminders of Past

There are many reminders within the old mansion that recall its "showpiece" days. Tall windows on the center rotunda, on the sides and on corner turrets look down on Worcester. Fireplaces

Turn to FAIRLAWN Page 4E

Inside the Section

About the House	2
Books	6
Bridge	4
Happy Time	3
Horoscope	4
House Plan	2
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Real Estate	4
Recordings	4
Stamps	4
Travel	5

*Sunday
Telegram
2/22/76*

ministrative-cla
cester Junior C
England College
toric structure r

There are no rooms of the office and Mrs. Jarrell Massachusetts Ave. in that white Col back on that tree homes.

You sort of exp of a gavel, the ru of bewigged judge of circuit-lawyer. 1771, strode in t hands with the b d'ye."

This was Worc house, long remov location on Court justice from 1751 floor courtroom al the place of worshi ish (The First Uni 1785 to 1792.

In 1754, the Secon public building (wit South Church) ser about 1,500 residents for example, the by Daniel Shay's in abandoned their d Court of Common P winter storm and a troops.

Moved, (

Moved four times added on and spruc rented and passed on Second Courthouse and outer form) still of the olden days, much different — it comfortable living, no lon of justice.

Embellishments su and parapet on the one chimney and t moved, and the hous two-story addition wh fireplaced kitch (down) and bedrooms fices" on the first f one expansive living picture window in p chimney. The centr completely renewed, courtroom became the

4317

FAIRLAWN HOSPITAL

PAUL F. BERGIN, M.D.
Historical Editor of the
WORCESTER MEDICAL NEWS

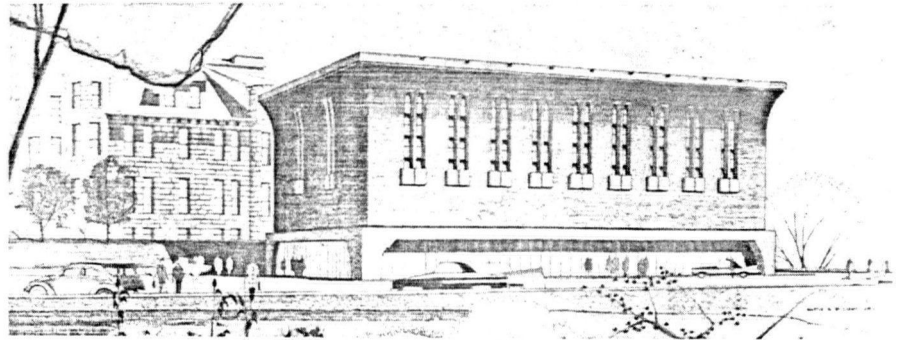
*The twelfth in a historical series
on Worcester Area Hospitals*

FAIRLAWN HOSPITAL was established in Worcester in 1921 by the Scandinavian immigrants and their descendents. The idea of establishing such an institution was proposed by Rev. Andrew J. Lofgren at a meeting of the Swedish National Federation in February 1921. The direct purpose was to create a general hospital as an expression of their interest in the welfare of their city. This proposal was turned over to a representative group of Swedish business and professional men. The Norcross Estate on May Street was purchased for the sum of about sixty-five thousand dollars. A campaign among the Scandinavian population raised \$100,000. The old mansion was renovated and opened in 1923 with thirty-four beds. The hospital sits atop of a high hill with twenty-four acres of land surrounding it.



THE ORIGINAL HOSPITAL

In June 1921, a mass meeting was held in the Salem Square Swedish Congregational Church, where it was unanimously voted to go ahead with the proposition. Thirty-eight Swedish-American businessmen subscribed thirty-three thousand dollars to the fund and the remainder of the \$100,000 came in smaller contribu-



FAIRLAWN HOSPITAL — 1968

tions. About five thousand subscribers raised the above amounts and it was voted that anyone who gave five dollars or more would be entitled to vote in as a member of the organization. More money was, however, required for alterations and equipment. For this purpose, bonds were sold to the amount of ninety-two thousand dollars and bank loans amounting to forty thou-

felt that this was justified as the hospital was now well established and the patients during this period were fifty per cent American born, twenty-five per cent Scandinavians, and the others of other nationalities.

Additions were added to the old Norcross Mansion from time to time and, in 1954, the bed capacity was eighty. In 1962, a modern four-story



FAIRLAWN HOSPITAL — 1954

sand dollars were granted by a local bank. In 1941, a campaign was conducted which cleared the hospital of all debts.

The first fifteen years the hospital was supported entirely by donations and contributions from the Trustees, the Aid Society, Guarantors and Members, composed of Scandinavian people. Because of the severe economic depression, starting in 1931, it was found necessary to appeal in a general way to the public for subscriptions to assist in the operation of the hospital. It was

building, costing \$1 million, facing June Street, was erected as a separate entity but connected to the old hospital. This raised the bed capacity to one hundred-eleven.

In the early days many physicians of Swedish ancestry were instrumental in the survival and growth of the hospital namely, Drs. F. Julius Quist, Charles A. Fryburg and Peter A. Colberg. Dr. Ernest L. Hunt became full surgical director in 1932, and remained in that position until his death in 1948.