State Project No. 2013-245

Washington State Legislative Building Dome / Access Stair Evaluation

State Capitol Campus, Olympia, WA

June 28, 2013

msgs architects

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Department of Labor & Industries

Olympia Fire Department

Washington State Patrol

Executive Summary

At the request of the Department of Enterprise Services (DES), MSGS Architects (MSGS), Lund Wright Opsahl Structural Engineers (LWO), and Matson Carlson & Associates Cost Estimators (MCA) have performed an evaluation of the safety in accessing the dome interior and lantern of the Washington State Legislative Building. Access to this area is restricted for maintenance purposes only and not open to the public. This report combines structural integrity, access limitations
The physical starting point for this evaluation is Level 4 extending up to and including the level of the cupola, and includes a three-part access stair configuration assessed for vertical loading.

Based on feasibility and structural analyses, the following modifications are recommended:

- Replace spiral staircase stabilizing anchors and attach new anchors for positive attachment of the stair stringers to the concrete and masonry walls.
- Continued monitoring of stairs for signs of structural distress every two to four years by a qualified structural engineer.

Process

Code Compliance. The architect has reviewed the dome/lantern access stairway particularly with regards to the IBC (International Building Code 2012 edition) Chapter 10 Means of Egress and Section 1009.12 Spiral Stairways. That Section permits spiral stairs as a *means of egress* only from spaces not more than 250 SF or not serving more than 5 occupants. Since spaces served by the subject stair, as in landings or view points, are all very small, the stairway would appear to comply with this requirement. Spiral stairs are also allowed serving galleries, catwalks or gridirons.

The spiral access stair has a dimension of 29 ½ inches from center post to outside edge of tread and has 12 treads and 13 risers per 270 degree rotation. The 270 degree rotation is followed by a 90 degree rotation which is the landing before the start of next set of risers. Each riser is 8 ¾ inches and landing to landing vertical dimension is 9 feet 6 inches. Each tread has a dimension at its outside edge of 12".

The IBC Section 1009.9 states "a *spiral stair* shall have a 7 ½ inch minimum clear tread depth at a point 12 inches from the narrow edge." With the stair geometry described above, tread depth at the 12 inch point is only about 5 ½ inch and does not meet the minimum tread depth requirement.

The code section states "The risers shall be sufficient to provide headroom of 78 inches minimum, but riser height shall not be more the 9 ½ inches." The stairway does meet both of these requirements. It also says "The minimum *stairway* clear width at and below the *handrail* shall be 26". With the tread width dimension of 29 ½ inches and with handrails inboard of the end of the treads, this requirement is barely met. However there are numerous locations where handrails have been moved or bent inward to allow for added structural bracing in the stair shaft. At these locations, the stairway does not meet the final requirement.

Another reference code applicable to the Legislative Building dome stairway is the IEBC (International Existing Building Code 2012 edition). It has at least two sections that apply to this stairway:

- Division 4 Prescriptive Compliance, Section 403.1 Alterations, exception 1 states "An existing stairway shall not be required to comply with the requirements of IBC Section 1009 where the existing space and construction does not allow reduction in pitch or slope."
- Division 12 Historic Buildings, Section 1203.3 Means of Egress states "Existing door openings and corridor and stairway widths less than those specified elsewhere in this code may be approved, provided that, in the opinion of the *code official*. There is sufficient width and height for a person to pass through the opening or traverse the means of egress."

Per these IBC and IEBC requirements and the deficiencies noted above, it is the opinion of this architect that the stairway and dome access area should not be open to the general public or to limited public, but be limited to strictly approved maintenance personnel or individuals. Current access approval procedures should be maintained. A maximum of 5 persons would be allowed in the dome access area at any one time.

Structural Evaluation. LWO approached the analyses by looking at the three stairs individually. A computer model was developed to theoretically depict the spiral staircase, and analyzed applying various load conditions. On-site observations included deflection and anchorage identification, movement of stairs while in use, and ease of movement by individuals when using the stairs.

Historic Significance. The wrought iron staircase was first evaluated for its structural integrity to establish the extent of modifications. The impact on historical significance and aesthetics by the recommended modifications are minimal. Additional safety rails not only would detract from the historical statement but would not contribute to added safety measures due to the very limited space and access for implementation.

DES has further requested review and comments from the various governing agencies to address security, confined space access, and recovery of individuals for emergency access and egress. This information continues to be collected and will be included as amendments to this report.

Security. The Washington State Patrol recommends restriction of the subject area to strictly approved maintenance personnel or individuals with specific approval to view the structure for a stated reason. The area is not to be open to the general public. Operational procedures will continue to provide the necessary security to prevent access to the dome/lantern area. DES has requested comment from the Washington State Patrol, to be provided in an amendment to this report. Notification or logging-in should be required when anyone is in the dome area doing maintenance or other work.

Confined Space. DES provided an excerpt from a document addressing work in confined spaces. The document titled "Confined Space Procedure Manual" dated December 18, 2009 was utilized during the 2001-02 renovation of the Legislative Building and has been adopted by Buildings and Grounds as a guide for executing maintenance on the building. The two-page excerpt is included in this report in the Appendices. DES has requested comment from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, to be provided in an amendment to this report.

Recovery of Individuals Needing Assistance. The Olympia Fire Department performed an on-site walk-through of the dome/lantern area and provided comment on emergency access and egress. OFD concurs with the restrictions for access by the public due to the limited space available to maneuver and assist in the recovery of individuals physically unable to exit the area on their own.

Recommendations

The recommendation stated above in the executive summary is the only physical modification proposed as a result of this evaluation. Operational measures must be enforced for a complete life safety plan for the dome/lantern area. Furthermore, obtaining comment from the Washington State Patrol on security procedures, and from the Department of Labor and Industries to provide procedural guidelines for worker safety will assist in providing a complete, executable evaluation.

Budgetary Cost Estimate

Matson Carlson & Associates' budgetary cost estimate considered implementation of recommended physical modifications as publicly bid and as a negotiated bid, limited access to work areas, and premium for time of bidding. In summary, it is estimated that publicly bid would yield a cost of work at approximately $8,000 compared to a negotiated contract of approximately $12,000. A detailed cost breakdown is included in this report, dated 6/17/2013.

LUND WRIGHT OPSAHL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

June 28, 2013

MSGS Architects
510 Capitol Way South
Olympia, WA 98501

ATTN: Thomas Sanford, AIA

Subject: Washington State Legislative Building, Olympia, WA
Dome/Lantern Access Stairs Evaluation

Mr. Sanford,

Per your request, please find the following letter report summarizing our structural observations and recommendations regarding the Washington State Legislative Building (WSLB) Upper Rotunda access stairs (Level 4 to the Lantern), located in Olympia, Washington. For associated photos and details see Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

Introduction

The construction of the Washington State Legislative Building (Photo 1.1) began in 1923, with completion of the dome and stairs in 1926. The stairs have performed adequately since that time and, until recently, were open to use by the public.

The building has experienced strong seismic ground motion three times in its history: 1949 Olympia (M 7.1), 1965 SeaTac (M 6.7), and 2001 Nisqually (M 6.8) events. To the best of our knowledge the stairs performed adequately, although the structure around the stairs did experience cracking. Michael A. Wright, PE, SE, while a partner at Swenson Say Fagét, was the structural engineer of record for the repairs and rehabilitation following the 2001 Nisqually event and has continued his involvement with the various projects at the building since that time.

Scope of Work and Limitations

Our scope of work is limited to a preliminary structural evaluation and recommendation for improvements of the access stairs located in the Upper Rotunda between Level 4 and the Lantern for vertical loads (self-weight and occupant loads) Lateral analysis is limited to commenting on how to improve the operational movement under operating loads. The stairs were not analyzed for for seismic loads.

To our knowledge there are no original drawings of the prefabricated stairs; their characteristics were determined by simple observation and removal of selected cover materials. No in-situ testing and/or destructive probing of the existing structure was performed. Structural properties of the materials are based on information contained in ASCE 41-06 (*Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings*).

This report is intended for use by you and your client. The scope of services performed during the execution of this investigation may not be appropriate to satisfy the needs of other users, and any use or re-use of this document or the findings and recommendations presented herein is at the sole risk of said user. This evaluation does not represent a warranty or guarantee on the part of Lund Wright Opsahl LLC (LWO) that other problems, such as material decay, do not exist. LWO's professional services are performed using the degree of skill and care ordinarily exercised under similar circumstances by structural engineers practicing in this or similar localities. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional opinions included in this report.

Description and Observed Condition

The access stairs are best described in three parts, the spiral staircase (Photo 2.1), the arcing staircase (Photo 9.1), and the cantilever platform with spiral staircase atop (Photo 16.1). Each stair has been modified over time. The lower spiral staircase had a steel frame installed as part of the 1965 earthquake repairs (Photos 5.1 and 8.1) which greatly narrows the exit path. The arcing stairs added steel safety cage shrouds (Photo 13.1), and the cantilevered platform had steel cables installed (Photo 17.1). The access stairs have been determined by Legislative Facilities to be a "confined space" due to single point of access and the limited width of the spiral stairs, as such no public access is allowed. One of the goals of this study (to be performed by the architects) is determine whether the stairs could be re-opened to limited staff access.

The stairs are in fair to good structural condition, the main issue being loose anchor bolts between the spiral stairs and the masonry/concrete walls.

Dome/Lantern Access Stair Structural Evaluation

The three part stair system (spiral staircase, arcing staircase, and cantilever platform with spiral staircase atop) was analyzed for vertical self-weight and occupancy load. The design loads applied (100 psf uniform live load or 300 lb concentrated point live load) are consistent with current building codes for stairs and exit ways. No significant signs of structural distress such as bent plates, deformed treads, or cracking were observed in the stair structure.

1. Spiral Staircase

The cast iron spiral stairs (Photos 2.1 to 7.1) consist of 178 stacked treads that slide over a 4" (outside diameter) vertical pipe with bolts on the exterior side of the treads to provide continuity to hold them in place (Photo 6.1). A computer model was developed to theoretically depict the spiral staircase, representing a complete 360° spiral from landing to landing. This model was analyzed with various loading conditions to check the stresses in all components for worse case loading conditions. The performance of the system is adequate for the service load as described above, however there is observed movement of the stair as people transit up and down the stair. This movement is more of a nuisance and does not indicate the stairs have inadequate strength.

This movement is normally resisted by a system of bent plates and bolts that attach the stairs to the surrounding masonry and concrete walls (Photo 7.1). The stabilizing anchors were found in only one orthogonal direction and some anchors were entirely deficient (Photo 7.1). The spiral staircase space width is also impacted by the steel retrofit frames at mid-height (Photos 5.1 and 8.1) that were added as part of the post 1965 earthquake repairs.

2. **Arcing Stairs**

The arcing stairs (Photo 9.1 to 13.1) wrap around the concrete cone that supports the lantern and is located between the inner and outer domes. It starts at the top of the spiral stairs at the base of the cone and continues to an elevation of approximately 8 feet below the lantern. The cast iron arcing stairs are braced with triangular steel frames (Photos 10.1 and 11.1) at the landings (Photo 12.1) and at mid-flight between landings. The triangular steel frames and their through-bolt plated anchors were analyzed and found to be structurally sufficient. The arcing stairs have a steel shroud cage (Photo 13.1) installed around each side of the stairs which has minimal structural effect on the stairs. The arching stairs are adequate for reference loading.

3. **Cantilever Platform with Spiral Staircase**

The cantilever platform with spiral staircase atop (Photos 14.1 to 18.1) is located at the top of the cone roughly 8 feet below the elevation of the lantern. The cantilever platform consists of channels with steel grating (Photo 14.1) and is supported by the concrete cone and by tension rods embedded into the concrete cone above (Photo 18.1). Steel cables were previously added to support the platform vertically and reduce the lateral operating sway (Photo 17.1). The platform is structurally adequate for service loading.

Resting on the cantilever platform is a short section of spiral stair identical to the lower spiral stair. This stair provides access to the Lantern (Photo 16.1). Based on the analysis of the lower spiral staircase this staircase is adequate for service loading.

<u>Recommendations</u>

1. In order to enhance the performance of the stairs, we recommend replacing the spiral staircase stabilizing anchors and adding new anchors per Details 1-3. This will reduce the lateral motion of the stairs.

2. We also recommend that the stairs continue to be monitored for signs of structural distress every two to four years by a qualified structural engineer.

LUND WRIGHT OPSAHL

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this project. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

Michael A. Wright, PE, SE
Principal
Lund Wright Opsahl LLC

Attachment: Appendix A - Photos
Appendix B - Details

Appendix A
Photos

Appendix A – Photos


Photo 1.1


Photo 2.1


Photo 3.1


Photo 4.1


Photo 5.1


Photo 6.1

Appendix A – Photos


Photo 7.1


Photo 8.1

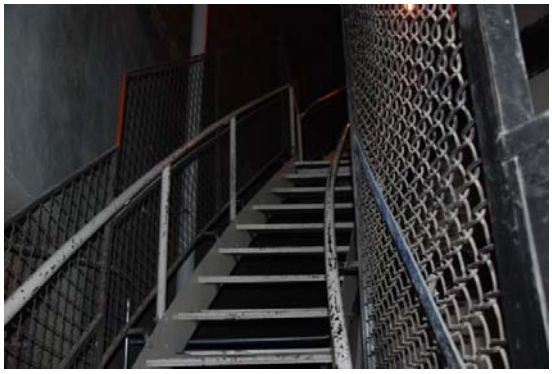


Photo 9.1


Photo 10.1


Photo 11.1


Photo 12.1

Appendix A – Photos


Photo 13.1


Photo 14.1


Photo 15.1

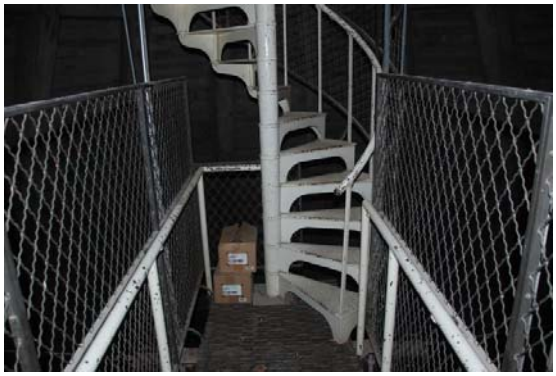
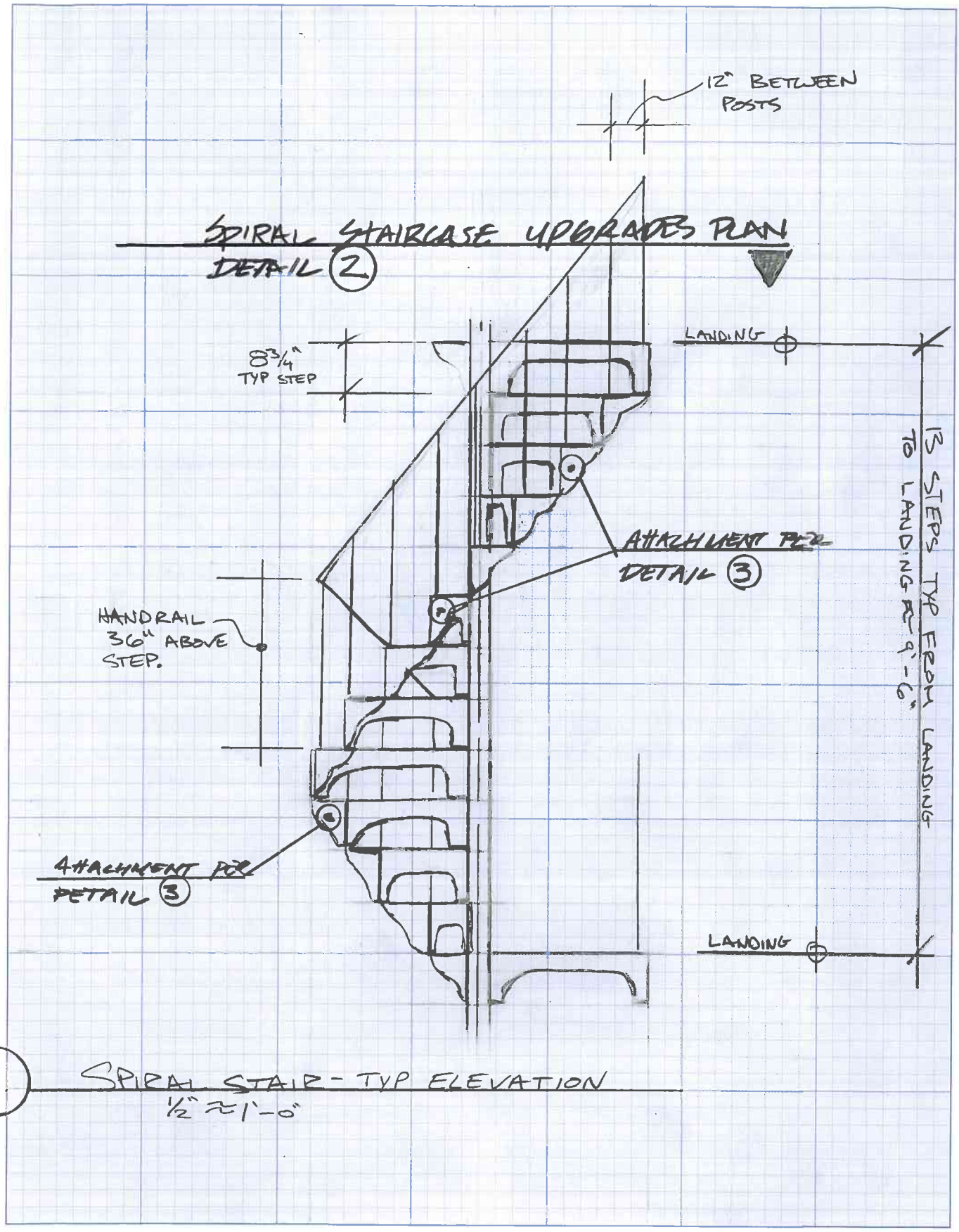


Photo 16.1


Photo 17.1


Photo 18.1

Appendix B
Details



(1) SPIRAL STAIR - TYP ELEVATION
½" = 1'-0"

LUND WRIGHT OPSAHL
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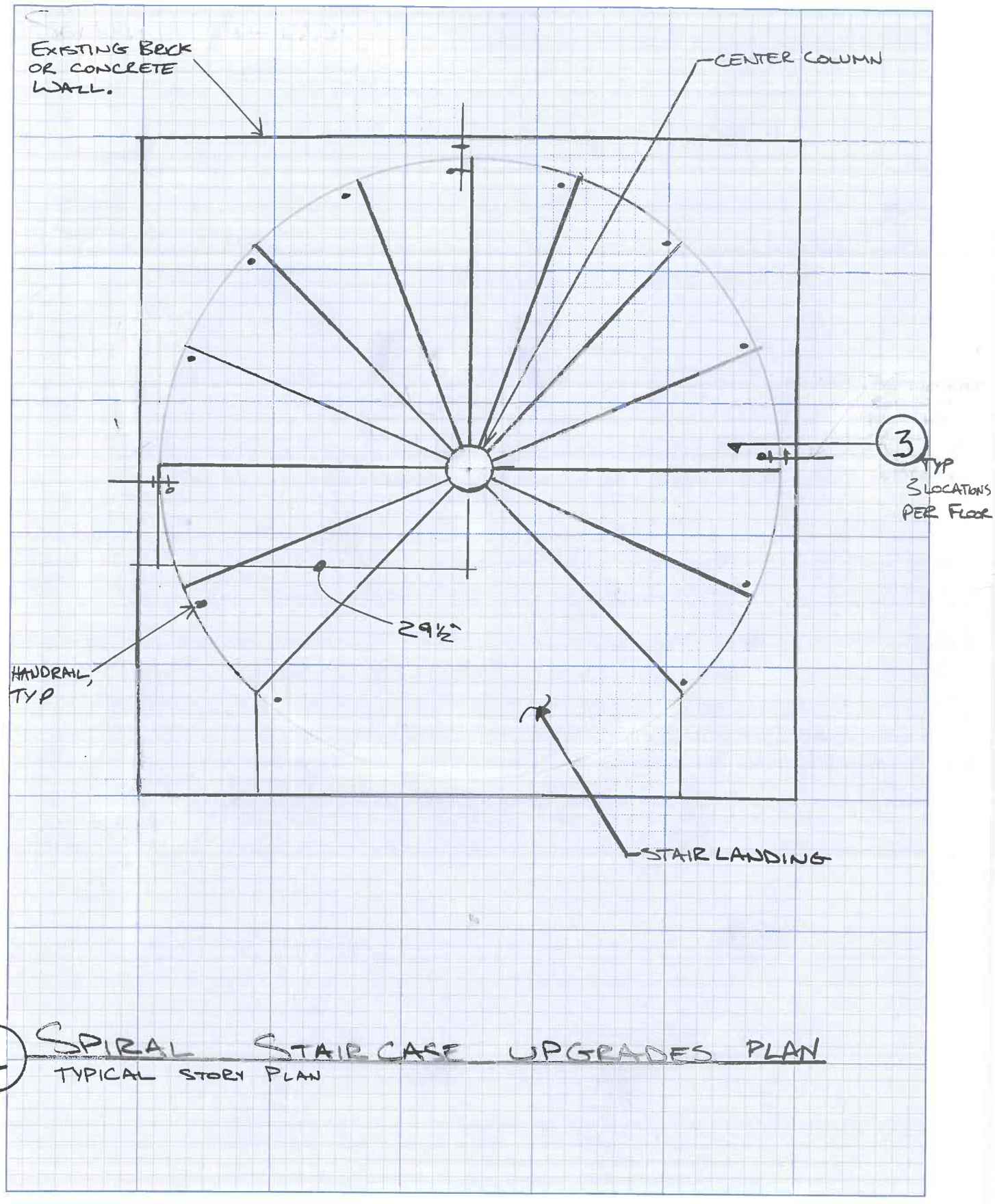
Project WSLB - SPIRAL STAIR
APPENDIX B — DETAIL (1)

Project No.

Date 5/23

Designer BJ

Sheet 9



2 SPIRAL STAIR CASE UPGRADES PLAN

TYPICAL STORY PLAN

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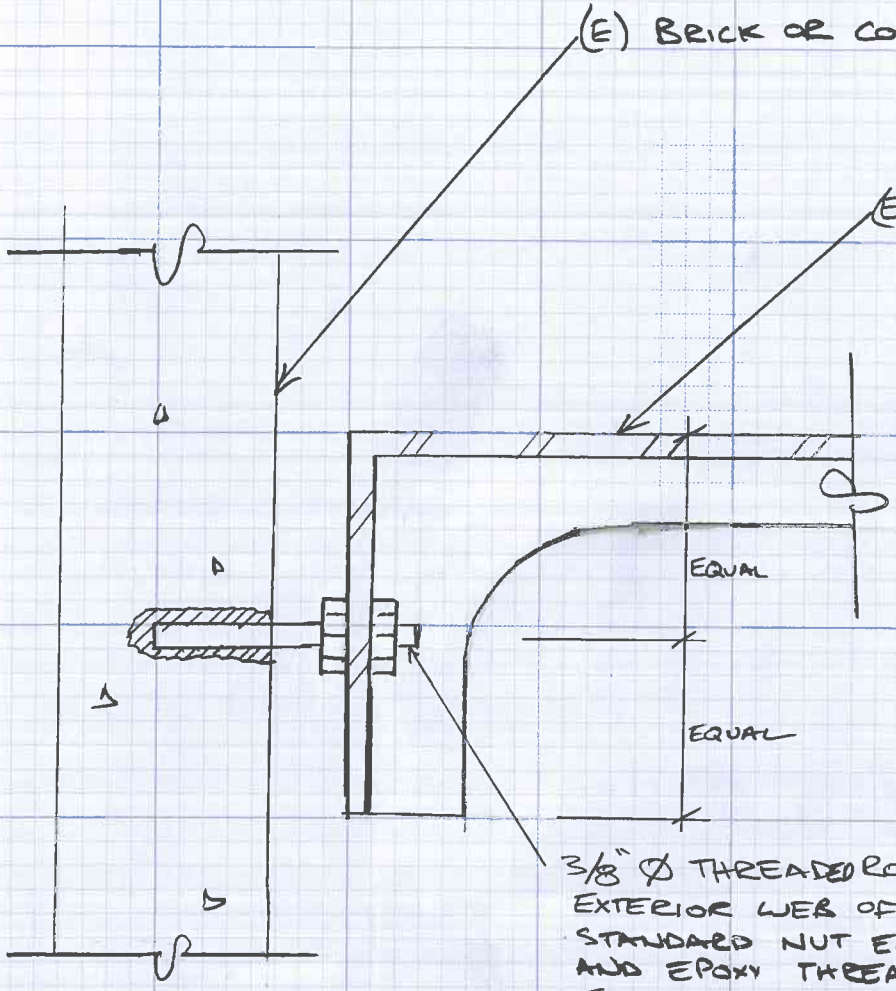
Project WSLB - STAIR
APPENDIX B - DETAIL 2

Project No.

Date 5/20

Designer BJ

Sheet 10



(3) SECTION - STAIRCASE REINFORCEMENT

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Project WSLB - STAIR

APPENDIX B — DETAIL (3)

Project No.

Date 5/20

Designer BJ

Sheet 11

Budgetary Cost Estimate

By Matson-Carlson Associates,
dated 6/17/2013

Legislative Bldg Spiral Stair Structural Upgrades — MSGS Architects

Capital Campus — Matson Carlson & Associates, Estimating

Budgetary Cost Estimate — 6/17/2013

Item/Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Sub-Total	TOTAL
OPTION 1: Competitive Public Bid					
note: very difficult to access work areas, not more than 2 people can work in any particular area at one time					
Remove existing anchors as required		NIC		$0	
Drill through existing steel web support plate	41	EA	20.00	$820	
Drill 3" into existing masonry	41	EA	25.00	$1,025	
Clean & epoxy grout threaded rod site	41	EA	20.00	$820	
3/8" dia threaded rod w/nut each side	41	EA	38.00	$1,558	
Sub-Total Raw Costs				$4,223	$4,223
General Contractor's Mob/demob, Gen cond's, Bonding, insurance, etc.				LS	$2,000
Contingency for Design			20%		$1,245
If bid during late May through September add			10%		
Escalation to bid			NIC		
TOTAL Cost @ Bid Today					$7,468
Suggest using:					$8,000

Item/Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Sub-Total	TOTAL
OPTION 2: Negotiated Bid					
Remove existing anchors as required		NIC		$0	
Drill through existing steel web support plate	41	EA	25.00	$1,025	
Drill 3" into existing masonry	41	EA	35.00	$1,435	
Clean & epoxy grout threaded rod site	41	EA	30.00	$1,230	
3/8" dia threaded rod w/nut each side	41	EA	40.00	$1,640	
Sub-Total Raw Costs				$5,330	$5,330
General Contractor's Mob/demob, Gen cond's, Bonding, insurance, etc.				LS	$3,400
Contingency for Design			25%		$2,183
If bid during late May through September add			20%		
Escalation to bid			NIC		
TOTAL Cost @ Bid Today					$10,913
Suggest using:					$12,000

Additional Appendices

Excerpt from Western Construction Group
'Corporate Loss Control Policy Manual' on Confined Space Entry,
dated December 18, 2009

Legislative Building Interior Dome Access Policy
(effective date 2/14/11)

E. CONFINED SPACE ENTRY

A confined space is an enclosure with known or potential hazards which may restrict egress to such a degree that a person would have difficulty escaping from such a space in an emergency.

Each location of confined space will have and enforce procedures for safe entry and exit. The information listed below is a brief summary of the corporate *Confined Space Procedure Manual.* As soon as it is determined that we may be involved in a confined space job, refer to this manual and/or contact the Corporate Safety Department for assistance.

1. **Confined Space Determination**

   Definition: A tank, vessel, silo, vault, pit, open topped space more than 4 feet deep, pipeline, duct, sewer, tunnel which

   a. has limited means of egress and/or

   b. is not designated for continuous employee occupancy, and/or

   c. has one or more of the following characteristics:

      - Less than 19.5% oxygen
      - Flammable/combustible/explosive atmospheres present or able to be generated or able to enter the area
      - Toxic atmosphere present or able to be generated or able to enter the area
      - Not protected against entry of water, gas, sand, gravel, ore, grain, coal, radiation, corrosive chemicals or any other substance which could trap, suffocate or harm a person
      - Poor ventilation
      - Restricted entry for rescue purposes

2. **Permit Classifications** – A confined space will be either a:

   a. Permit Required Confined Space – When the hazards of the space cannot be eliminated through engineering controls. (This includes confined spaces where the employees are required to continuously wear respirators.)

   b. Non-Permit Required Confined Space – When no identifiable atmospheric hazards are present or all identifiable hazards have been eliminated through engineered controls.

3. **Confined Space Profile Sheet** – This can be useful in identifying the scope and hazards of the job and determining additional costs for completing the job.

4. **Site-Specific Confined Space Entry Program** – This must be written for every confined space job and available on the job site.

5. **Training** – Train all personnel involved in the project **prior** to entry of the confined space.

   a. Training Check List – This provides a list of topics to be covered and documented.

   b. Confined Space Training Card – This is issued to employees who have been trained.

6. **Rescue Team Arrangement** – Following is a list of potential teams, one of which should be prearranged. Note that an **attendant** and alternate attendant should be identified.

   - Western (in-house) rescue team
   - Owner's or general contractor's rescue team
   - Contracted rescue team
   - Local emergency medical system

7. **Security Measures** – Procedures to be considered include:

   a. Barricades/fencing
   b. Limited admittance
   c. Unauthorized entry to area
   d. Recordkeeping

8. **Testing of Confined Space Atmosphere** – Testing is to be performed by a competent person and documented. Types of tests are initial, prior to entry and periodic.

9. **Other Considerations** – Refer to the corporate Confined Space Procedure Manual for more details on:

   a. Postings/hazard signs
   b. Materials – Postings and storage
   c. Tools and equipment – Types to be used and function tests
   d. Personal protective equipment
   e. Communication methods
   f. Ventilation/inerting
   g. Emergency and ventilation system failure procedures
   h. Monitoring
   i. Recordkeeping

Legislative Building Interior Dome Access Policy

Purpose Statement:
The purpose of this policy is to provide for the safety and protection of people that access the interior dome spaces of the Legislative Building Dome.

Without exception, this policy applies to everyone.

Action:	Revision of existing policy dated May 15, 2007
Effective Date:	February 14, 2011
Owner:	Facilities Division
Review Cycle:	3 years
Approved By:	/s/ Joyce Turner Director

Policy Content

Policy

We have designated the following areas as confined space and restrict access to these areas under the requirements of this policy:

- Interior dome stairwell – 4th floor to cupola;
- Interior dome elevator – 4th floor to 8th floor; and
- All areas beyond including the catacomb areas of the 7th floor of Legislative Building

Access to these areas is restricted to Department of General Administration (GA) employees for official business directly related to maintenance, preservation, or security. Access by others is strictly limited to:

- With our prior authorization, other state agency personnel or contractors for official business directly related to maintenance, preservation, or security;
- Emergency response personnel.

GA employees that violate this policy may be disciplined. Disciplinary action may include dismissal.

Other state personnel that violate this policy may be identified in a letter of concern from GA's Director or designee to their agency head. The letter will list the specific violations. In addition, we will inform the Department of Labor & Industries, Division of Occupational Safety and Health as appropriate.

Contractors that violate this policy may be suspended or debarred from bidding for work in the restricted areas. In addition, we will inform the Department of Labor & Industries, Division of Occupational Safety and Health as appropriate.

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1. **We require that all direct access points to the restricted areas shall be strictly controlled via card-key.**

   At a minimum, we will control access by card-key at the following access points:

   - 4th floor doorway to the interior dome spiral staircase;
   - 4th floor doorway to the interior dome maintenance elevator;
   - 5th floor doorway to the interior dome spiral staircase.

   We will provide card-key access to GA's Legislative Building Manager. You must obtain permission from GA's Legislative Building Manager in order to access the restricted areas for official business directly related to maintenance, preservation, or security.

   For emergency purposes; we will provide card key access to GA's Assistant Director of Facilities, the Washington State Patrol and the Olympia Fire Department. You are not required to obtain access permission for emergency response.

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2. **You must follow GA's Confined Space Entry Program when you access the restricted areas.**

   In addition to GA's Confined Space Entry Program, you must also follow these safety and security measures:

   a. You are not allowed alone in the restricted areas unless you are a journey-level tradesperson.
   b. You must receive entrance training at a level adapted to suit the purpose and objective of your visit.

      Your entrance training may consist of full Confined Spaces Training, but at a minimum will include reading and understanding a warning notice about the strenuous climb, narrow stairs, heights, and designated confined spaces.

      We will post the warning notice and a copy of this policy inside the 4th floor access points to the stairwell and elevator and the 5th and 7th floor access points to the stairwell.

c. A GA Building and Grounds employee will accompany you, and will contact the Customer Service Center to inform dispatch personnel when you enter and again when you have exited the restricted areas.

d. Your escorts and our maintenance personnel will carry a flashlight and a radio when entering the restricted areas.

e. Your work group size will be limited to no more than five persons including your escort.

f. You must wear soft soled, non-skid shoes. Slick soles shoes or high heels are prohibited.

g. You are prohibited from bringing briefcases, packages, backpacks or purses into the restricted areas.

Exception: Containers necessary to carry tools, equipment or supplies required by maintenance personnel, contractors or emergency response are allowed.

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Related requirements and information

- State rule – Chapter 296-809 WAC Confined Spaces
- GA program – Confined Space Entry Program
- Executive Summary: Issues regarding access to the interior dome

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Forms and instructions

- GA form – Confined Space Entry Permit

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Definitions

- *Official business* means the responsibilities and duties assigned to an employee of the state for the execution of his or her job.
- *Confined space* means a space that is all of the following:
  - Large enough and arranged so that an employee could fully enter the space and work;
  - Has limited or restricted entry or exit. Some examples are tanks, silos, and vaults.
  - Not primarily designed for human occupancy.

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History

Amended:
February 14, 2011 - Key changes to this policy include adding consequences for policy violations and clearly identifying secured access points. In addition, the policy was transitioned to the current policy format.

Supersedes:
Prior versions of this policy and its attachments

Original Effective Date:
May 15, 2007

To obtain a copy of a historical policy, e-mail the GA Policy Office at policy@ga.wa.gov

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POLICY FEEDBACK

Did this Policy successfully answer your questions? Please send your comments to policy@ga.wa.gov.

Dear :

I appreciate your inquiry about access to the Capitol Dome and your interest in being able to further share the beauty of our State Capitol. After our conversation, I met with representatives from the state Department of Labor and Industries and Office of Risk Management as to the possibilities of access for legislative members and their guests.

Both Labor and Industries and the Olympia Fire Department assessed the space in the past. As you may know, the stair case to the dome cupola is both narrow and very steep. It is a strenuous climb and requires an individual be in good health. In 2003 as the building was being retrofitted for seismic safety, the openings on the seventh floor through which an individual accessing the cupola would have to pass were narrowed.

Labor and Industries in its assessment declared that (the catacomb area) this area is a "confined space" as defined in WAC 296-809-100, which means that although it is large enough for an employee to enter and work, it has a restricted entry/exit and is not primarily designed for human occupancy. Further, Labor and Industries determined the space is dangerous when hazards are introduced into the area. The assessment indicated access to the dome needs to be restricted to authorized confined space trained staff to do necessary work in the dome.

Under certain circumstances, the area meets the criteria for "permit-required confined space" as defined in WAC 296-809-20002. WAC 296-809-20004 requires us to "take effective measures to prevent unauthorized employees from entering permit required confined spaces". Additional WACs require us not to use spiral stairways except as a secondary route and provide a minimum of two exit routes for employees.

The Olympia Fire Department in its inspection advised us that they could not use a fireman's rescue technique in this space nor could they assist an injured party by using a gurney. The Fire Department simply made it clear to us that they would not have a safe way to assist an injured party or worker down from this area.

Risk Management when asked about the possibility of waivers and state liability mentioned that if I was aware of these issues and still allowed people access that it might be considered a "willful violation". Even with a waiver it would be unclear if the state would be released from harm. Knowing this information, I would be derelict in my responsibilities if I allowed access to the cupola to any persons but required, trained and authorized workers.

Enterprise Services emphasizes safety as one of our key operating principles for the Capitol Campus. With over 300,000 visitors each year we are mindful of the responsibilities we have for stewardship and keeping the buildings and grounds a healthy and safe place to visit. It is for all of these reasons that I find that I must say no to your request.

While I am not able to give you the answer you were hoping for, I appreciate being able to provide you with this information. Please let me know if there is anything further I may provide.

Regards,

Joyce Turner

Acting Director