

## PROJECT PROFILE

# Alster Tower Heart Island, Alexandria Bay, NY

**VERTICAL**  
access



### Original architect

attributed to George C. Boldt  
(completed 1898)

### Owner

Thousand Islands Bridge Authority

### In collaboration with

- Bernier, Carr & Associates, P.C. *architect*
- Robert Silman Associates, P.C. *structural engineer*
- Jablonski Building Conservation, Inc.  
*materials conservator*

### Building description

Alster Tower was built by George C. Boldt, proprietor of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, as part of his grand estate on Heart Island. Alster Tower, also known as the Playhouse, was purportedly designed by Boldt himself and was the first building that he constructed on Heart Island. It may have been used as his lodging on the island between 1900 and 1904 while Boldt Castle, the immense reproduction of a Rhineland Castle designed by George W. and William D. Hewitt, was built.

Alster Tower consists of a square tower that rises 60 feet from a two-story base. However, architecturally, the composition is much more irregular than this description implies. At the lower two floors of the tower, porches, balconies and buttresses project out from the square plan of the tower. The top of the tower is capped with a crenellated parapet, which has rounded corners at three corners of the tower. A small crenellated turret sits atop the stair bulkhead at the northeast corner of the tower roof.

### Scope of work

- Surveyed and documented existing conditions of exterior granite and limestone masonry, including upper portion of tower and two-story base.
- Provided video documentation of existing masonry conditions at portions of the tower.

*Photos by Bernier, Carr & Associates and Vertical Access*