

Argentine Naval Attaché Building
630 Indiana Avenue
Historic, Forensic Investigation & Analysis



The Argentine Naval Attaché Building, formerly National Bank of Washington, then Riggs Bank and PNC Bank was built in 1889 to the design of James G. Hill, Supervising Architect of the Treasury. The west wing, which is approximately two-thirds of the building's length contains a stone façade. The east wing, which was an older brick and wood structure was incorporated approximately 30 years later, which included continuing the stone veneer and the slate roof. This structure was included in the Downtown Historic District National Register in 1984.

Due to construction of the adjacent office building to the east in or around 1987, structural damage occurred, including movement in the basement slab and settlement of the structure. The damage included stress cracks in the stone façade, especially at the junction of the east and west wings, interior wall cracks, floors pulling away from the party walls and distortion of the roof planes.

Challenge: Design repairs which would be undetected on the exterior of this Historic structure.
Value Added: Davidson & Assoc. worked with the Structural Engineer to design façade repairs, including the installation of custom cut stone blocks to conceal the settlement cracks after the structures had been stabilized.
Service performed: Forensic Investigation / Analysis and design of façade repairs for this Historic structure.
Client: Spiegel Zamecnik & Shah, Inc. Structural Engineers.