

ANSWERING A COMMUNITY'S CALL FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



### Masonry Solutions International, Inc.

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## Repair and enhance without changing the aesthetics.



#### 43 MacDougal Street

Location: New York, NY

Age: Built 1846

**Key Topics:** Historic stabilization, GS Anchors, adaptive reuse, NDE,

CIF injection

#### **Project Background:**

- An 1846 Greek Revival rowhouse (and fabled mafia hangout) located in the Charlton-King-Vandam Historic District, which was once the site of George Washington's headquarters during the Revolutionary War
- Was left in disrepair for several years by a previous owner, one of the first to be sued by the City of New York for "demolition by neglect" of a landmarked property.
  This motivated the sale of the historic property, paving the way for a full restoration
- New owners answered years of community activists and NY Landmarks Preservation Commission calls to preserve the historic facades instead of rebuilding them

#### **Challenges Presented:**

- Lime based mortar had severely deteriorated in both the visible mortar joints and collar joints inside of the wall to the point where the mortar was like sand
- Building façade plane continued to the neighboring property causing facades to separate from the party wall
- The masonry shell was in such bad condition that project members expressed concerns over a possible collapse







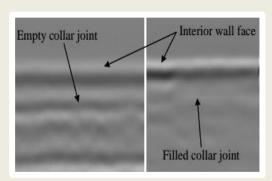
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#### **Services and Solutions:**

- Masonry Solutions first thoroughly evaluated the facades at 43 MacDougal using Non-destructive evaluation to determine a safe method of intervention and uncover detailed information on its current condition
- Masonry Solutions laboratory engineers then determined a compatible injection material that was sympathetic to the host's particular characteristics
- Façade walls were partially shored to prevent any movement and two entire facades were injected using low pressure Injection
- This injection project presented a number of challenges, including the creation of an isolation barrier that would keep injection material from flowing into non-prescribed neighboring areas
- CIF Injection took place from the building interior, with safety risks such as missing floor boards and extremely loose masonry requiring a high degree of precaution
- Next, MSI technicians carefully drilled 4-5ft through the facades and embedded stainless Gruenstark fabric anchors into the party walls to firmly secure the façade to the rest of the building.
- Further NDE demonstrated the solidity of the masonry units, thus confirming stabilization of 43 MacDougal's facades
- The neighboring community and preservation advocates everywhere could breathe a sigh of relief knowing this valuable piece of history was now in stable condition







**Pre-Injection** 

**Post-Injection** 



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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.