

Pennsylvania Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases
(Kirkbride's Hospital)
44th and Market Streets
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1636

HABS
PA,
51-PHILA,
511-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE PENNSYLVANIA	COUNTY PHILADELPHIA	TOWN OR VICINITY PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL AND NERVOUS DISEASES		HABS NO. PA-1636
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Kirkbride's Hospital		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Northwest corner of 44th and Market Streets		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1836-40	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Isaac Holden, architect Samuel Sloan, superintendent of construction	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Pioneer example of mental-hospital architecture using extended wings to permit maximum isolation of wards. Popularly named for Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, hospital superintendent 1841-83 and formulator of advanced methods for treating the mentally ill.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Greek Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Coursed granite ashlar center building and stuccoed rubble wings and end buildings with tone trim.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) E-plan with central hall and intersecting corridors, 443' x 116'.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Two stories on raised basement, gable roofs with central dome, Doric tetrastyle portico with flat pediment, octagonal belvederes at intersection of wings and end buildings.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) E-plan with central hall and intersection corridors, exposed iron stairs (see HABS photo PA-1636-9).		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES One-story addition to north (men's) lodge 1846-47; addition to south (women's) lodge 1849; north wing (Fisher Ward) enlarged 1872-80, 1906. Demolished 1959; portico and flanking walls preserved on site.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Demolished 1959; portico and flanking walls preserved on site.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Used only for women after 1859. Certified, Philadelphia Historical Commission, 1957.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Philadelphia Historical Commission, 1957. Richard Candee, <u>Philadelphia Hospital Design</u> (unpublished paper; copy filed with the Field Records for Pennsylvania Hospital, HABS No. PA-1123)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Richard J. Webster, author of <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u>		DATE c. 1976

BIBLIOGRAPHY, continued...

- Scharf & Wescott, History of Philadelphia, 2:1671-73
re: insane at Pennsylvania Hospital in 1794
re: Hospital for Insane; cornerstone
opened 1 January 1841
new bldg begun 7 July 1856
new bldg opens 17 Oct 1859
- Robt C. Smith, in Historic Philadelphia (1953), 301
- Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography 57, p. 41
- Sloan's Architectural Review 1:626-42 (at U. of Penna.)
- Reports of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane (1846), pp. 8-10
re: structural data (plans, dimensions, etc.)
- Philadelphia Inquirer, 31 July 1956
re: city acquires site for public housing (four 16-sty apt
bldgs and 2-sty structures)
- Sunday Bulletin (Phila.), 20 January 1957
re: Busti Mansion on hospital property saved from destruction
- Thomas Morton, The History of the Pennsylvania Hospital, 1751-1895
(Philadelphia: Times Printing House, 1895), pp. 165, 170-76
- Hospital for Insane by Isaac Holden (res. Phila 1826-38), 1836-41. p.165
- North and south detached buildings built 1841. p. 165
- North lodge enlarged and attached to main building 1846-47. p. 170
- Ditto south lodge in 1849. p. 171
- New building for men approved by managers 1853. p. 174
- Cornerstone laid 1856. p. 175
Building opened 1859. p. 176

Compiled by Richard J. Webster, c.1976.