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*1930 Construction -
Band shell*

March 23, 2011

SUBJECT: Band Shell – Structural & Use Inspection
LOCATION: Riverside Park - La Crosse, WI
DATE OF INSPECTION: March 21, 2011
REQUESTED BY: Gar Amunson (608) 789-7308

This report represents the professional opinion of Mr. David D. Holstrom, AIA, PE, LEED AP during a limited time inspection of exposed to view elements. No testing (non-destructive or destructive), nor removal of roof, or wall coverings was done. Due care was exercised in the performance of this inspection, but Mr. Holstrom neither makes representation nor guarantees with respect to latent deficiencies or future conditions as part of the inspection or this report.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

The original 1930 construction of the existing band shell was for a Wendell A. Anderson Memorial. Its major use was intended for orchestral or band concerts. The semi-basement room was for storage of musicians' equipment and chairs. The original construction has a substantial concrete foundation with solid blocks/slabs of stone and bronze materials to avoid any maintenance expense.

In 1986, an addition was added to enlarge the stage area. This addition was constructed with concrete block and concrete slabs.

The entire structure is in need of repair. The original stone structure joints should be repaired and repointed. The semi-basement room and exposed concrete structure has spalling from rusted rebar caused by excessive moisture penetration. The tiled floor risers are in poor condition and represent a safety concern. Large stone slabs have shifted by frost movement.

The 1986 addition is in worse condition. Multiple block cracks and structural header shifts caused by excessive moisture penetration and the freeze/thaw cycles have shown its toll on this structure. The 1986 addition concrete block structure is near the end of its useful life in the present unprotected condition.

OBSERVATIONS / CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS:

The existing band shell is not handicapped accessible. The existing band shell and performance area is not protected from the elements. The current conditions have safety concerns and are in need of correction. I recommend that you carefully consider your building/space programming needs and future goals before spending continued maintenance costs on this structure.

1. What size stage is most desired?
2. What multiple functions and uses are planned for the facilities?
3. Lighting and power needs?
4. Acoustic priorities and isolation/projection?
5. Band shell/backdrop vs band shelter concept?
6. Accessibility?
7. Storage needs?

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