

Deller Conservation

Conservation Services for Historical & Artistic Objects

August 30, 2016

Board of Park Commissioners
City of Madison, WI

Executive Summary: Annie C Stewart Fountain

As I submit this report on the condition and proposed future of the Annie C Stewart Memorial Fountain, I would like to stress a few factors:

- The concrete is severely deteriorated from age and the elements.
- Numerous attempts at “maintenance” have rendered much of the decoration as unreadable.
- It is this conservators opinion that the concrete structure be taken down and re-built with new materials following the original design and plans.
- The decorative elements will preserved, remade, and incorporated into the new structure.
- This project should be broken into two separate phases,
 1. First being the removal of the marble figures (mermaid, dolphin, etc) to be treated as outlined, then rubber molds made of the decorative elements (i.e, flora bas-relief, shells) for recasting. Since the earlier maintenance attempts made the bas-relief elements unreadable, new castings will need to be detailed.
 2. A separate contractor be hired for the demolition and re-building of the base. The contractor will be working independently of the conservator, but in complete coordination with the re-building and replacement of the decorative elements.
- It is recommended that the first phase be implemented by November 1st 2016 to prevent another harsh winter continuing the deterioration. And an RFQ for the concrete contractor be issued as soon as possible.
- The missing Triton figure will need to be located at which time a treatment plan can be created and re-incorporated into the design of the new structure and park design.
- It is recommended that the original (or duplicate) architectural drawings of the 1920’s fountain be located to be used as the blueprint for the re-construction. This will save money as well as guarantee accuracy in the re-built base.
- It is also recommended that this is an opportunity to move the fountain/sculpture/public art to higher ground in Vilas Park, near the existing Native burial mounds. This will help prevent further vandalism, be more visually acceptable for the public and away from foliage.

Respectfully submitted

Craig Deller
Conservator