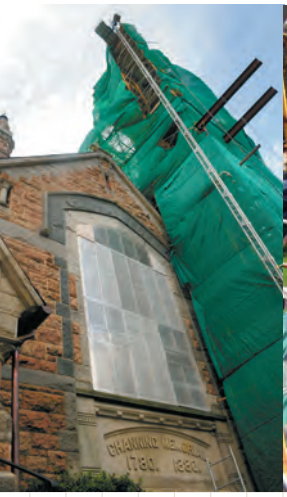
RESTORATION RECORD

JOSEPH GNAZZO COMPANY INC.

This issue brings news regarding the rebuilding of the historic Channing Memorial Church steeple, which was built in 1881 in Newport, Rhode Island.



Excerpted from **The Newport Daily News** Sept. 26, 2009

FIXING UP A CITY LANDMARK

By Sean Flynn, Daily News staff
Reprint, Courtesy of The Newport Daily News

NEWPORT — The three masons rebuilding the spire of Channing Memorial Church this week had the best seats in town, with sweeping vistas of Newport Harbor, Easton Bay, Middletown and Jamestown below them. Block Island could be seen on the horizon.

Brian Villa of Niantic, Conn., Alan Todd of Stafford Springs, Conn., and Robert Devoll of Palm Harbor, Fla., sat on benches set up on the scaffolding 130 feet above the ground. It feels much higher as the church is located atop Historic Hill and its steeple tip is the highest point in the city, towering above the Perry Mill, the Newport Yachting Center and other downtown landmarks.

The steeple of the historic church, built in 1881, was seriously deteriorated, forcing the church to raise nearly $1.2 million to restore and rebuild it. The church bells are in the Netherlands being restored and retuned.

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JOSEPH GNAZZO COMPANY HOSTS MASONRY SKILLS WORKSHOP

January 28, 2010 – The Joseph Gnazzo Company hosted Structures North Consulting Engineers for our first hands-on building owner and design consultant masonry skills workshop. This workshop provided demonstrations throughout the day of the craftsmanship and technology used by the Joseph Gnazzo Company on their projects.

Topics covered;

- Last Planner System pull plan demonstration
- Cutting mortar joints using different tools
- Removal of bricks using multiple methods
- Re-pointing mortar joints
- Brick laying and replacement
- Stone fabrication
- Stone repair using mortar type repair material
- Stone repair using a "Dutchman"
- Examples of job site hazards
- Lean approach to construction and business enterprise

Ryan Lezak from Structures North commented after the workshop, "Everyone in our crew really enjoyed the experience and thought that it was an excellent learning opportunity."

This workshop is available to all building owners and design consultants at no cost. Please contact Gary Gnazzo to schedule a workshop for your firm.

FIXING UP

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The congregation has known of problems with the steeple since about 2000, when neighbors reported hearing clangs in the middle of the night. That was the sound of bricks falling from within the steeple and striking the bells, said the Rev. Amy Bowden Freedman. In recent years, the steeple was wrapped in steel cable to keep it together.

"The condition of the interior brick was so poor, we could pull it apart by hand," said Joseph Barrieau, supervisor with the Joseph Gnazzo Co. of Union, Conn., the general contractor for the construction and restoration project.

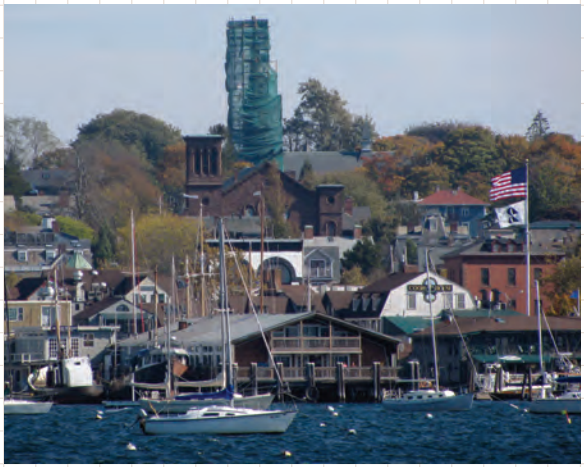
The construction workers began demolishing the top 52 feet of the steeple in June, but not before photographing each section of the structure, numbering every stone and then cataloguing them. The inventory was kept so the steeple could be painstakingly reconstructed. The lower 78 feet of brick was sound enough that the workers could re-point the exterior stonework and secure it to the inner brick core.

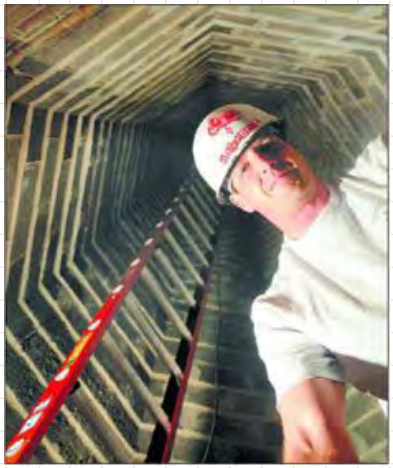
The contractors had to solve a series of problems as they rebuilt the tower. "The biggest challenge was keeping the vertical corners of the steeple straight and true," Barrieau said. The workers used a laser beam shot up through the steeple to measure from the laser markings and keep the tower plumb. The base of one of the sides of the steeple was 8 inches wider when measured from the center. That gave the original tower a tilt to the west and a lack of symmetry. Now, the tower is straight.

Barrieau said Russ Burtt, the project supervisor, embraced the challenge of straightening the tower, which added to the difficulty of cutting and re-setting the stones. "Russ was the mastermind behind squaring up the whole spire," Laudon said. "He's an extremely efficient problem solver."

Barrieau said the company used a "pull schedule" called the "Last Planner System" to keep the project on time and to ensure all the target tasks were done in a timely manner. New window frames were installed throughout the steeple. All the stones had to be transported to the ground with a small elevator machine fastened to the scaffolding. During reconstruction, the number on each stone had to be matched to its number in the photographs.

"We laid out the whole duration of the project and work in six-week increments," Barrieau said. "It's a grid that runs from May to December. Day-to-day, we make sure we get our tasks done. At the end of the week, we review everything. That way, we really control how well the project runs."





To read the original article, please visit:
www.gnazzo.com/Graphics/NewportDailyNews_ChanningMemorial.pdf