

## Columbarium Restoration Project Update

Despite the ongoing pandemic, workers from Marion Restoration, Inc., recently initiated the next phase of repairs at the exterior roof level of the columbarium building, in coordination with Knickerbocker Roofing Co. Both contractors are experts in assessing and repairing historic buildings. The current work involves masonry wall repairs and reconstruction of parapet walls connected to both the east and west sides of the bell tower.

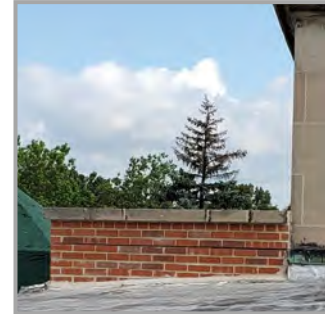
Working on older buildings



often reveals superior, sturdy construction methods not often found in today's buildings. Such was the case when Marion's workers removed several layers of parapet wall bricks and uncovered large steel beams tied into a non-loadbearing small wall next to the bell

tower. The beams were sanded and coated with an epoxy seal prior to rebuilding the parapet walls.

Recent donors to the Columbarium Restoration Project can be assured the ongoing restoration is helping preserve this historic building for many future generations. Which for more updates in future newsletters.



## Columbarium Restoration Project Update

Thanks to continuing donations made by Friends of BNC members and other individuals interested in preserving BNC's crematorium/columbarium building, an important phase of the 2020 roof work was completed this summer. As outlined in the previous issue of *Heritage Happenings*, Marion Restoration completed masonry work on several parapet and brick support walls.

Shortly, Knickerbocker Roofing Company will install a new flat roof located directly above the main columbarium foyer. It is

interesting to note that the current curved interior ceiling above the entrance hallway was installed sometime after the original construction, resulting in a lower ceiling height, perhaps to save on heating costs.

In addition to the installation of this new roof section, Knickerbocker will make repairs to clay tiles on the curved dome roof over Ceremony Hall. Repairs will also be made to the small flat roof at the rear (south) portion of the building.

*Knickerbocker employees assessing materials needed for current roof project*





## Columbarium Restoration Project Update

2020 concluded another successful year of restorations to BNC's crematorium/columbarium building, thanks



to donations from Friends of BNC members and supporters. As reported in previous newsletters, important repairs were made to several rooftop masonry walls, including reconstruction of parapet walls connecting to the northside bell tower.

The second main project completed in October 2020 involved installation of a new roof to the area directly over the columbarium's entrance hallway. Several layers were installed including a DensDeck Prime roof board followed by a Firestone BaseGuard Coating. On top was applied Firestone Ultrawhite 180 APP modified roof membrane over base ply, which is a white membrane meeting City of Chicago's energy code requirements for roof reflectivity. Repairs were also made to small roof and drainage components at the

south section of the building.

It should be noted that contractors are selected on the basis of their experience with historic buildings and their use of high quality materials and workmanship to ensure restoration befitting BNC's historic crematorium/columbarium building.

The Columbarium Restoration Project Donor Wall continues to attract donors and provide opportunities to recognize generous donors or honor loved ones. This past

The two named individuals were daughters of members of Svobodná Obec, a longtime Freethinker Czech organization, an integral part of the cemetery's history, that Wayne's family has been active in for many years.

Thank you to the many donors that make this ongoing restoration and other BNC projects possible.

**Chuck Michalek**  
**Friends of BNC Projects**  
**Chair**



December new plates were added.

Friends member Wayne Wolf, a longtime supporter of Friends of BNC and delegate to BNCA, recently chose to honor several victims of the 1915 *Eastland* disaster with a generous donation.



## Columbarium Restoration Project Update

In March the Columbarium Restoration Project committee met with representatives of Marion Restoration Inc, who also provide training to historic masonry workers through their US Heritage Group. (Check out their interesting website: <https://www.usheritage.com/>)

We have been fortunate to work with this highly professional organization, located in Chicago, that has provided quality historic preservation services to BNC's crematorium/ columbarium building, as well as to other historic buildings throughout the United States.

The purpose of our meeting was to plan for the next phase of the building's restoration. Several possibilities are being considered. One is making



repairs to the main stairway entrance walls, referred to as "cheek walls." In addition, Marion Restoration pointed out that inadequate caulking between some of the steps was allowing water to enter into underground foundation sections. Furthermore, some of the rooftop balustrades

also showed signs of deterioration, and sections of the outdoor bell tower walls require mortar and tuckpointing work.

The committee will present options and costs to Friends board, and together we will determine our next restoration project, which we will share with you once the decision has been made. Again we thank you for your ongoing support and contributions that make these repairs restoration work possible.

Would you like to consider making a major donation to fund one of these restoration projects and receive an honorary individual plaque in the donor room in addition to recognition on our large donor board? Contact us online, or you can reach out to the project chairperson Chuck Michalek at [restoration@friendsofbnc.org](mailto:restoration@friendsofbnc.org).