



# PRESERVATIONWORKS

Founded in April of 2015 by Christian VanAntwerpen PreservationWorks is a not for profit 501c3 organization dedicated to advocacy for the preservation and reuse of Kirkbride Plan hospitals. In the furthering of our mission we aim to serve as the “one stop shop” for information pertinent to the redevelopment and reuse of these structures. We have been reaching out to stakeholders in redeveloped, at risk and transitional Kirkbride Plan hospitals including but not limited to owners, developers, historical societies and grassroots organizations. Our hope is that through shared knowledge the rising tide lifts all ships. Redeveloping, even stabilizing, a structure the size of a Kirkbride Plan hospital is a gargantuan undertaking; we are here to help.

Best regards,

Vincent Verna  
Vice President, PreservationWorks  
Chairman, PreservationWorks: Hudson



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## Kirkbride Plan? What? (Who?)

Thomas Story Kirkbride (1809 - 1883,) an American psychologist and founding member of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane (AMSAII)—forerunner of the American Psychiatric Association and superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane is regarded as one of the most prominent authorities on mental health care in the latter half of the nineteenth century. In his 1854 work, *On the Construction, Organization, and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane* Dr. Kirkbride describes his ideal asylum. The typical floor plan, with **long wings arranged in a staggered fashion** so that each connected wing **received sunlight and fresh air**, was meant to promote **privacy and comfort** for patients. The building form itself was meant to have a curative effect, and adhere to the **philosophy of Moral Treatment**.

## Hudson River State Hospital

After approval by the New York State Legislature in 1866 **Frederick Clarke Withers** began the design for a large psychiatric facility in the **High Victorian Gothic** style, the first use of that style for an American institutional building. **Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted**, of Central Park, Manhattan, NYC fame, designed the sprawling grounds. Construction began in 1868 and upon the admission of its first 40 patients in **1871**, was considered the most modern facility yet built in New York State. After **132 years** of service to the citizens of New York State, Hudson River State Hospital was shuttered in 2003; in 2007 the south (male) wing was struck by lightning and sustained considerable damage.

## President's Message

I would like to speak about the importance and uniqueness of the Hudson River State Hospital site. Not only was it unique in that it was one of only a handful of High Victorian Kirkbride plan hospitals, but it was also unique in the way it defied the Kirkbride model. It was an asymmetrical structure, with many window and door variations. The building featured many one of a kind hand crafted ornamental pieces throughout. Even in its ruined state, the craftsmanship in the construction of the hospital is visible. Brickwork, stonework and metalwork were all incredibly crafted and spared no expense to provide a beautiful home for the mentally ill. Historically, and architecturally, this is an irreplaceable jewel of architecture and humanity.

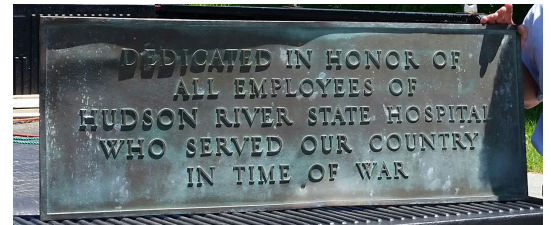
Although we as an organization understand the economic importance of the redevelopment of the Hudson River site, it is equally important to proceed cautiously. To proceed in a way that there is recognition and solemn respect for what this place meant for so many who lived and died here. The respect for families who entrusted this site with their loved ones. We will never see buildings built like this, built to serve humanity. That in and of itself makes Hudson River State Hospital a unique structure. -Christian VanAntwerpen

## Significant Involvement

August 19, 2015 - Submitted a **road map for rehabilitation** at the public scoping session including: Site cleanup, security measures, stabilization of the Administration building, immediate salvage goals for the damaged South Wing and **community outreach and involvement** in the process.  
<http://qrs.ly/uo5e8e7>



On May 31st, the day after Memorial Day, 2016 members of PW were involved in facilitating the **return of the HRSH veterans memorial plaque** that had been stolen from the site years earlier. The plaque is now in the possession of the development team who has assured us that its public display will be included in their plans.



August 9, 2016 First "Wishlist" a **collection of opportunities** for the renovation and reuse of structures and materials at Hudson River State Hospital submitted to development team and Town Planning Board. (Updated December 6, 2016)  
<http://qrs.ly/bf5e9dn> (this is an exceptionally large file, click the download link when prompted.)



## Upcoming Projects

End of 2016 - Napkin Sketches - Schematic designs exploring multiple possibilities for the adaptive reuse of Hudson River State Hospital, Administration and North Wing.

First Quarter 2017 - Virtual Tour of the Hudson River State Hospital Campus: a web based, self guided, audio enhanced tour of the grounds and significant buildings, with introduction by Dr. Robert Kirkbride.

Second Quarter 2017 - Precedent Studies: Exploring the lessons from Traverse City State Hospital and the Richardson Olmsted Complex for the redevelopment of Hudson River State Hospital.

**Please connect with us on facebook to be notified of these major releases as well as regular updates on the Hudson River Heritage project.**



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