

Willson Carbide Mill (R) - Victoria Island, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



Inventor Thomas Willson developed a process for producing calcium carbide in 1892 and founded the Ottawa Carbide Company. He sold the American patent for the process to a firm which later became the Union Carbide Company. He built a mill on Victoria Island between 1899 and 1900 to produce acetylene gas (a product of calcium carbide). The building, which Willson helped to design, was attractive in appearance (with stone exterior) and innovative in design.

By 1971 the NCC (National Capital Commission) had acquired the property around the mill for recreational use and in 1972 the mill was designated as a “recognized” building by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBR).

This project (as part of the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund) began in spring 2010 and includes work within Phase 3 of the stabilization/rehabilitation work at this site, following the completion in fall 2009 of Phases 1 and 2. As in prior phases, the Cintec Anchoring System was chosen by DMA, Les Architectes Desnoyers Mercure et associés (Christine Lacroix) and Adjeleian Allen Rubeli Ltd., Consulting Engineers (Derek Mes, P.Eng. M.A.Sc.).



The stabilization of the East wall corners and the stabilization and stitching of the East and North walls was carried out by masonry contractor DeMarinis (DMA) Inc (Tony DeMarinis, President.). DeMarinis had used the Cintec system for almost 20 years, on several projects, and was therefore very knowledgeable on its ease of use and capabilities. In this case, over 1,000 Cintec anchors were installed in lengths from 21 inches to over 15 feet long.

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