

CRITICAL REHABILITATION FOR ONE OF DC'S MOST REVERED ICONS



## Masonry Solutions International, Inc.

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## Repair and enhance without changing the aesthetics.



### Washington National Cathedral

Location: Washington, DC

Age: Construction began 1907

Key Topics: Long-bore dry coring,

seismic retrofit, historic stabilization, CIF injection

#### **Project Background:**

- The Washington National Cathedral is the sixth largest cathedral in the world and second largest in the US
- A member of the National Register of Historic Places it was the site of funerals for Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan, and Gerald Ford
- The cathedral is designated as the 'National House of Prayer' by Congress and houses the remains of historical figures such as Helen Keller and Woodrow Wilson
- Ranked third on the List of America's Favorite
  Architecture by the American Institute of Architects



#### **Challenges Presented:**

- The cathedral was badly damaged during the 2011
  Virginia earthquake
- Project designers determined a systematic reinforcement of the cathedral's buttresses was critical. This would first require carefully dry coring into the historic limestone, a task many told the project team was impossible
- Additionally, the team needed to furnish a compatible material to bond with and mobilize anchors within the masonry substrate





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#### **Services and Solutions:**

- Masonry Solutions International began by evaluating the limestone structure and developing a custom approach that included specially calibrated diamond composite drill segments
- Working with the project team, Masonry Solutions then determined the optimal layout for MSI's advanced ROMEO
   I coring equipment, which allows for long-bore coring without the use of water
- Several core locations required complex, precision angled drilling
- Masonry Solutions' drillers applied their extensive knowledge, providing dozens of lengthy, 3" diameter core holes with the utmost care for the continuing operations of this venerable institution
- MSI and its laboratory engineers then coordinated with the cathedral's design team to develop a custom Compatible Injected Fill (CIF) to mobilize the supplied anchors within the limestone, providing superior bond and enhanced structural performance
- This CIF was uniquely developed using white cement to match the limestone masonry and air entraining agents to provide the masonry with a longer lasting repair
- The National Cathedral's appearance was maintained and no service interruptions were experienced throughout Masonry Solutions' work
- Thanks to the extensive (yet principally invisible)
  intervention, this landmark is able to continue along its historic path unimpeded









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Masonry Solutions International has worked in the field of masonry preservation and enhancement for over 20 years. It has pioneered a number of advanced techniques, including compatible masonry injection and undercut fabric anchorage.