# Saving a Main Street Building

The Masonry Society Portland, Maine Thursday, October 17, 2024

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#### 1. Introduction

- Main Street buildings
- 1-3 stories
- 1-3 stories
  Brick masonry
  Built in late 19th or early 20th centuries
  Very deep, perpendicular to the street
  Single span joists from wall to wall
  Relatively open fronts
  All over the US

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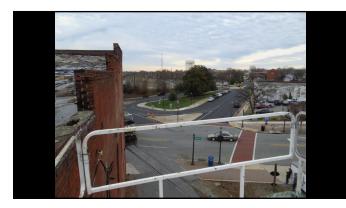




## 2. A Challenge

- Call from an owner about a building in need of shoring for
- Call from an owner about a building in need of shoring for rehabilation
  Local engineer had said that it needed to be braced and shored from outside
  Span over low speed railroad siding to south
  \$490k for bracing
  Owner called us in to find a less expensive solution

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## 3. What we found

- Three story building that had been the last on Elm Street to get rehabbed
  Two 19 foot wide bays
  Abandoned for many years

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• About 100 feet deep and 40 feet high

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## 3. What we found

Roof had partially collapsed to the 3rd floor



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## 3. What we found

• 3rd floor had partially collapsed to 2nd - 3rd floor

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## 3. What we found

• 2nd floor had partially collapsed to the ground





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## 3. What we found

 Leaving three brick flags waving in the breeze, each 100 feet deep and 40 feet high







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• North of building – high speed Amtrack line 10'-0" away





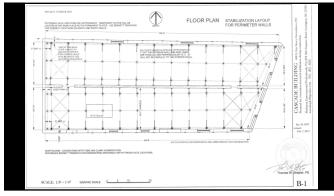




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# 4. It was immediately clear that...

- Building had little lateral load capability in the short direction, north-south
  Wood had not survived
  The masonry was the last man standing







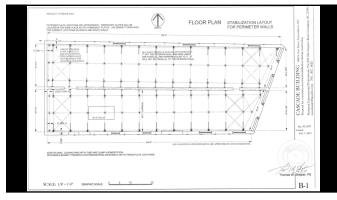


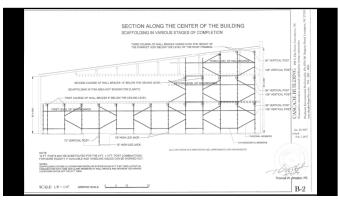


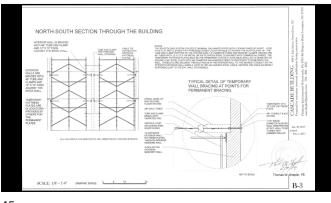
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## 5. What did we have to do? And how did we do it?

- Save the masonry
   Brace it against lateral movement with internal bracing, using the weight of the exterior walls to prevent overturning







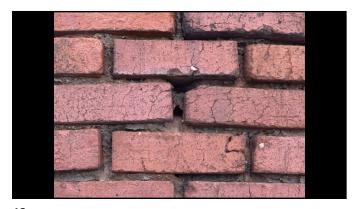
## 5. What did we have to do? And how did we do it?

- Repoint it with a soft, compatible mortarRepair the cracks

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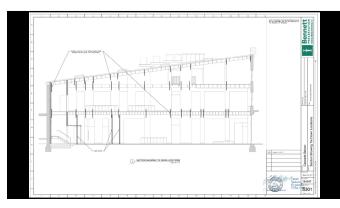




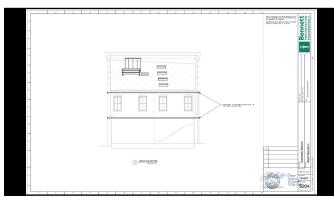
## 5. What did we have to do? And how did we do it?

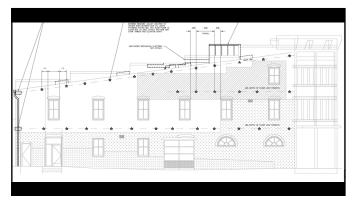
- Installed new internal diaphragms: 2nd floor, 3rd floor, and roof wooden diaphragms, copper wraps on ends
   Tie the walls to horizontal diaphragms tie rods and
- pattress plates
- Brace the horizontal diaphragms against lateral movement in the short direction with CMU elevator and stair shafts

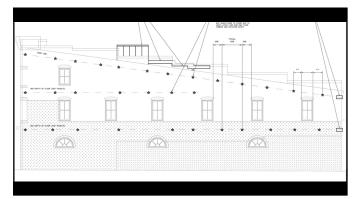
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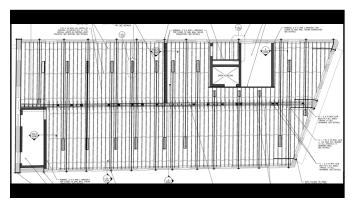


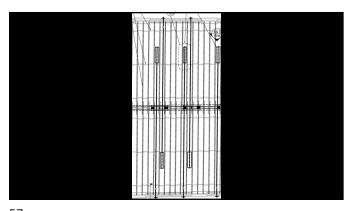


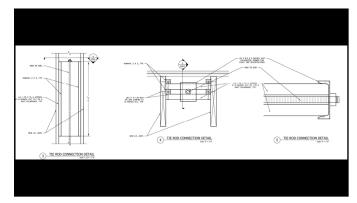


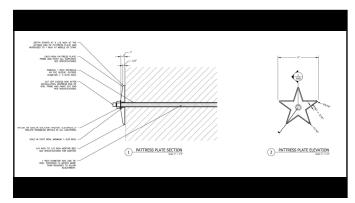








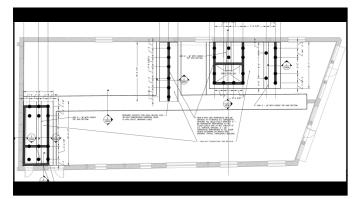


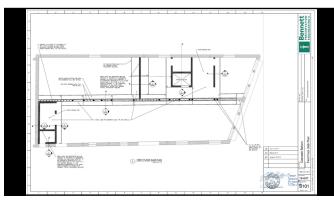


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# 5. What did we have to do? And how did we do it?

 Brace the horizontal diaphragms against lateral movement in the short direction with a CMU elevator shaft and a CMU stair shaft





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## **6. Construction**

- BracingClean outRepointing











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## 6. Construction

- New internal CMU walls
  New wooden shear wall east-west
  New diaphragms, tied to walls
  New roof tie-downs to floor below
  New parapet bracing and cornice

































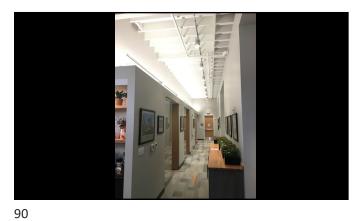




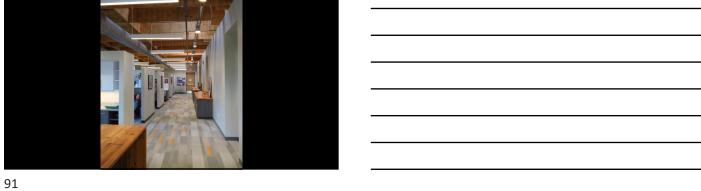


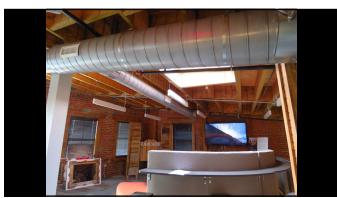


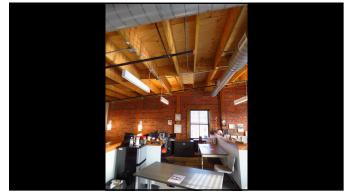










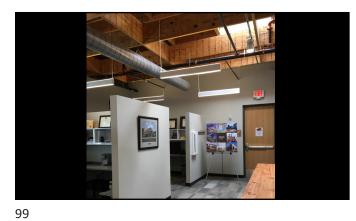


















## 8. Finish

- Conclusion:
  - No matter how bad a Main Street building is, if the masonry is still standing, it can be saved and bring the building back to life again as a vibrant part of the community.

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Questions?	
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