

BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT

A Roadmap for Informed Stewardship

Analytical History

From 2022 to 2025, the Bennington Battle Monument underwent intensive diagnostic study. Results identified critical failures that require immediate intervention:

Hydrological Stress

Saturated stone, persistent water infiltration, & internal high humidity

Structural Damage

Vertical cracking, stone spalling, & surface degradation

Climate & Airflow

'Inverse stack effect' compromising internal ventilation

Mechanical Failure

Moisture-driven corrosion of stairs & elevator mechanisms

Legacy Issues

Accelerated decay resulting from quick fix & incompatible historic repair methods

Project Status & Financials

Work on the monument includes previous, present & prospective activities:

Complete: Assessment & Analysis

Funding: \$988,868 from state allocation

Scope: Comprehensive structural analysis involving 15 specialty contractors

Active: Critical Monitoring & Site Investigation

Funding: \$500,000 from federal grant

Scope: Seismic evaluations, archaeological investigation, temperature/humidity, tilt meters and crack monitors, & high-rope safety inspections

Pending: Immediate Infrastructure

Funding: Estimate pending from specialty contractor

Scope: Elevator audit & cable replacement

Strategic Goal: Extend elevator access for 8-10 years until full replacement

RESTORATION

Phase 1A: Preparation & Site Stabilization

Status: \$500,000 (Secured State Funds) to \$5M - \$10M

Deliverable: Geotechnical engineering, site safety design, & enclosure system engineering

Strategic Value: Preparation & installation of Construction of Protective Enclosure (\$5M - \$10M)

Phase 1B: Infrastructure & Schematic Design

Funding Target: \$2.0M – \$2.4M

Deliverable: Physical mock-ups & schematic designs for mechanical/electrical & structural improvements

Strategic Value: By funding this work, we eliminate the ambiguity of broad estimates & convert specialist intuition into documented, bid-ready construction costs.

Key Scope Areas

Comprehensive scope and budget to be defined by Phase 1B findings.

Following the initial analysis by 15 specialty contractors, we conclude that the unknown scope of restoration represents the most significant financial phase of the project. This phase will move beyond stabilization into a permanent, generational solution.

Deep-Stone Masonry Restoration: Addressing extreme internal saturation & structural cracks

Full System Replacement: Complete 1953 elevator decommissioning & modernization with new

Public Accessibility & Safety: Observatory, stairs, & window security overhauls

National Context

Restorations of this complexity on comparable National Landmarks typically require significant investments & time (e.g., *Statue of Liberty Pedestal*, *Washington Monument*). Our goal for Phase 1B is to determine exactly where this Monument sits on that scale.