

Brick

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Renewing
With Brick



Project #1: North Adams Hoosac Savings Bank

North Adams, Massachusetts

In This Issue:

The North Adams Hoosac Savings Bank in North Adams, Massachusetts; the Minnesota Masonic Home in Bloomington, Minnesota; the Grove J. Tuttle Elementary School, in East Haven, Connecticut; and the Cranbrook Alumni Courtyard in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan — four restoration and renovation projects that honor and enhance valued brick structures of the past.



*Design-Build Firm
Original Building
Photography: New
England Design
Associates, Inc.,
Worcester,
Massachusetts*

Built in 1893, the North Adams Hoosac Savings Bank proudly faces the main street with brickwork from a bygone age — complete with ornate arches over palladian windows, half-round columns, and gargoyles. After a century, only a cleaning was needed to restore the brick to its original glory. The main challenge for the bank and its designers was the building's rear facade — a patchwork of storefronts and loading areas that had evolved into the building's major entry point, the parking lot.

In consolidating and enhancing the elevation, design-build firm New England

Design Associates took their cues from the structures that surround the rear elevation — buildings of red brick, rather than the bank's front entry tan brick. A four-story core elevator shaft, added to provide handicapped accessibility, serves as the addition's tower. From there, the structure steps down and forward to the two-story office building's lobby, its false-front two-story columned

entrance, and finally to the bank's simple one-story height. Horizontal bands of soldier coursing between protruding brick courses accentuate these changing heights, while inset panels enrich the building's variety of planes. The result is a handsome, welcoming rear main entrance at home with its historic neighbors, yet definitely a statement of today.

"The brick on the front facade is a true art form, with its labor-intensive articulation. Today, due to economic constraints, we can only suggest some of this art form without involving too much detail."

— *Chuck Snell, Principal*



*Photography:
Restored building - Willard Traub*