

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Clock tower piece of history

Letter to the Editor

The Telegram & Gazette has done an excellent job keeping us all up-to-date on the deliberations concerning the clock tower at Worcester State Hospital. Now, instead of facing total demolition, we are faced with two good proposals for the tower section: the state's reconstruction, and Preservation Worcester's removal in toto without deconstruction. In either case we are left with a monument, not a building. The argument that the second but not the first is "historical" may well be too esoteric for all but a tiny fraction of us. The "historical" part in either case could be the restoration of the tower clock, returning it to a functioning timepiece.

As someone with personal, fond memories of the clock tower building (as psychiatric residents we slept in the building when on call), I am delighted the commonwealth has indicated its willingness to create a monument to a hospital that has played a very significant role in the history of American psychiatry.

JEFFREY GELLER

Worcester