

VA Preservation Award



Vertical Access was presented with a **Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award** from the [New York](#)

[Landmarks Conservancy](#) on April 27, 2011 in recognition of contributions made to preservation efforts on the facade of the [Surrogates Court-Hall of Records 31 Chambers Street](#) building in NYC. The lead consultant for the project was [Swanke Hayden Connell Architects](#).

The [Moses Awards](#) are the Conservancy's highest honors for outstanding preservation efforts named for a dedicated New Yorker whose generosity benefited New York City for over 50 years. Mrs. Moses many gifts to parks, hospitals, schools and cultural institutions are a record of caring and commitment that will live for generations.

New Staff Announcement



Vertical Access is pleased to announce the hiring of Kevin Dalton as a full time member

of our team. He brings with him ten years of experience in the construction industry and a strong background in historic masonry restoration. Prior to joining VA, Kevin was a project manager and chief estimator for Premier Building Restoration in Erdenheim, PA. He has a degree in Construction Management from Drexel University and is certified by the Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians (SPRAT) as a level 1 technician. Kevin is based in Philadelphia, where he will bolster VA's presence in the Mid-Atlantic region. Outside of work he is an avid surfer, bicyclist and triathlon competitor. Welcome Kevin!

About Vertical Access

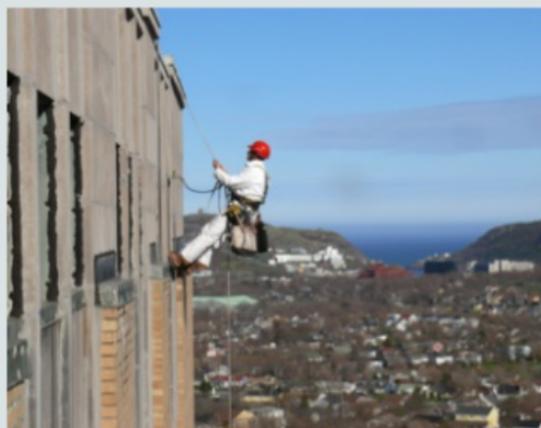
NEW!



Download our new brochure (PDF 4.7MB). Or, [email](#) your request for a full-color print copy. Please

include your name and mailing address.

Project Highlight: Confederation Building in St. John's, Newfoundland



This past May, Vertical Access deployed the team of Evan Kopelson, Kelly Streeter, and Keith Lusinski to the city of St. Johns, located on the tip the island of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic Ocean to perform a hands-on inspection of the tower on the Confederation Building. Constructed in 1959 for the House of Assembly and other government offices, the building has started to show signs of deterioration and VA was retained by the firm of Jokinen Engineering Services to assist with the investigation of the limestone on the prominent eleven-story tower.

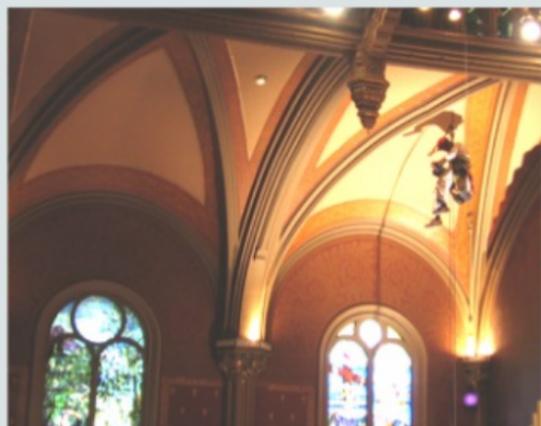
The scope of VAs role here was to document the condition of over 1,000 limestone units. The major challenge was how to identify any blind delaminations that are difficult to detect by traditional hammer sounding. An approach designed by structural engineer Kelly Streeter proposed using acoustic emission testing in conjunction with hammer sounding as part of the investigation.

Read more in these personal accounts on our blog :

- ❖ [NDE on a Rope](#) - full account of the pilot tests and findings, by Kelly Streeter, PE
- ❖ [At the Edge of a Continent](#) - historic background and more photos, by Evan Kopelson, AIC

After two days on site working in intermittent mist and rain, plus one more unplanned day after the only flight out to New York was cancelled, the team was back in the office to prepare the investigation reports.

Documenting Movement Over Time



As part of our investigation work, Vertical Access documents and collects data about the condition of a building or structure captured in a specific moment in time. In some cases however, it is important to document changes over time. When this is the case, instrumental monitoring is incorporated into the process.

Vertical Access provides specialized building inspections, testing services, and condition reports for architects, engineers, and conservators utilizing efficient, lightweight rigging systems and industrial rope access techniques. Our staff includes preservationists with backgrounds in construction, structural engineering, architectural conservation and nondestructive evaluation of structures. [Visit our website to learn more](#)

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One type of instrumental monitoring employs electronic gauges that can collect and record data in real time. An example of a project where electronic monitoring has been employed is Marble Collegiate Church in New York City. In 2009, a study was conducted of

the roof system and plaster ceiling in the sanctuary of the church by the design team led by [Helpern Architects](#) and including [Robert Silman Associates](#) and [Vertical Access](#). Following a survey of the ceiling and development of repair documents, RSA and VA worked together to design a monitoring program to record movement at representative areas of the plaster ceiling, masonry walls and wood roof trusses.

[Vibra-Tech](#) was engaged to implement the system, which included vibrating wire crack gauges at the ceiling, vibrating wire strain gauges at the roof trusses and temperature and relative humidity sensors. These crack gauges were installed several months before the planned start of the roof repairs and plaster conservation work to measure and report crack displacement of existing cracks.

Data from the gauges is transmitted continuously to a data center in the church and this real time data is available to the project team on a web site and via automatic email notifications when any movement thresholds are exceeded. [Read more and see close-up images on our blog.](#)

Industry News: Philadelphia Façade Ordinance



The Philadelphia Façade Inspection Ordinance inaugural cycle-one reports on façade condition of buildings constructed before 1950 were due to the Licenses and Inspections Department of Philadelphia by June 30, 2011.

Industry consensus is that many owners of subject properties did not comply with the ordinance due to lack of knowledge of the changed property maintenance code. The next reporting cycle is for buildings constructed between 1950 and 1960 with reports due June 30, 2012.

Currently, nine cities have facade inspection ordinances on the books. New Jersey may become the first state to adopt a state wide façade ordinance legislation. A hearing on proposed bill A3895, with testimony from industry professionals, was held in Trenton on May 5th. Kelly Streeter provided testimony along with several other interested parties on Bill A3895, which has now moved out of committee. The bill uses the recently-enacted Philadelphia façade ordinance as a model. [Read more about NJ.](#)