Significant Architectural Features For Salvage and Reuse
Preservation and Reuse of the North Wing

PreservationWorks is committed to the preservation and adaptive reuse of the few remaining Kirkbride asylum buildings across the USA.

The Hudson River State Hospital Kirkbride is especially unique and historically and architecturally important as it is the only Kirkbride-plan design that was never fully realized due to lack of further construction funding. The asymmetrical layout of the hospital is the only one of its kind and because of this unique layout PreservationWorks urges for its preservation and inclusion in the redevelopment plan.

We would like to ask to secure the North Wing from trespassers and weather until further considerations can be made.

Suggested reuse ideas:
- Additional hotel rooms.
- The large open dining rooms (“dorm” as shown) can be used for weddings and events.
- The basement can be converted into an indoor spa with pool.
- A theater.
- Hoteling office spaces and conference center - priority given to development residents.
“Existing buildings that are refurbished or decommissioned represent a vast source of future building material. Using salvaged building materials in place of new materials can be an effective means of conserving natural resources, and reducing embodied energy, as well as having tangible economic benefits.”

Reasons for building owner to consider use of salvage materials

• Demonstrates leadership and innovation.

• The quality of salvaged materials, especially lumber, is often better, resulting in a better building.

• Cost benefits; reuse of salvaged materials typically costs equal or less than virgin materials of the same type and are of higher quality.

• May result in unique buildings, and increased employee satisfaction

• Green buildings as marketing tools. Public opinion and awareness about environmental issues is evolving.

• Building can incorporate historical associations.

• Performance equal to that of conventional building can be achieved

North Wing

Significant Architectural Features For Salvage and Reuse

If preservation of the entire wing is not possible
North Wing Tower

Adaptive stand-alone reuse suggestions:

Clocktower / Memorial tower with viewing platform (see Worcester Memorial images)

Top floor cafe with expansive view of property and Hudson River.

Observation deck that provides public access to the views that would otherwise only be seen from a East facing upper hotel room (requiring a reservation).

Incorporate the Trolley stop as a snack bar (a nod to its past use).
2. The decorative iron fire escapes railings and risers reuse ideas: Incorporate the ironwork into the new construction as railings (sandblasted and powder-coated), use railings as privacy screening/trellis around courtyards. Borrow the pattern/design and use it elsewhere such as common space paint treatments.

Use the risers as HVAC return grilles in new construction.
Location of four iron window guards *see slide 10

Significant Architectural Features For Salvage and Reuse

South Wing
Rounded stained glass windows and iron metal guards. The stained glass windows can be reused in the memorial, in new construction, or even decorative details in the facade of the retail campus.

Decorative Ohio sandstone and belting

Stained glass windows and iron metal guards

Bricks - reuse in walkways/pathways, low walls, garden surrounds
Original ironwork located on top wards 4, 8, 16

Ohio sandstone

Ohio sandstone

Original slate roofing for use in restoration of Admin roof.

Belt molding & decorative stonework

Belt molding & decorative stonework

Original iron window frames - this one window is an especially unique design

Sandstone slabs
South Wing Tower

Adaptive stand-alone reuse suggestions:

Clocktower / Memorial tower (see Worcester Memorial images)

Preserving the South Wing tower as a standalone structure will provide residents and visitors of the site with an appreciation of just how expansive South Wing once was.

Plaque at base can inform visitors of towers relation to the Administration Building while visually noting the furthest extent of South Wing.

Surround with brick/stone plaza and decorative landscaping.
Belt molding & decorative stonework

Stained glass windows and iron metal guards

Belt molding & decorative stonework

Belt molding & decorative stonework
Datestone 1868 (1)
Reuse in Memorial

Datestone 1868 (2)
Reuse in Memorial

Facade elements to be used within memorial construction

Belt molding & decorative stonework
Belt molding & decorative stonework
Stained glass windows and iron metal guards
Belt molding & decorative stonework
Belt molding & decorative stonework

Original iron window guards (the lower four are located under the South Wing porches). Reuse ideas: incorporate as surround around pool area or garden. Privacy screening.

Belt molding & decorative stonework

Note: this original drawing (from New York State Archives) depict the carved stone designs. All the details from the Administration, North wing or South Wing were 100% original to this project and therefore unique and should be considered for salvage and reuse.
Salvaged Materials Reuse Ideas:

If possible, salvaged brick and belting detail can make up the non-frontal facades (sides and back) of the retail box stores.

Salvaged bricks can be reused as pathways/walkways, garden bed curbing, low walls in retail area, benches, around fountains and in interior locations as decorative finishes (especially in restaurants).

Sandstone slabs can be reused as seating bench tops, fence caps, planter edging.

Brick reuse could also be used to create an actual footprint of the Kirkbride and wings imbedded into the ground - as a memorial and to give sense of scale/place.

Iron window guards can be incorporated into new construction or used as privacy screening, trellis, railings or as unique decorative elements.

Unique entrances from the various locations can be incorporated into designated residential “groups” - “Poucher” group of residences would have the salvaged entrance from the Poucher building as the main entry to the apartments. “South Wing Entrance No. 2 could be “South Wing” Apartments and so forth...
Other areas to reclaim unique materials:

1. The morgue: any original tile flooring (whatever is left) should be removed ASAP and reused in highlighted areas of new construction or spare/replacement tile for hotel.
2. Residences: solid wood doors should be removed and reused in the hotel (closet doors).
3. Fireplace surrounds (if significant and not too badly damaged).
4. Built-in cabinetry - to be used in hotel decor or community buildings.
5. Extra long wood sewing room table - for use in the hotel.
6. Poucher Entrance - Can be repurposed into an unique apartment entrance.
7. Ryon Hall - Can be repurposed into an unique apartment entrance or part of the facade.
8. Datestones from any building to be demolished. Cheney has one, unsure of the other buildings but care should be made to look for any as well as possible time capsules.
9. Gazebos
Memorial Concept 1:

Freestanding Memorial incorporating salvaged architectural details from suggested list.

Create a memorial to be located near the furthest extent of South Wing. This 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.

This provides an opportunity to incorporate the Veteran’s Memorial Plaque and any other historical information.

Seating and native plant landscaping would make this spot a nice destination/resting place for those using the trails.
Memorial Concept 2:

Develop the North/South Tower into an observation deck - similar to the Sky Top Tower that overlooks Mohonk Mountain. Incorporate plaques and interpretive panels inside telling the history and significance of the site.
Memorial Concept 3

Develop the North/South Tower clocktower memorial that is similar to Worcester State Hospitals (Worcester, MA).
Roosevelt Memorial

Where the Roosevelt home, Mt. Hope, stood install a memorial acknowledging the Roosevelt’s involvement with the site and long-term support of the Hospital by Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Ideas include reusing one of the gazebos, placing a fountain, using some of the brick from the site to make a garden bed and/or interpretative panel denoting the history.
Care should be given to remove, relocate, and preserve these significant features.

PreservationWorks, made up of our unique team of members who offer specific HRSH knowledge, experience with historic Kirkbride adaptive reuse, and outside-the-box creativity would like to extend our resources and assistance to this project. Organizing fundraisers and tours may be one way PreservationWorks can help fund securing the highlighted items for reuse.

Thank you for your consideration. We are excited about the future of this significant Kirkbride hospital and feel confident it will be a truly unique destination that embodies its history, architecture and scenic Hudson River landscape for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

PreservationWorks:Hudson

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