

#4
Speaker
August 19, 2015

Preservationworks - Hudson Heritage Project

Mission:

Preservationworks is a national advocacy community from all walks of life, committed to preserving Kirkbride Plan asylums by sharing knowledge and resources that support local preservation efforts and educate the public on the historic and global significance of these irreplaceable, Enlightenment structures. Adaptive reuse of these magnificent buildings is common sense and achievable, strengthening economic growth and cultural identity in their respective communities.

Through the use of social media "Preservationworks: Hudson" has gained a following of over 500 people in the span of just over 1 month. News updates published to our Facebook page are able to reach an audience of over 4,000 people as of August 17, 2015.

First and foremost we thank you for taking the time to review our concerns and proposals. The ideas found below were sourced from individuals not only local to Dutchess County but also from those following the project across the United States. The designated landmark Main Building at the former Hudson River State Hospital site is but one of a handful remaining institutional buildings which follow the Kirkbride Plan to survive into the 21st Century. While the adaptive reuse of the entire Kirkbride structure to include South and North Wings would be ideal, the extensive damage caused during the 2007 fire leads us to a more realistic and narrow preservation goal.

We understand the current condition of the site and the associated ongoing financial undertaking included within the scope of the Hudson Heritage Project. We fully support the proposed adaptive reuse of the historic Administration Building (Building No. 51) and are supportive of efforts to include the Amusement Hall (Building No. 38), Protestant Chapel (Building No. 35), and Library (Building No. 73) buildings within the current scope of proposals. We are also supportive of efforts to preserve the integrity of the "Great Lawn" and main access road, Hudson View Dr.

It is understood that a certain level of demolition will take place. What we ask is that careful planning and examination of on site resources takes place in order to preserve components of the historic facades of South and North Wing. We hope elements from these wings can be incorporated into new construction at the site to link the past with the present. We are excited for what the future holds and hope the project continues to move forward.

Proposals for Consideration

1. Administration Building:

- Illegal removal of copper flashing during the past 18 months has caused extensive deterioration of the Administration Building. A temporary weather barrier is needed to prevent further water damage to interior spaces. Similar in nature to roof repairs done last Fall at the Amusement Hall.
- Work to clear brush surrounding the Administration Building. Brush has grown unimpeded since 2005. Dense brush conceals illegal activity. Dense brush diminishes effectiveness of police patrols.

- Installation of temporary solar powered lights to illuminate front, side, and rear of the Administration Building. Coupled with removal of brush, illumination of the area will help deter illegal activity and reduce risk of arson.
- Steps should be taken to properly secure the Administration Building. Stabilization of the building today is vital to the adaptive reuse plan.
- Continuation of boarding of windows. Currently only the 1st floor is boarded. A fully boarded Administration Building will greatly deter trespassers.
- Block underground access to the Administration Building by sealing the service tunnel that extends from North Wing into the the northernmost sub basement area of the building.

2. South Wing:

- Preservation of ornate ironwork atop entrance tower to wards 4, 8, 16. Incorporate into new construction.
- Reclaim existing slate roof of South Wing (wards 4, 8, 16). Incorporate reclaimed slate into the adaptive reuse of the central Administration Building.
- Reclaim existing belt, molding, and stonework from South & North Wing to be incorporated into new construction of buildings in close proximity to central Administration Building.
- Reuse of 1868 date stones. Located on South Wing these stones can be found on the western facade. Care should be given to remove, relocate, and preserve these significant features. Possible uses include incorporation into new construction or use in a memorial (see fig. 1 & 2).
- Reclaim stained glass metal framed windows.

3. Grounds:

- Create a walkable self guided history tour. Small plaques could offer visitors to the future site a glimpse into the past. The site has a unique history that should be highlighted, documented, and preserved (see fig 3).
- Secure time capsules to be handed over to the Hudson River School of Nursing Alumni Association for future display at the Hudson River Psychiatric Center historic museum located at 8 Cheney Dr, Poughkeepsie, NY. Capsules may be located in cornerstones. During demolition care should be given when cornerstones are located. Cheney Memorial Building's (Building No. 98) cornerstone is located to the west of main entrance. A time capsule is buried near entrance of the Recreation Center (Building No. 55) per guidance from Hudson River School of Nursing Alumni Association staff. Location of time capsule is not known for South Wing.

4. Memorial Concept:

- Create a memorial to be located near the furthest extent of South Wing. The memorial proposal would mimic the facade of South Wing and inform visitors to the extent that the building once stood (see fig. 1). A plaque can offer a visual guide. The goal of the memorial would be to recognize the historical importance of the site during its operation as a mental health facility. Recognition of staff and patients should be highlighted and or noted.

5. Community:

- Establish a connection with the public. Possible uses could be fundraising events for a memorial, purchasing of materials for historical plaques and markers, beautification projects of existing grounds, volunteer days for trash pickup along the Rt. 9 corridor.
- Before any demolition occurs allow community members an opportunity to view building exteriors. Would help to raise awareness and increase public support. Public and community may not understand the extent of the damage to the buildings. Soon there will be nothing left on the site to save.

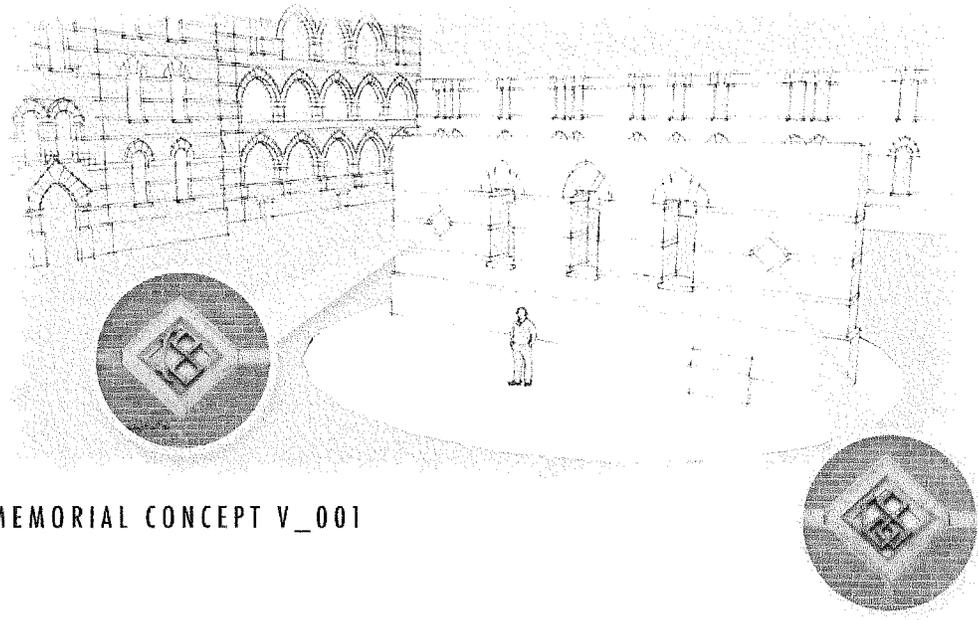
Contact:

Michael McDevitt
(203) 725-1414
Michael.McDevitt@uconn.edu

Yvonne Laube
845-416-3573
Yvonne@yvonnelaubedesigns.com

Vincent Verna
(586) 295 8039
savingkirkbrides@gmail.com

MEMORIAL CONCEPT V_001



MEMORIAL CONCEPT V_001

Fig. 1. Memorial Concept with incorporation of South Wing 1868 date stones. Memorial mimics existing facade and window variations.

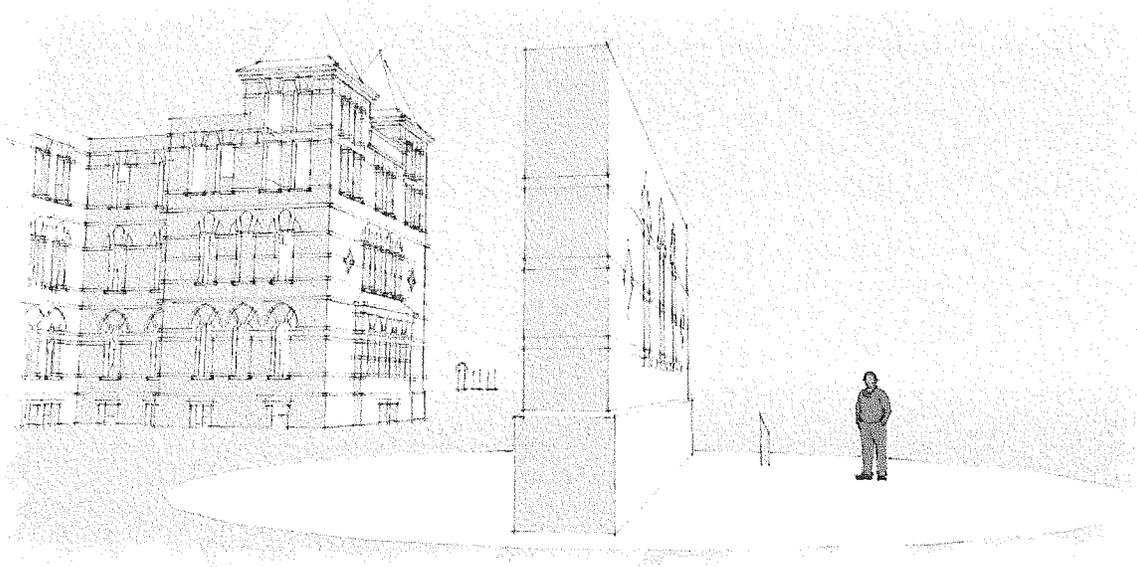


Fig. 2. Memorial Concept side profile.

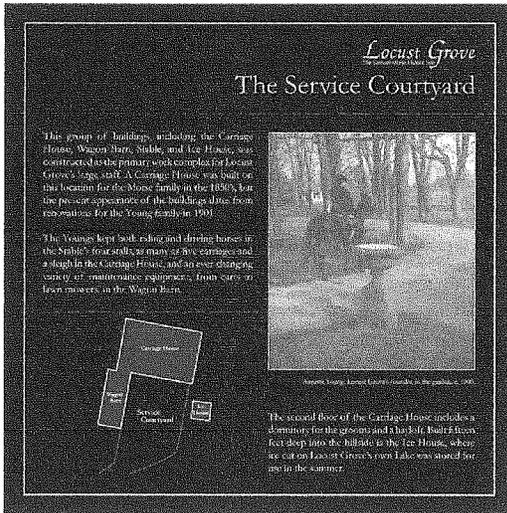
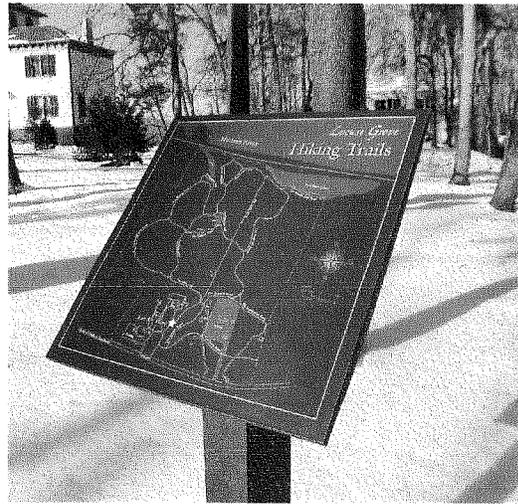
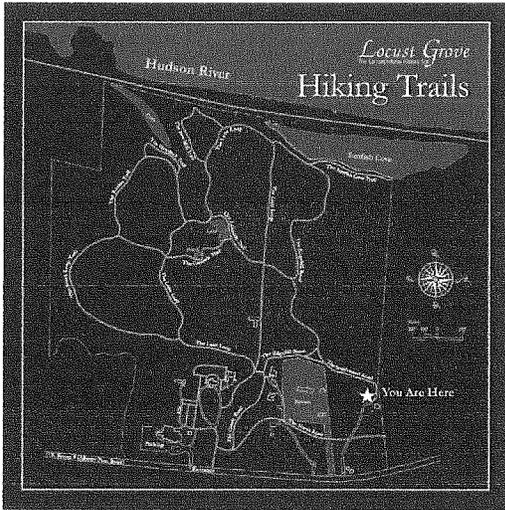


Fig. 3. Example and details of existing walking tour on grounds of nearby Locust Grove Historic Estate in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Links of Interest

<http://projectkirkbride.org/>

<http://www.otchs.org/>

<http://www.friendsofthekirkbride.com/>

<http://imaginefergusfalls.tumblr.com/artistresidency>

<http://springboardforthearts.org/>

<http://placebaseproductions.com/fergus-falls-the-kirkbride-cycle-september-2014/>

<http://www.richardson-olmsted.com/>

<http://dialog.ua.edu/2015/02/peter-bryce-campus-update/>

<http://www.trans-alleghenylunaticasylum.com/>

<http://www.thevillagetc.com/>

<http://www.kirkbridehall.com/>

<http://www.cordiatc.com/>