

**Monday, January 9, 2012**

For old time's sake

**EDITORIAL FOOTNOTE**

Tomorrow is the last day for members of the public to submit comment about what should happen to the iconic — but seriously dilapidated — Worcester State Hospital Clock Tower.

There are two choices: demolition, or keeping just the tower portion of the old central administration building. Preservation Worcester has the blessing of the City Council in seeking to preserve the tower, although no firm cost is given.

The Division of Capital Asset Management has proposed taking down the 114-foot-high tower and rebuilding it at a cost of \$7 million to \$8 million.

In both proposals, the attractive brick tower — built in 1877 — would remain unusable. Respect for architecture and memory is what would keep it at its high spot off Belmont Street. Meanwhile, the new hospital is expected to open this year.

Comments may be sent by email to the office of the secretary of environmental affairs; the address is [deirdre.buckley@state.ma.us](mailto:deirdre.buckley@state.ma.us).