

Memorial Hall



PROJECT

Memorial Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CLIENT

Fairmount Park Commission

CONSULTANTS

Fairmount Park Historic Trust, Inc.

DATES

2000 Conditions Assessment
2003 Conditions Assessment

DESCRIPTION

This 1876 building is one of only a few remaining buildings from the Centennial Exposition. Memorial Hall is a large stone structure which boasts a central glass cupola and is ornamented with numerous sculptures and stone moldings. The interior of the Great Hall contains large plaster caryatids, and brackets providing a grand view of the domed skylight.

CHALLENGE

We were asked to assess interior issues of the structure in 2000 and again in 2003. In 2000, the cause of concern was the severe deterioration of a particular large plaster bracket and caryatid. In 2003, a portion of the plaster ceiling in the Board Room had collapsed. In consultation with the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, Inc., we were charged with determining the causes of these problems. Investigations had to be conducted with minimal impact to the plaster finishes.

SERVICES

Conditions Assessment Phase I

Conducted on-site inspection of the deteriorated plaster and the integrity of the structural connections.

Conditions Assessment Phase II

Performed analysis with a boroscope to determine what portions of the structure remained salvageable, and what portions had suffered irreparable termite damage.

Provided treatment reports with cost estimates for all necessary work related to the failure of the timber framing and water infiltration from a decayed roof membrane.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Memorial Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.