

Mount Morris Park Fire Watchtower

New York, New York

Client /Owner

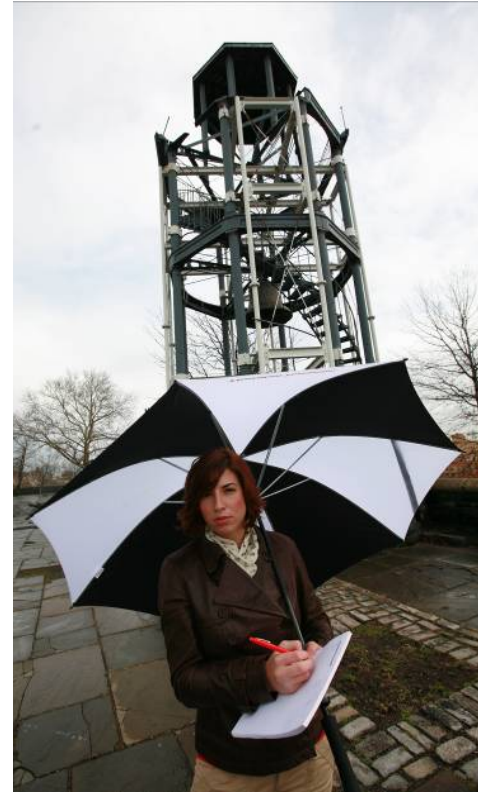
Ms. Franny Eberhart
Historic House Trust of
New York City, Inc.
The Arsenal, Room 203
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021
212.360.8203

Construction Cost

\$2.9 million

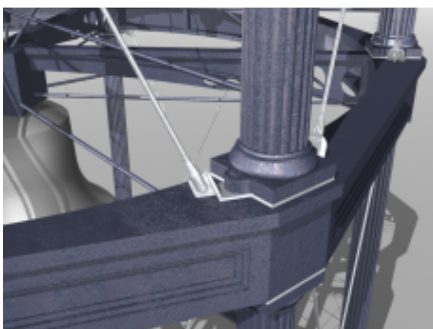
Completion Date

2009



Thornton Tomasetti completed field documentation, investigation, and construction documents for the restoration of this designated landmark. Erected in East Harlem in the mid-1850s, it is the last remaining fire watchtower in New York City.

Our design for a full restoration included an overall structural assessment, historical documentation, paint coating analysis, and a finite element analysis of the entire cast iron structure. We also developed temporary stabilization to supplement existing temporary stabilization measures that were installed in the early 1990s.



Even if the watchtower were a brand new structure without 150 years of deterioration, it would still not meet today's standards. One of the main challenges we faced was retaining as much of the historic material as possible while stabilizing the tower. Original cast iron elements, too deteriorated to be reused, will be replicated in new cast iron. The salvaged pieces from the corroded vertical wrought iron baluster railing system will be coupled with new pieces and materials to work together with the original structure. When you look at the tower it will be clear what is original and what has been added for stabilization.