

## Carol Barone

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**From:** Felicia Salvatore  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2016 5:38 PM  
**To:** Neil Wilson; Eric Hollman  
**Cc:** Mark Fink  
**Subject:** FW: Preservation League of NYS comment on Hudson Heritage project, North Wing  
**Attachments:** PLNYS Letter Re Hudson Heritage, 12-21-16.pdf

Not sure I sent this one?

**From:** Erin Tobin [mailto:etobin@preservenys.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2016 3:57 PM  
**To:** Felicia Salvatore <fsalvatore@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov>  
**Cc:** Jay DiLorenzo <jdilorenzo@preservenys.org>; Yvonne Laube <yvonne@thepreservationworks.com>; Alan Strauber (astrauber@calvertvaux.org) <astrauber@calvertvaux.org>; wint42@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Preservation League of NYS comment on Hudson Heritage project, North Wing

Dear Ms. Salvatore,

Please find attached a letter from the Preservation League of New York State regarding the Hudson Heritage project. Our letter focuses on concern for the north wing of the main building. We urge the developer to stabilize and secure the building before there is any further damage and have a qualified structural engineer with preservation experience assess the wing's stability.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Best regards,  
Erin

Erin M. Tobin  
*Director of Preservation*  
Preservation League of New York State  
*So Our Past Has A Future*

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December 21, 2016

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Felicia Salvatore, Town Clerk  
1 Overocker Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
*Via email to: [fsalvatore@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov](mailto:fsalvatore@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov)*

Re: Hudson Heritage Project, Hudson River Psychiatric Hospital, North Wing

Dear Ms. Salvatore,

I write regarding the Hudson Heritage Project at the Hudson River Psychiatric Hospital in the Town of Poughkeepsie. The National Park Service designated this site as a National Historic Landmark in 1989. Noted 19<sup>th</sup> century architect Frederick Clarke Withers designed the main complex, while landscape architects Calvert Vaux and Frederic Law Olmstead designed the surrounding landscape. Additionally, the main building is one of the latest examples of Dr. Thomas Kirkbride's psychiatric hospital plans.

We appreciate the Hudson Heritage developer's commitment to preserving the main administration building and Great Lawn, but write today to urge the developer to incorporate as much of the North and South Wings as possible. These wings and their relationship to the central administration building exemplify the Kirkbride plan. As noted by preservation consultants Higgins and Quasebarth in their 2005 Historic Background Report (Appendix F in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement), the "crux of the Kirkbride plan was a series of wings flanking a central administration building."

The North Wing in particular deserves a thorough engineering assessment before any determination can be made regarding its structural stability and the feasibility of its reuse. John Bonafide, Director of the Technical Preservation Services Bureau of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, requested in his July 16, 2015 letter, "Any plan that would demolish these sections of the NHL would need to demonstrate that a thorough and conscientious effort to assess options had been undertaken by the development team."

Because the Hudson Heritage Project will initially focus on developing the south side of the campus, we ask the developers to repair the roof of the North Wing and secure the building until development of the north campus can proceed. This will preserve the structure until the developers

can begin the north phase of construction, at which point we expect they will make every effort to reuse this National Historic Landmark building.

The Preservation League of New York State has had a long interest in the preservation of the Hudson River Psychiatric Hospital and stand ready to provide whatever assistance we can for the preservation of this nationally-important site.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. M. Tobin', written in a cursive style.

Erin M. Tobin  
Director of Preservation

cc: Yvonne Laube, PreservationWorks: Hudson  
Alan Strauber, Calvert Vaux Preservation Alliance  
J. Winthrop Aldrich