

HISTORIC CATEGORY

Old St. George Church

CINCINNATI, OH

SUBMITTED BY SSRG, STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS REPAIR GROUP

Constructed by renowned architect Samuel Hannaford, Old St. George Church has been a fixture in Cincinnati for over 140 years. In 2008, a three-alarm fire charred its façade and forced the removal of its iconic steeples. After the fire, the church remained empty for years. Through the efforts of Crossroads Community Church, the church once again became a place of worship in August 2016.

charred towers. The carbon buildup melted away, leaving the historic façade shining through.

The project also included the repair and reinforcement of both the friary and chapel roof by installing significant steel and wood to the structure. Reinforcement of the heavy timber trusses posed significant challenges that were met with creative solutions, completing the work quickly and cost effectively.



Reaching consensus on repair materials, assemblies, and the cleaning process was one of the earliest challenges in the project. The project team met several times a week in the first six weeks to review cleaning products, brick samples, mortar samples, stone samples, and multiple mock-ups. Cleaning mockups were conducted using over 10 different products throughout the façade to see which would be most successful at removing the heavy carbon buildups from the fire damage as well as at field locations unaffected by the fire. Two products were selected to be used at the different locations.

The restoration consisted of 24,000 sf (2230 sm) of exterior elevation cleaning, full re-pointing of brick masonry, stone repair, and the replacement of nearly 2,500 deteriorated bricks. Challenges included accessing the 100 ft (30 m) tall south bell towers and effectively removing the carbon buildup on the façade. A 150 ft (46 m) boom lift and citric-based gentle restoration cleaner was used to restore both



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SSRG, Structural Systems Repair Group

Cincinnati, OH

OWNER

Crossroads

Cincinnati, OH

PROJECT ENGINEER/DESIGNER

Model Group

Cincinnati, OH

REPAIR CONTRACTOR

SSRG, Structural Systems Repair Group

Cincinnati, OH

MATERIALS SUPPLIER/MANUFACTURER

Western Hills Building Supply

Cincinnati, OH

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