

Bennington Battle Monument



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Bennington Battle Day and DAR Marker Dedication, August 2024

Bennington Battle Monument

Second Tallest Unreinforced Masonry Building in United States

1876: A second Bennington Battle Monument Association was incorporated by the Vermont Legislature and \$15,000 was appropriated for the project. The country's centennial provided additional stimulus to move the effort forward.

1878: Fundraising for monument project began.

1881: Congress passed bill, sponsored by Vermont Senator Justin S. Morrill, to appropriate matching funds for the erection of the Bennington Battle Monument.

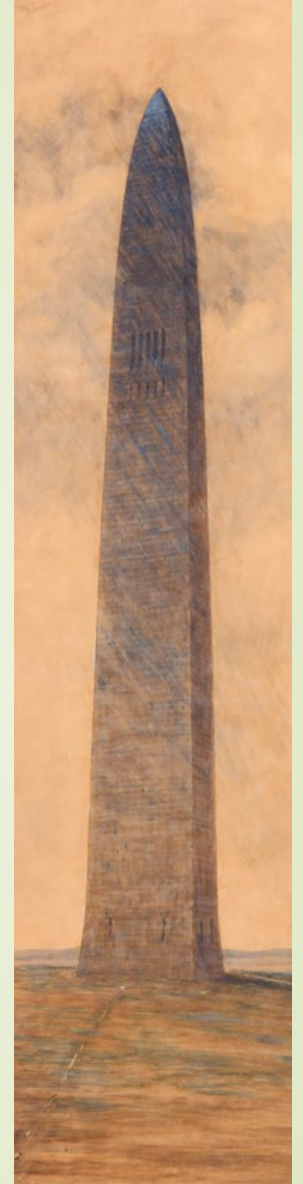
1885: The Bennington Historical Society approved J. Phillip Rinn's design for the monument.

1887: Construction on the Bennington Battle Monument began in June; the cornerstone was dedicated on August 16, the 110th anniversary of the battle.

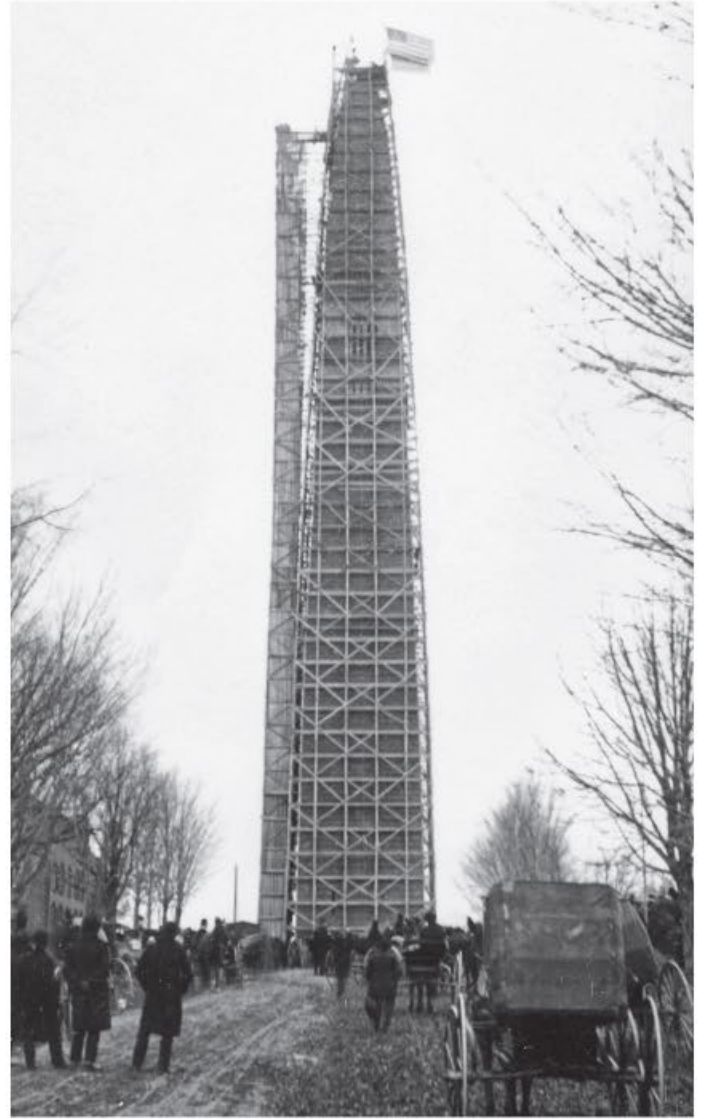
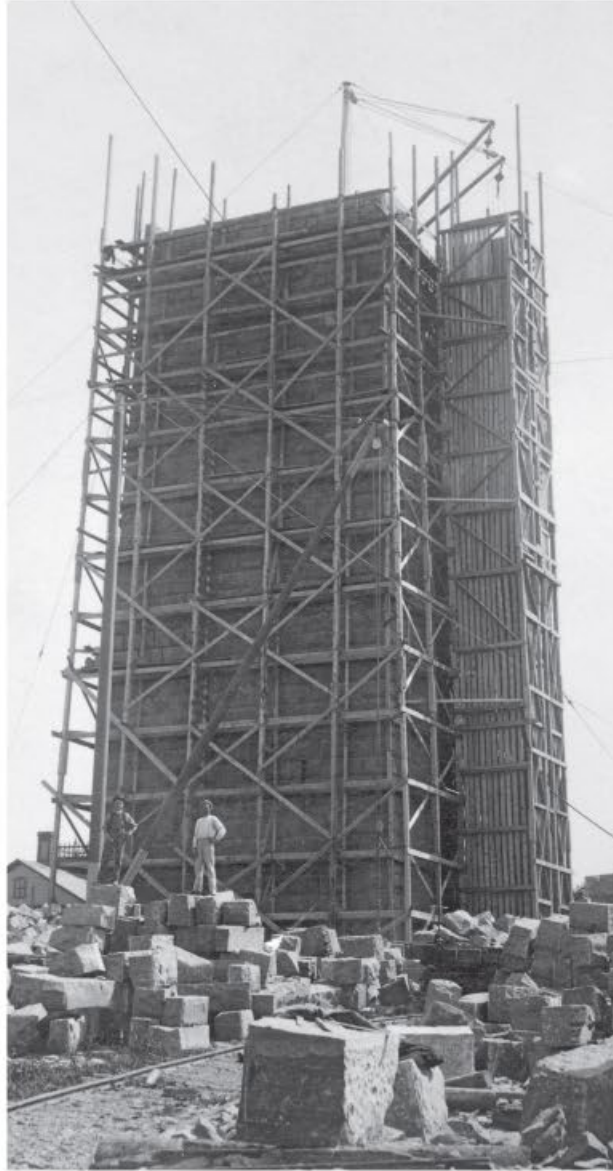
1889: The 306-foot structure was completed, and the capstone was set, although work on the interior continued.

1891: On August 19, the Monument was dedicated and opened to the public as part of celebrations marking the centennial of Vermont's statehood.

2024 Visitation: 39,931 Revenue: \$276,211



J. Phillip Rinn design for Bennington Battle Monument





Monument Interior Conditions
1.12.2018



Bennington Battle Monument Observation Deck and Ground Level February 2024



Bennington Battle Monument

STEP One: what is happening

- ▶ 2022-2024 Study and Planning Efforts

STEP TWO: how to solve

- ▶ 3 years Dry Out Monument & Prepare Infrastructure and Schematic Design

STEP THREE+: fix the issues

- ▶ Multi-year restoration and repair

ANNUAL STEP: ensuring the monument can open

- ▶ Safety & hazardous maintenance monitoring

Study and Planning Efforts

2022-2023 Study and Planning Efforts:

Architectural & Engineering Survey (year-long)

Research & Documentation

Field Inspections

3-D laser scan (inside/outside)

Baseline Documentation – high resolution working drawings

Installation of Monitoring equipment (moisture/cracking)

High-Ropes Access/Visual Field Inspection with Instrumentation

Discussion of Interim Procedures for Elevator

Elevator - analysis w/ proposed scope for ongoing elevator maintenance and service until restoration complete

2023-2024 Study and Planning Efforts Amendments:

Masonry Conservation Study

Hygrothermal Review and Geotechnical Investigation

Mechanical and Structural Engineering

Water Infiltration Testing

Preservation Analysis and Masonry Testing

Schematics and Costs

Lightening Protection

Petrography Testing

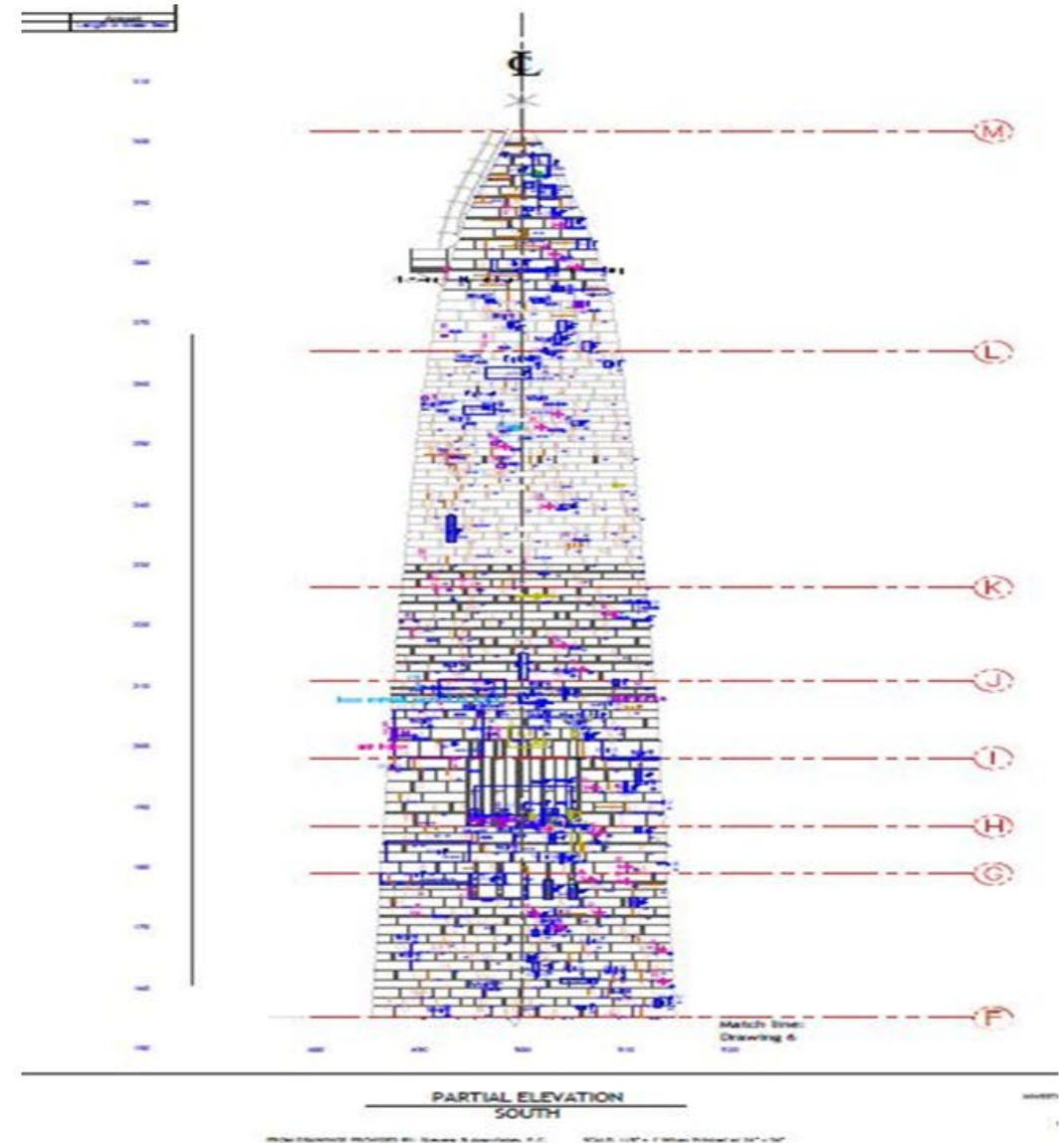
Elevator Improvements

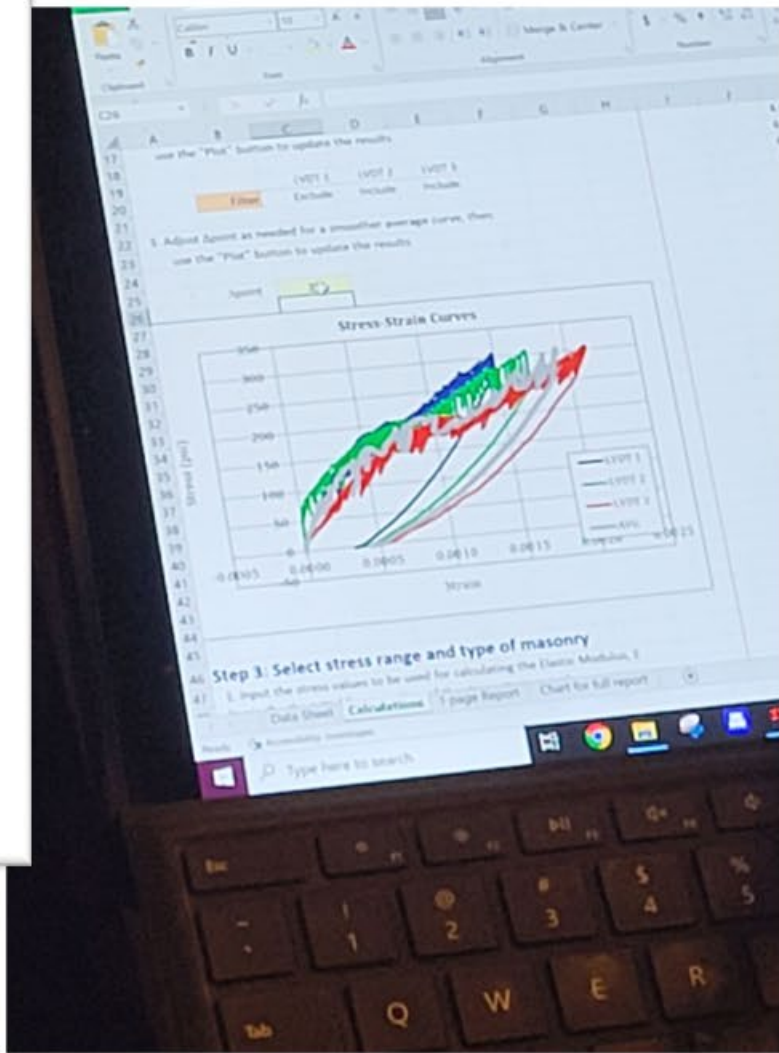
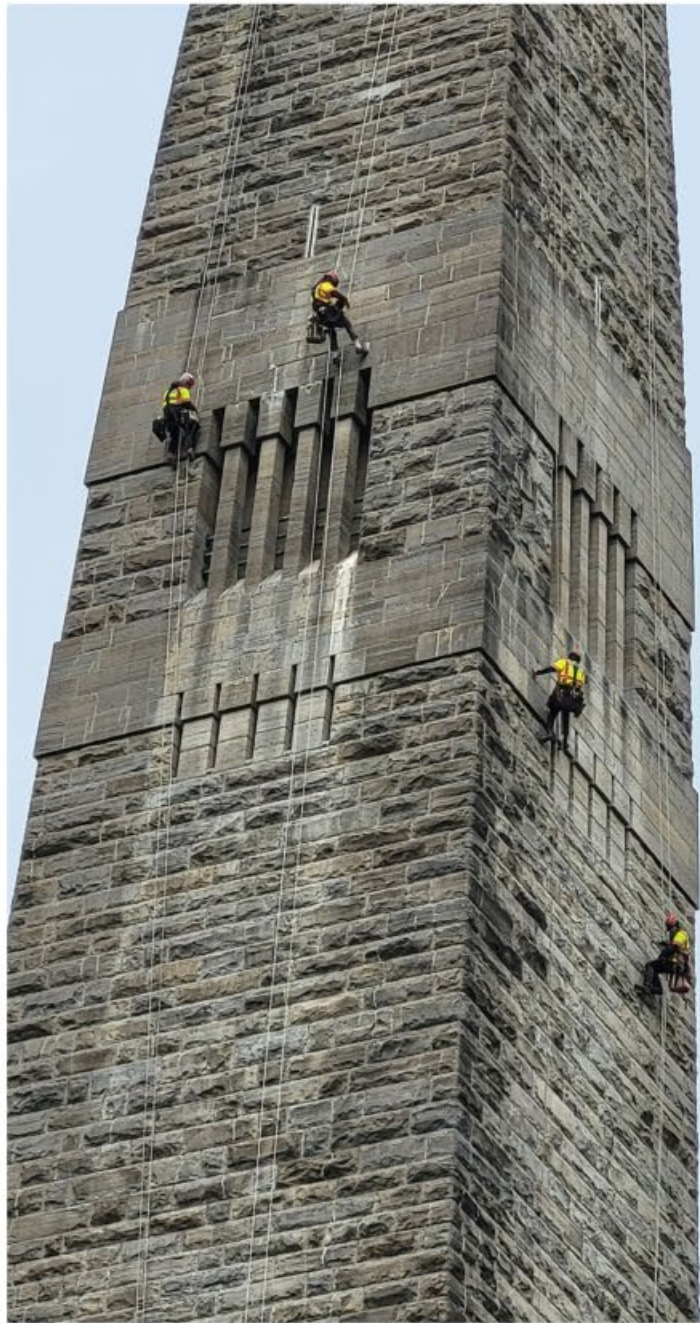
Phase 1 & 2 - Total Study Effort to date: \$988,868



J. Phillip Rinn's Interior Plan for Bennington Battle Monument

Block	Condition	Sum of Amount	Block Count	Sum of Severity
ArchMetal_Connection	Fastener failed	1	1	0
ArchMetal_Note	Misc photo	0	1	0
ArchMetal_SoilStain	Guano	3.096	1	0
ArchMetal_Unsecured	Loose	1.694	2	0
Glass_Crack	Cracked pane	1.062	3	5.8
Stone_Crack	Repair failed	4821.984	295	98.5
	Repair removed	2.72	4	2
	Repair sound	8.181	5	0
	Single unit	111.131	63	41.75
	System joints	4.717	1	1
	System units and joints	54.196	10	2
Stone_Embedment	Copper Embedment	1698.861	154	23.5
	Ferrous Embedment	0	5	0
	Other Embedment	0	4	0
Stone_Joints	Other Embedment	0	18	0
	Mortar Caulked	12	1	0
	Mortar Failed	1303.651	46	750
	Mortar Missing	417.62	201	129
	Mortar Removed	25.919	24	0
Stone_Note	Sealant Failed	67.968	11	50
	Misc photo	0	62	0
	Photo-general	0	40	0
	Dutchman Failed	18	1	0
Stone_Repair	Patch Failed	3116	26	0
	Patch Removed	214	6	0
	Patch Sound	1363	6	0
	Atmospheric	8.575	1	0
Stone_SoilStain	Biological	120.974	5	0
	Bituminous	11.884	1	0
	Efflorescence	22.603	10	0
	Guano	17.929	2	0
	Leached Salts	169.851	10	0
	Bonded	0	4	38
Stone_Spall	Incipient	0	3	18
	Missing	0	15	249
	Removed	0	12	129
	Exfoliated	4.757	4	6
Stone_SurfLoss	Exfoliation	14.87	3	3
	Friable	1.898	1	2
	Borescope	0	3	0
Test_Location	Sampl	0	1	0
	Sample	0	2	0
	Totals:	--	13620.141	1068







Current Recommendations for Moving Forward:

PHASE 1A

Dry out the Monument

1. Design and erect a 100% water-tight Monument Enclosure System
2. Geotechnical Engineering, Site Preparation Design & Site Improvements
3. Preparation of Monument Enclosure Bidding Documents & Procurement

Steps 1-3 =\$500,000

4. Erection of the Monument Enclosure

Step 4 =\$5.0M to \$10M

PHASE 1B

Infrastructure & Schematic Design

1. Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Improvements Design & Installation + Drying Period
2. Architectural (Design & Preservation) & Structural Engineering Schematic Design
3. Exterior Preservation Mock-ups for Restoration Scope of Work & Cost Estimate

=\$2.0M to 2.24M



Annual Maintenance for Opening

Delay of full restoration project requires annual public safety measures including removal of loose exterior materials and hazards via industrial rope access, customized elevator service, monitoring of stairs, elevator, fire safety, and structural cracking acceleration.

Safety Measures taken to date: **\$80,000**

- Install temporary perimeter Fencing (purchased)
- Install temporary covered walkway from perimeter fence to Monument entrance (rental)

Annual Hazard Maintenance of Monument

- Industrial Ropes Inspection and Material Removals **\$75,000**
- Fencing & Protected Walkway Inspection **\$ 1,500**
- Monitoring **\$25,000 set-up (\$12,000/yr)**

Annual Costs for Special Conditions

- Elevator Maintenance – specialty scope developed to be proactive with Elevator maintenance until full restoration of building envelope

\$7,000

TOTAL PER FY \$158,500