

Bell Tower Restoration Project Completion

Project Title: Cross Restoration Project

Rotary Club of Chicagoland Lithuanians

Grant Period: 5.30.2023-5.31.2024

Report Date: 5.30.2024

Project Overview

The Bell tower restoration project aimed to repair and restore a historic cross, including grading of the hill, repairing or replacing wooden parts, reinforcing the structure, and ensuring it is weather-resistant. This report details the successful completion of the project, including all tasks performed, materials used, and outcomes achieved.

Project Objectives

1. **Grading of Hill:** Ensure the hill is properly graded in preparation for the cross installation.
2. **Repair and Replace Wooden Parts:** Address cracked or missing parts, custom build parts to match the original design.
3. **Structural Reinforcement:** Rebuild and reinforce parts connecting to the ground support, add additional base support blocks.
4. **Water Resistance:** Secure loose wood shingles, stain the entire structure to match the original design.
5. **Bell Tower Base:** Construct a concrete base for the bell tower.
6. **Educational Involvement:** Engage kids from the Interact Club to help with the project and educate them about cultural heritage and wood restoration.

Tasks Completed

1. Grading of Hill

- The hill was graded and prepared for the bell tower and cross installation, ensuring a stable and level foundation.

2. Bell tower Restoration

- **Repair Cracked or Missing Parts:** Cracked or missing wooden parts were repaired or replaced with custom-built parts to match the original design.
- **Structural Reinforcement:** Parts connecting to the ground support were rebuilt and reinforced. Additional base support blocks were added to ensure stability.
- **Water Resistance:** Loose wood shingles were secured to make the structure water-resistant. The entire structure was stained to match the original design, enhancing both durability and appearance.

3. Educational Involvement

- Students from the Lithuanian Interact Club actively participated in the restoration process. They learned valuable skills related to cultural heritage preservation and wood restoration.
- Interact Club members assisted with various tasks under supervision, gaining hands-on experience in repairing and staining wood, and understanding the importance of maintaining historical structures.

4. Materials Used

- **Wood:** Utilized for base support, structural support, design detail reconstruction, and roof shingles.
- **Metal Anchors and Screws:** Provided additional structural integrity.
- **Glue and Epoxy:** Used for repairs to ensure strong bonding of wooden parts.
- **Stain and Paint:** Applied to the structure for weather resistance and aesthetic matching.

5. Bell Tower Base

- A concrete base for the bell tower was constructed, ensuring a solid foundation and enhancing the overall stability of the structure.

Outcomes

- The bell tower has been fully restored to its original design, with all wooden parts repaired or replaced.
- The structure is now water-resistant, ensuring long-term preservation.
- The hill has been properly graded, providing a stable foundation.
- The newly constructed concrete base for the bell tower ensures added stability.
- Interact Club members gained valuable experience and knowledge about cultural heritage and wood restoration, fostering a sense of community and historical awareness.

Conclusion

The Cross restoration project has been successfully completed, meeting all objectives and ensuring the historic cross is restored and preserved for future generations. The project utilized high-quality materials and skilled craftsmanship to achieve a restoration that honors the original design while enhancing the structural integrity and durability of the cross. Additionally, the involvement of the Interact Club provided educational opportunities for young participants, enriching their understanding of cultural heritage and restoration techniques.

We extend our gratitude for the support provided through this grant, which made this important restoration project possible.

Attachments

- Before and After Photos (See attached images)
- Detailed Financial Report

For further information or additional details, please contact:

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