

Mitchell Student Center Preservation

ROCHESTER, MN

SUBMITTED BY BUILDINGS CONSULTING GROUP, INC.

The Mitchell Student Center is near the center of the Mayo Clinic's Rochester, Minnesota Campus, built in 1937 as the Rochester Public Library, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The one-story building was built in the 1800s English Tudor revival, or "Jacobethan" architectural style, which is a style that was favored by many local leading citizens. The building features several impressive decorative features including quarried faced ashlar limestone wall cladding, with carved trim at windows and doors.

replacement stone sources were found for the damaged stone. For the window openings, new replica replacement windows were fabricated using aluminum framed thermal glass with replica muntins. Decorative hardware, such as hinges and locks, were also fabricated.

The project began in 2015 with stone masonry replacement. Window mockups, final selection, and manufacturing were accomplished during the Winter and Spring of 2015-2016. Window installations and the remainder of the stone masonry restoration was completed in Summer 2016.



The Mitchell Student Center façade preservation demonstrates that repairing existing historic structures is a complex project that requires extensive preplanning and knowledge of historic methods of construction. Repair involves many unknowns and potential surprises, and the team must be responsive to unanticipated conditions. Retaining the historic integrity of a building is a responsibility requiring a thorough and well-thought-out design that will provide the intended results.

A condition study identified many and varied deteriorated areas needing repair, determined the types of materials necessary to restore the historic façades, and established a repair sequence and budget. Several problems had to be solved: 1) replacing the corroded steel-frame windows and providing new energy-efficient windows that kept the appearance of the historic windows; 2) replacing damaged stone masonry while maintaining the historic appearance; and 3) reconstructing the limestone entry stairs. Matching



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Buildings Consulting Group, Inc.

Minneapolis, MN

OWNER

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PROJECT ENGINEER/DESIGNER

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REPAIR CONTRACTOR

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MATERIALS SUPPLIER/MANUFACTURER

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