

Buffalo Psychiatric Center Richardson Olmsted Complex Stabilization Phase II

Dormitory Authority State of New York
Buffalo, New York



Services Provided

Scoping
Reports
Construction Documents
Construction Administration

The Richardson Olmsted Complex, formerly the Buffalo Psychiatric Center (BPC), is on the National Register of Historic Landmarks. Built from 1871-1895, the complex demonstrates the philosophy of the Kirkbride Plan, the architectural style of H.H. Richardson, and the landscape design of Frederick Law Olmsted. After more than 100 years of use by the Office of Mental Health, the complex was decommissioned by the State of New York in 1994. Today, a series of twelve principal load-bearing masonry buildings linked together by eleven connecting masonry passageways remain on the site.

Stabilization Phase I work on the complex buildings was initiated to address emergency repairs and security concerns. Foit-Albert Associates was hired to complete portions of the required stabilization work for Phase II. The scope of work included administration for three separate bid packages including (1) masonry and ventilation, (2) roofing and drainage, and (3) grading and landscaping. A fourth (4) bid package including Building #45 Showcase Space renovations was later added.

Important aspects of the project included establishing a damage/deterioration assessment scale for the masonry walls and roofs, developing and detailing stabilization techniques, matching stabilization strategies with conditions, exploring peripheral systems and their inter-relationships with contract packages, as well as working with DASNY, the Richardson Center Corporation, and several other vested agencies to define the final contract scope based on stabilization needs and available funding. Some coordination was also required with other contractors and consultants working concurrently on other buildings and aspects of the project.

Buffalo Psychiatric Center
Richardson Olmsted Complex
Stabilization Phase II

