

Dexter Asylum (City Poor Farm)
Southwest corner Hope Street and Lloyd Avenue
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-231

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
131-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

DEXTER ASYLUM (CITY POOR FARM)

Address: Southwest corner Hope Street and Lloyd Avenue,
Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island

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Present Status: Demolished

Brief Statement
of Significance: The Dexter Asylum was erected through a bequest
of Ebenezer Knight Dexter made in 1824. It was
situated on a 40 acre tract on what was his farm,
but is now the heart of the most attractive resi-
dential section of the city.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Originally owned by the City of Providence. Purchased by Brown University from the city in 1957. The building was subsequently demolished and the area developed as an athletic field for Brown.
2. Date of erection: Between 1826 and 1830
3. Architect: John Holden Greene
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: The building, made of brick, originally had a three-story center pavilion, gable roof with pedimented gable end to the street, and two-and-a-half-story wings to either side with balustraded cornices, all on an elevated basement.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: In 1870, the center pavilion was increased one story in height, and mansard roofs were added to the center section and both wings.
6. Sources of information: John Hutchins Cady, The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence 1636-1950 (Providence, Rhode Island: The Book Shop, 1957), pp. 92, 276.

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