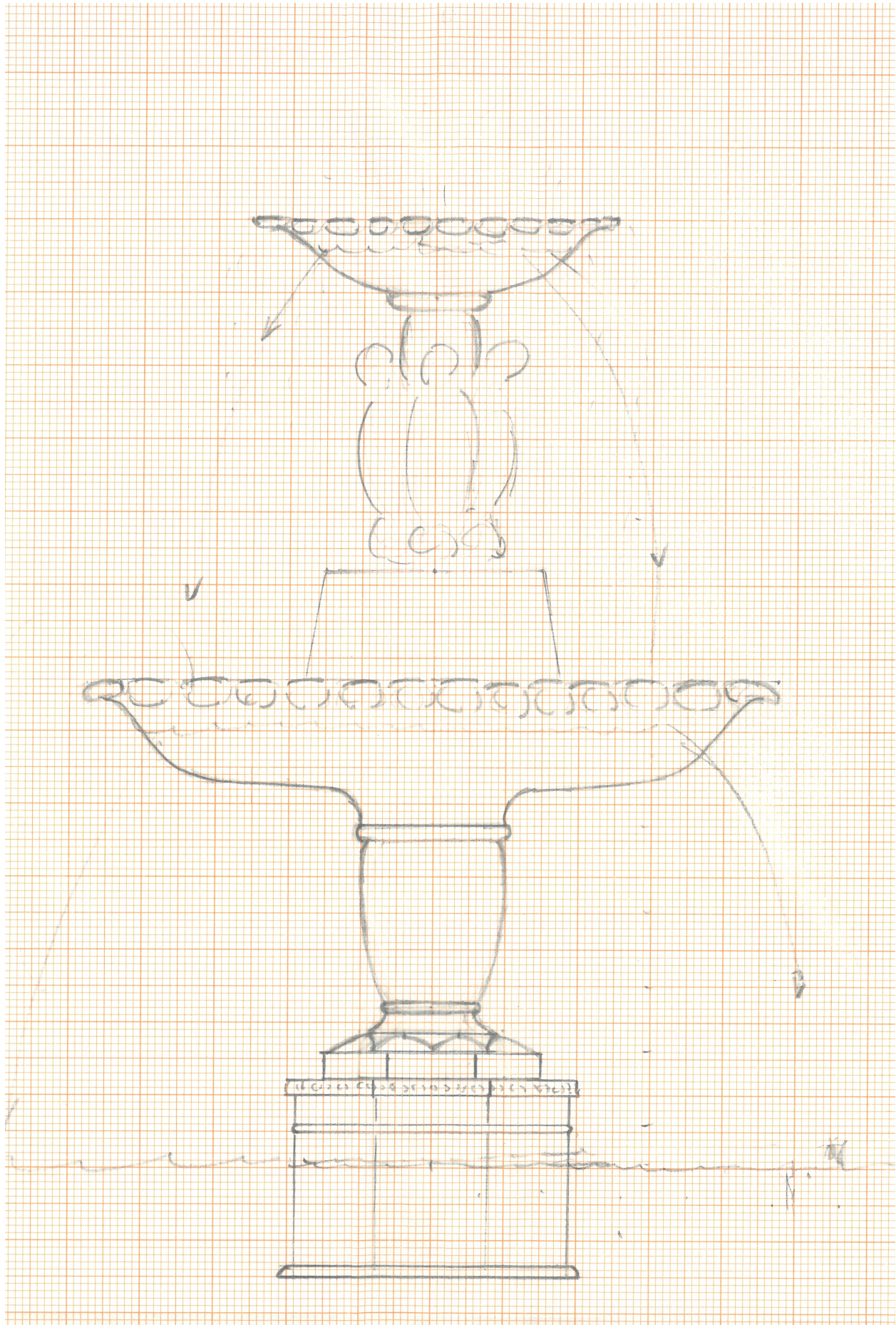


The Vasbinder Fountain

Summarizing the restoration done in 1978 and consolidating additional findings.



Blair McClenathan
City of Mansfield Engineering Department
January, 27 2023
Rev 1.2

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HISTORY OF THE VASBINDER FOUNTAIN

Blair McClenathan

The Vasbinder fountain is the public monument that has been through the most trauma here in the City of Mansfield. It took four years to decide on a design, it became completely at risk during the cut-through in 1958, and it hasn't been through a complete and proper restoration after its initial installation on July 4th, 1881.

The inspiration in 1871

Let's start at the beginning of the Vasbinder's life, to find what the nucleus of the city's want for a fountain may have been. On October 12th, 1871, The Mansfield Herald ran a story about the Davidson Fountain, one that still stands in downtown Cincinnati. It's a fountain that was described as "a grand and beautiful work of art that will draw to it

thousands of frequent visitors to all whom its beautiful proportions will convey refined feelings and to many high aspirations either in art itself or for the power to confer upon the public some such worthy gift which shall be a memento of themselves". Although there is no direct tie between the two fountains, it seems more than convenient that local grumblings for a fountain started soon after the installation of the Davidson Fountain.

Continuing to August 8th, 1877, an article published in The Ohio Liberal talks about the designs of the fountain for the park; "a beautiful design of a fountain for the City Park is on exhibition in the drugstore of Perkins Bigelow. Some of our enterprising citizens are determined that a beautiful fountain shall be erected in the park and have taken considerable pains to procure a design of the same. We hope our public-spirited citizens will come to the front in this undertaking believing that if a fountain is placed in the park free of all expense to the taxpayers of the city that the Council will then re-

move the old fence around the park and otherwise improve this long-neglected spot.”

The Vasbinders in 1881

Now finally arriving to action, siblings David and Jane Vasbinder donated the fountain in secrecy, at a cost of \$2,500 or \$1,200 depending on who you ask (\$73,000 or \$35,000 respectively in today's money), which regardless of the price is a very generous gift. According to the June 23rd, 1881, edition of The Mansfield Herald, the fountain was procured from the J.L. Mott Ironworks by a Mr. Peter Ott on behalf of the Vasbinders and was shipped by train on June 14th, 1881. According to the same article, the fountain weighs three tons and rises eighteen feet, the larger of the two basins has a diameter of nine feet six inches and the upper bowl has a diameter of five feet. None of these specifications seem to be an exaggeration in the slightest.

Removed to Malabar in 1958

For 77 years the fountain stood in Central Park, at the heart of Central Park to be specific, until December 17th, 1958, when the fountain was removed to continue work on the cut through. The fountain was taken to Malabar farm where “Friends of the Land hoped to have it bubbling again soon”, unfortunately this never appeared to have happened. All hope was not lost however and in 1977 there was a large push to bring the fountain back downtown. This was not without opposition. One notable Opponent of the work was Councilman Robert Boling who was quoted as saying “the fountain is a piece of scrap that should be taken to a local junkyard”, luckily this did not happen.

Returned to Central Park in 1978

Work was slow bringing the fountain back, with plans beginning to be drawn up October 20th, 1978, after being approved by the director of public service. This work included excavating a flower bed and tearing up sidewalks to make room for a new basin and walkway around the fountain. Interestingly the fountain is not plumbed in the same way as it would have been when first installed. In 1881 the fountain would have been directly tied to the city's waterworks, having a typical gate valve to turn off

and on the fountain. Because there would always be a steady supply of new water coming in the old water would just flow out through some overflow structure, the new system is such that the pool at the bottom of the fountain is filled to a little over three feet and then the water is recirculated using a pump donated by the Gorman Rupp company.



Renovation

Because the fountain sat at Malabar Farm so long, it needed a complete restoration; the bowls were rusted with paint chipping and it needed general repair. This was undertaken by the Mike Volk company which started work in July of 1978 and completed in December of 1978. Unfortunately, reinforcing rods were added which marred its originality. But that and other minor issues can be corrected, judging by the restoration of other J. L. Mott fountains around the country in recent years.

In the next newsletter we'll have an assessment of its present condition and what the experts have to say about its restoration

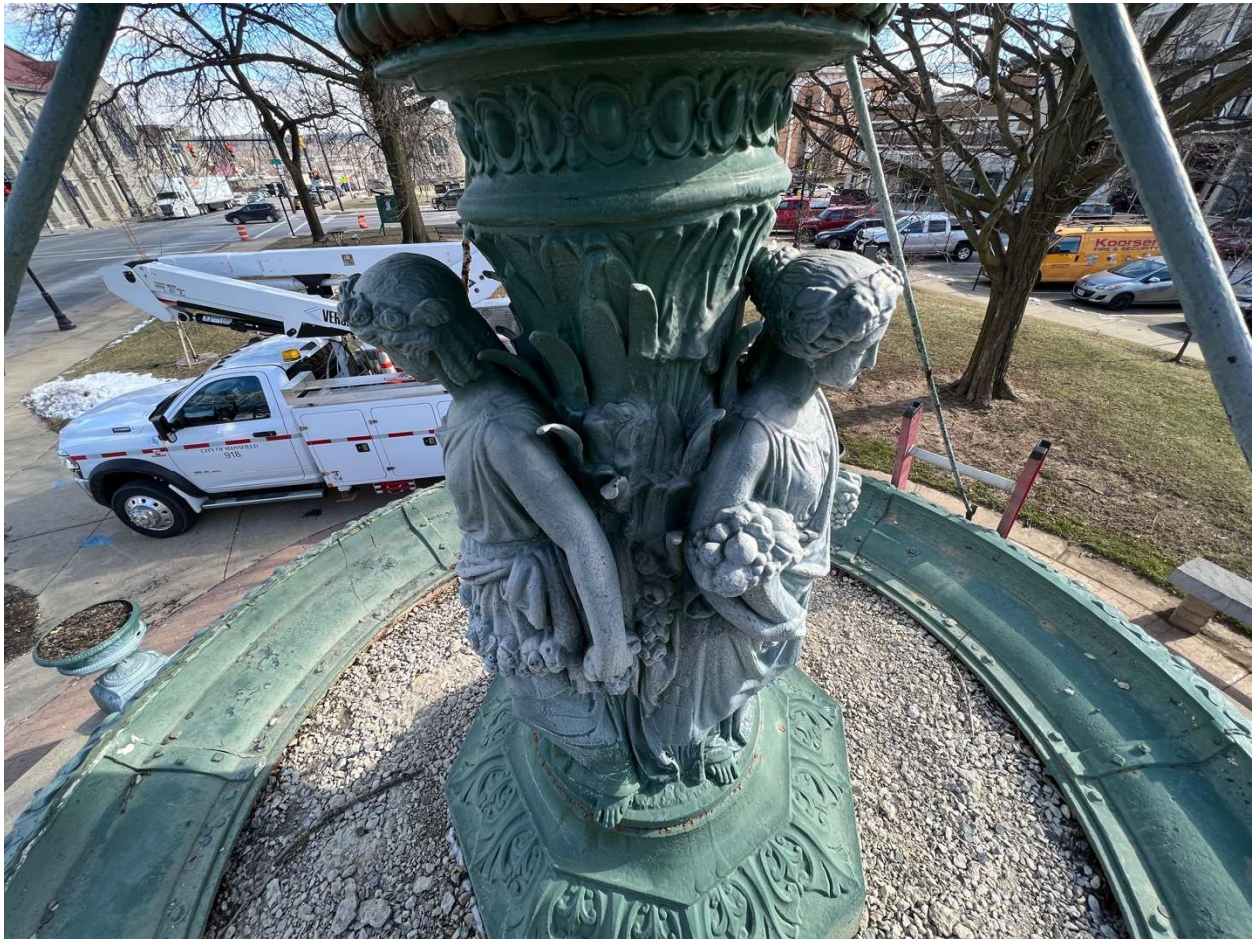
Areas of concern identified

1. The fountain has rusting on the lower bowl and pedestal along with major fading of the paint throughout the whole fountain.
2. There is a large lateral crack that has gone through the entire outer section of the lower larger bowl. This crack seems to be contained to one of the sections and appears to be stable.
3. There are braces that were installed as part of a restoration that was done locally in the 70's and appear to either be useless or are there to stabilize the upper small bowl from wind forces.
4. The lower large bowl has been filled with concrete, our concern that this was done to counteract pitting/ thinning in the lower bowl that may have occurred due to neglect.
5. The top statue (recast by the Robinson Iron Works in 1993 in aluminum) does not seem to be installed properly.
6. Missing bolt covers and embellishments on the lower bowl along with a damaged access panel.

Lateral crack through this section of the lower 9' bowl from both sides of the fountain



Lower 9' bowl filled with concrete



Top statue mounting does not seem to be correct



Fading on center statues



Staining on upper bowl



Braces from the upper to lower bowl



Missing embellishments on lower bowl



Rusting on lower pedestal



Damaged access door



Thursday, May 31, 1979 News Journal, Mansfield, O.

City rushes work on Vasbinder Fountain

The city park department is racing to get Central Park's Vasbinder Fountain in working order by the time of the Miss Ohio Scholarship Pageant.

The fountain is in the last stages of reconstruction with plumbing still to be connected and landscaping yet to be completed around the fountain's bowl.

An eight-foot-wide concrete sidewalk has been laid around the perimeter of the fountain, and joining of existing sidewalks to the fountain area is expected to be finished by June 10-16, the date of the pageant.

Some pageant festivities will take place in Central Park, with an arts and crafts tent to be set up on the south side and entertainment planned for the band-shell area.

Park superintendent Jeff Kellner said nearly 3,500 flowers have been planted

in the park and many are expected to bloom around pageant time.

Volunteer help has been instrumental in getting the park ready, he said. Kellner said he is crossing his fingers that the fountain will be working by the start of the Miss Ohio pageant.



Vasbinder Fountain taking shape

Workmen guide a section of the Vasbinder Fountain onto its base Tuesday afternoon. The structure had to be reassembled using a crane. Observers on the square said the fountain's bright mint green was very close to the original color. Plans now call for work on the project to halt until spring, when the water lines will be connected and the fountain will be stocked with live plants and goldfish. (Photo by Jeff Sprang)

Board of Park Commissioners

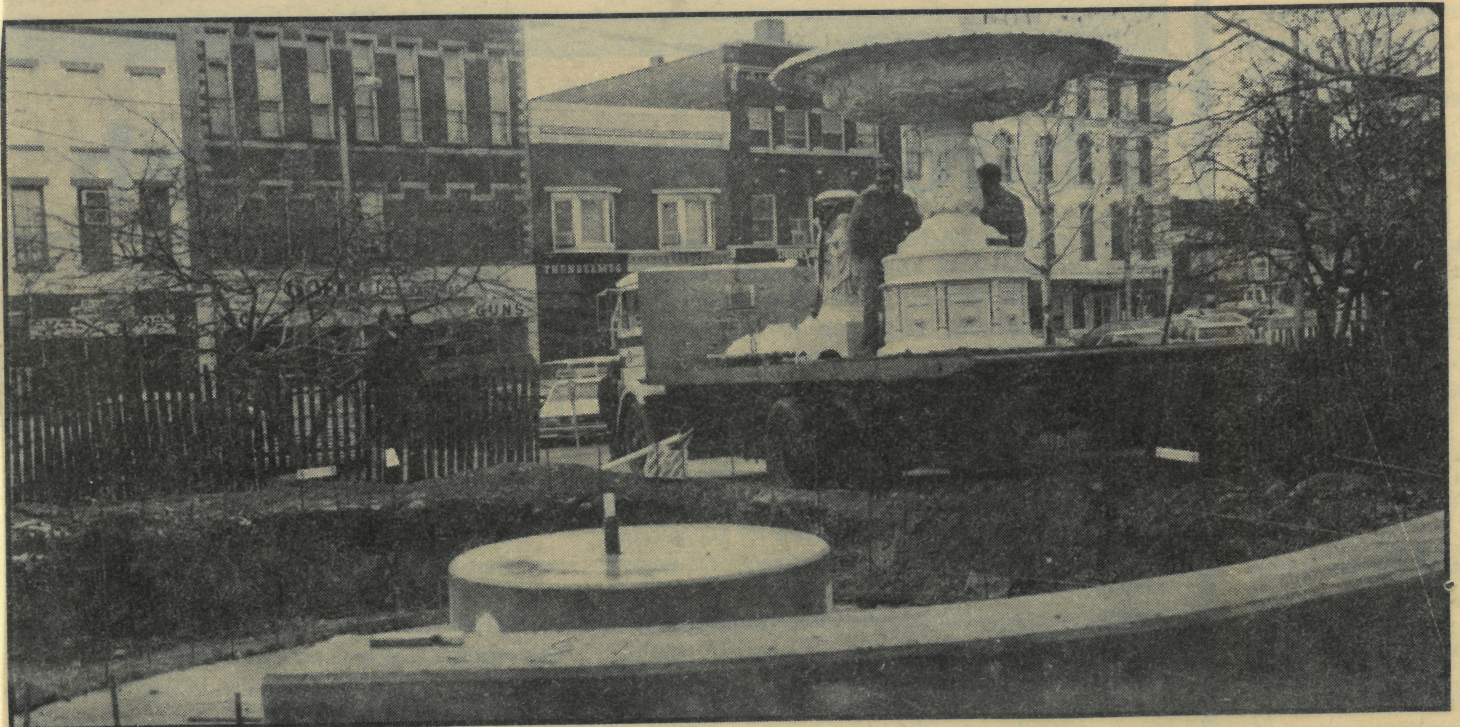
City of Mansfield — City Building

Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Jeff Kellner — Park Superintendent

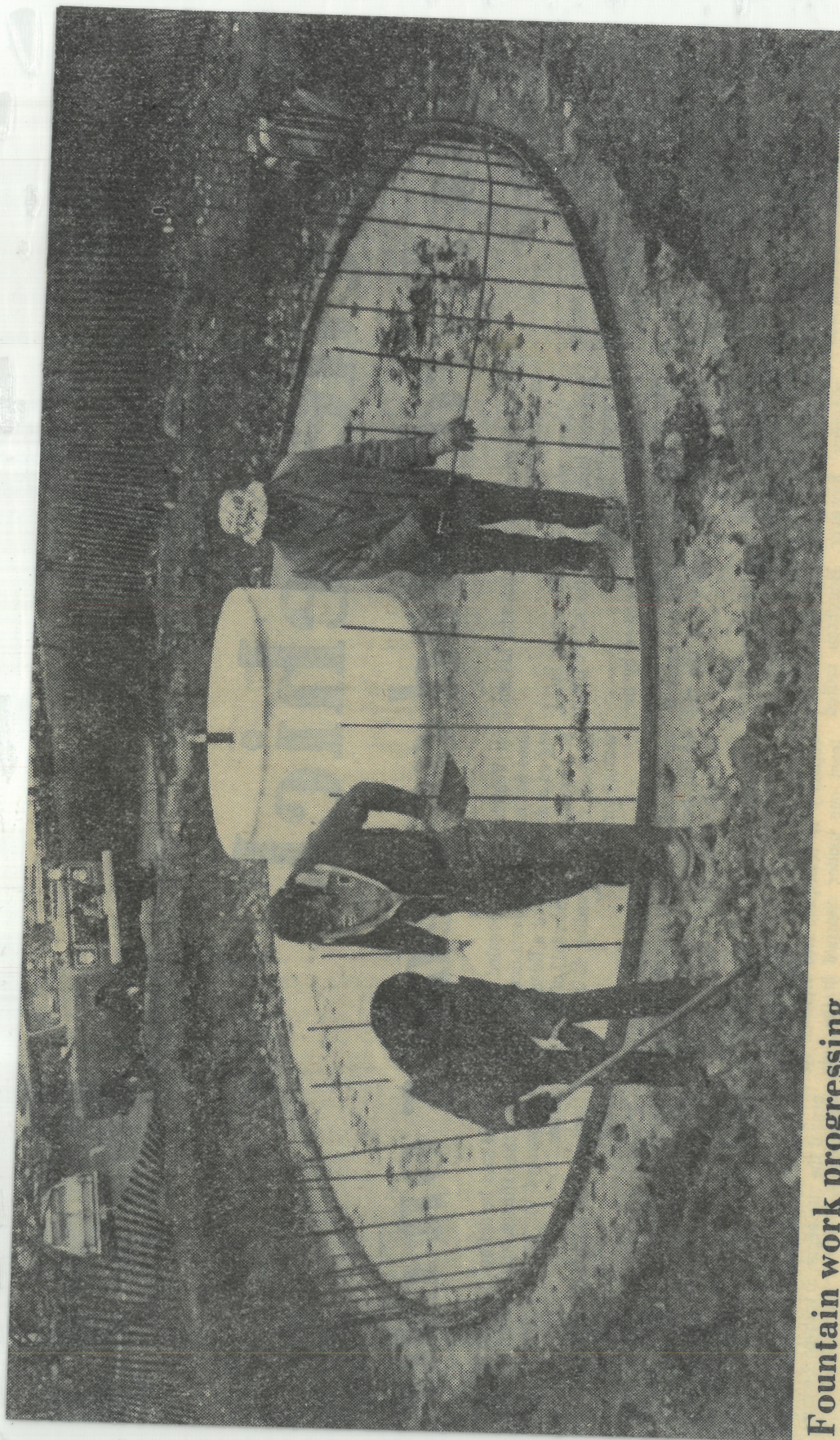
wednesday, 11/29/78

mansfield, ohio



Home Again

After nearly a two decade absence, the Vasbinder fountain was returned yesterday to Mansfield's Central Park. The fountain will now rest just a stone's throw from the spot where it stood before the park was cut through. (Photo by Steve Stokes)



Fountain work progressing

City parks department employees are working to beat the winter weather as construction of a base for Vashinder Fountain progresses. Seventh Ward Councilman Dan Stevens, chairman of the parks and recreation committee, said this

morning that the wall around the base will be poured in sections over the next two weeks, weather permitting, with the fountain to be set in place after that. Contributions to the effort now total \$900. Donations may be sent to the fund at Farmers Bank. (Photo by Alan King)

NOV 21 1978

Vasbinder Fountain

~~2~~
"Vasbinder
Fountain"

Dedicated - July 4, 1881 by David & Jane
Vasbinder (brother & sister)

Quote - "The fountain is a piece of scrap that
should be taken to a local junkyard."

Councilman Robert Boling, 1977

Stood in Central Park for "77 years".

Dec. 16, 1958 - "Fountain Still Stands"

County Engineer Walter Rusk says it is
too cold to move fountain today - it might
shatter.

Oct. 10, 1959 - Fountain finally reaches site
at Malabar where "Friends of
the Land" hope to have it

bubbling again soon.

Displaced in Dec. -
Moved to Janus Pugh
Farm for 10 months.

Dec 17, 1958 - Vasbinder Fountain came
down today.

DEC 16 1958

Fountain Still Stands

Too Cold To Move It, Engineer Says

It's on again, off again today with one of the city's most famous landmarks, the old Vassbinder fountain in Central Park.

Workmen were scheduled to begin taking the old fountain apart today so they could load it on a truck for Malabar Farm.

TOO COLD

Then, at 9 a. m., Friends of the Land trustees, City Park Superintendent Frank Burton and County Engineer Walter Rusk surveyed the structure in the shuddering cold and decided it might shatter if they touched it.

"That was cast about 1880," Rusk explained. "It's a pretty ticklish job to move it. It only weighs about 4,000 pounds, so that's no problem, but in this cold it could easily fall apart. We don't want to be pessimists, but we're prepared for the worst."

Rusk said his work crews would undertake the job "as soon as it warms up enough."

"We're busy on snow removal and ice-removal now and our crane is free," he added. "The Friends of the Land will pay all labor charges so there'll be no cost to the county in the project."

Earlier, a private contracting firm had been scheduled to tackle the job. Officials of the firm said today Friends of the Land called them yesterday canceling the job.

Fountain Moved

Work Started In Central Park

Vasbinder Fountain in Central Park came down today after more than 77 years as the central feature of the city's public square.

Workmen for the county engineer's department used oxygen torches on the rusted bolts and clasps that held the old cast iron fountain together.

SET UP IN SPRING

Friends of the Land, owners of the late Louis Bromfield's Malabar Farm, will take care of the fountain through the winter. Then, come spring, they'll re-assemble its cast iron plates and figures as central feature of a new Malabar rock garden.

"Louis always loved this old fountain," said J. V. Pugh, Ohio Edison Co. service executive and Friends of the Land trustee. Pugh lives now on a farm that was once

(Continued On Page 3)

Workers Move Old Fountain

(Continued From Page 1)

part of Malabar. He was a neighbor of Bromfield's during the last years of his life.

"That's why we took an interest in bringing it to Malabar when we heard the city was going to give it away. We wanted to wait to give other organizations a chance to bid on it, but when we found we could have it, we took it."

Pugh helped direct the work this morning as county crews swung tackles over the top of the old fountain, the only part that will go to Malabar. Workmen will demolish the sandstone walls of the old pool around the fountain but will keep intact the flower pots that stood about it.

BUILD OWN POOL

"We'll build our own pool for it," Pugh said. "The fountain is the important thing."

"I'm not sure," he added, "but I believe this was one of eight fountains cast from the same mold down in New Orleans. Where the other seven are I don't know. The pool walls were hand-hewn sandstone."

Once the fountain is set up again in the Malabar rock garden, Pugh said, Friends of the Land will try to get it in operation again. The old pipes, which workmen said are now rusted and worn out with age, haven't been usable for years.

Meanwhile, workmen for the Zimmerman Co., Mansfield contractors, this morning began digging out the first trees to make way for the Park Ave. linkup. They began digging out the trees shortly after 10 a. m.



LANDMARK MOVED — Seventy-seven years as a Malabar field landmark came to a close today when workmen removed the old Vasbinder Fountain from Central Park. Shown here is the critical moment when the first piece comes off on its journey to Malabar Farm, where Friends of the Land will re-assemble the fountain in the old Bromfield rock garden. (Photo by Clarence Corney.)

OCT 10 1959 ★ ★ ★ OCT 10 1959

Vasbinder Fountain Finally Reaches Its Malabar Home

By TOM LA ROCHELLE

Vasbinder Fountain finally reached its new home Friday.

After standing in a secluded spot at the edge of the James V. Pugh farm for almost 10 months, the old metal fountain has been moved up the road to Malabar Farm, its intended destination.

Last December, the fountain was displaced from the spot in Central Park which it graced for 77 years. Forcing it out was progress, in the form of the park link-up.

When Friends of the Land at Malabar, model farm of the late author-farmer Louis Bromfield, bid for the fountain city council chose to make it a gift to the ecological center. But it was set away from appreciative eyes until a foundation could be laid in a rock garden at the edge of the Malabar property. The Pugh property which received it is a parcel of land that originally was part of the Bromfield farm.

★

Water splashed out of its bottom as the aging landmark was raised by a crane onto the bed of a large trailer Friday afternoon. Workmen from the D. H. Bowman Excavating Co., Bellville, spent more than four hours on the moving job.

It was no easy task.

They wrapped cables and chains around the fountain, preparing to lift it onto the trailer. Sturdy log - chains were used. Then the crane began to lift.

The fountain started to split from its base.

After a revised harness job

(Continued On Page 6)

Vasbinder Fountain Reaches New Home

(Continued From Page 1)

with cables and chains, it was time for another try.

The crane, reportedly capable of picking up a five-ton load, groaned, its rear end raised inches off the ground and the mighty machine stalled.

Finally the fountain dangled in the air, the crane in control. The workmen decided to back the trailer closer to the raised object, thus simplifying the job.

The truck motor strained and the trailer shimmied and bounced on its wheels. Too much of an incline in the road. So another truck pulled, by chain, as the first pushed in reverse.

★

When the fountain was aboard and the truck headed out of the woods, bound for Malabar, all went well until the journey was halted by power lines which snagged the Vasbinder fountain. A long, forked pole took care of that.

So it went until the fountain was settled on its new foundation at Malabar, between Bromfield Rd. and the house, where passing motorists can view it, as well as visitors to the farm.

The Vasbinder Fountain, a gift to the city from David Vasbinder and his sister, Jane was dedicated and placed in Central Park in 1881.

Accepting the gift on behalf of the city, Colonel Barnabas Burns, then mayor, remarked:

"On behalf of the City of Mansfield, I accept this splendid gift as a token of David and Jane Vasbinder's good will, and promise them to preserve and protect it from destruction or defacement for all coming time."

That cold day last December when the fountain was removed from Central Park and yesterday involved a lot of work.

But the Friends of the Land, council and the workmen concerned have helped make the colonel's word good.

Hath a thousand tongues of mirth,
Of grandeur or delight
And every heart is gladder made,
When water greets the sight.

When money was not available by the city treasure and the desired fountain was at a stand still; there stepped forward at this critical moment two of our worthy and well known neighbors, David and Jane Vasbinder, modestly and without parade furnished and donated to the City, free of cost, this beautiful and matchless specimen of art, this magnificent BRONZED FOUNTAIN, which has just been presented formally to our City.

Joy smiles in the fountain, health flows in the
And the ribands of silver unwind from the hills, rills
They breathe not the mist of the bacchanals dreams
But the lines of innocence float on their streams.

And now, Mr. Presidnet, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen of Mansfield: By your authority I tender the donors, Mr. and Miss Vasbinder, your grateful acknowledgements, and, in the name and on behalf of the City of Mansfield and of the Citizens generally, I accept this splendid gift as a token of their good will, and promise them to preserve and protect it from destruction or defacement for all coming time, and hope they may live many years to enjoy the pleasures which naturally flows from generous DEEDS.

After music by the American Band and a song by members of the Philamonic Society, Rev. D. W. Smith pronounced the

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, remain and abide with you all, evermore. AMEN.

At the conclusion of the program the water was turned on in the FOUNTAIN, to the delight of all. Exercises closed with a concert by the American Band in the evening and an illumination of the VASBINDER FOUNTAIN WITH COLORED LIGHTS.

1808 JULY 4th, 1881

_____A'

MANSFIELD, OHIO.

105TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

84th YEAR OF MANSFIELD.

THE UNVEILING OF THE

VASBINDER FOUNTAIN.

COMPLIMENTS OF
THE FARMERS BANK
132 YEARS



RESEARCHED BY
virgil d.hess

JULY 4, 1881

Hon. James Purdy President of the day

Ladies and Gentlemen Hon. Henry C. Hedges:

Mr. President, Hon. Mr. Mayor, Gentlemen of the City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In this little city where I was born, I am gratified to be chosen one of the persons who are to participate in these pleasant ceremonies. Two young people a brother and sister of my friends, who past on, to greater life, in the hereafter. David and Jane Vasbinder that you Mr. Mayor, that you, gentlemen of the City Council, that you people of Mansfield, are indebted for this beautiful Fountain. Their bounty bought it and made it yours. Who shall estimate its value?

It is a thing of beauty, a joy forever. Through it comes flowing and shall forever, God's pure, sparkling water, distilled in his chambers of rocks on the hill side, way yonder. The design of the work is masterly, its finish all but complete, but its perfection is in its uses. Here the eye shall be delighted by the glittering drops and glistening jets, here, ear shall be charmed by the harmonious fall and flow, here desire shall be gratified by all the thirsty sons of men, here on this Public Park the air shall be more balmy and more helpful to the weary, here the body shall be more easily rested, the brain better cultured, and the heart more tenderly touched by reason of this glorious FOUNTAIN, for it is:

Full of a nature nothing can tame
Ever in motion, ever the same,
Into the sunshine, full of light
Leaping and flashing from morning to night,
Into the moonlight, whiter than snow,
Waving so flower like, when the winds blow,
Into the star light, rushing in spray
Happy at midnight, happy by day.

Mr Mayor, Gentlemen of the Council, men and women, children of Mansfield: In the name of these friends, David and Jane Vasbinder, I present to you, for you, your children and your childrens children to the latest generation, this FOUNTAIN. And I beg only to add for them, that their best thanks are due, and by them most heartly acknowledged to their friend, Mr. Peter Ott, for his wise judgment in the choice of the FOUNTAIN, his personal attention and untiring energy in the completion of the work.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hedges' remarks, the FOUNTAIN was unveiled, disclosing to the eyes of the beholders, in raised letters of iron around the base, the legend:

PRESENTED BY DAVID AND JANE VASBINDER
JULY 4, 1881

Col. B. Burns, whose duty it was to accept the FOUNTAIN on behalf of the city, then delivered the following:

Mr. President, Mr. Mayor, Members of City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Here in this beautiful little Park, in the center of our beautiful little city, under the shade of these green trees, planted and reared by the hands of the present generation many of whom are present here today, we have met to receive from the committee this FOUNTAIN the basin of which is the gift of the people generally; and from whom the hands of two generous and honored citizens this master piece of art, the FOUNTAIN proper, the centerpiece, and, of whom I shall speak more fully hereafter. This park was designed to be a pleasant resort for our people when the labors and cares of the day were over and where they could enjoy the cooling and refreshing air which comes from a FOUNTAIN of pure water. Water, says Mrs. C. Oakes Ames;



PETER A. ZIMMERMAN
DIRECTOR
OF
PUBLIC SERVICE



MAN OF MANSFIELD, OHIO

RICHARD A. PORTER
MAYOR

October 20, 1978

TO: General Superintendent
FROM: Director of Public Service
RE: Vasbinder Fountain Project

Please find transmitted herewith two copies of plans, details and specifications regarding the above.

You are hereby directed to perform the following under the supervision of Mr. Dale Mawhorr of the Mansfield Asphalt Paving Company. Mansfield Asphalt will be the "genral contractor" so to speak, on the job coordinating the project under the "owner" the City of Mansfield Park Department, Mr. Kellner.

The general contractor will coordinate the work of the mechanical, electrical and other contractors on the project.

- 1) Excavation and removal of designated concrete pavers (sidewalk).
- 2) Excavation of earth to specified subgrade (to be stated by engineering).
- 3) Installation of one (1) inch copper service from existing 8" C.I.P. water line south and southeast to the pump pit (stub in).

Securing the excavation shall be the responsibility of the Park Department (Mr. Kellner) as well as the overall management of the project.

Pease contact Mr. Mawhorr at 522-2521 with regard to the commencement of our portion of the work on this project. (Supposedly the week of October 23, 1978.)

Should be 1 1/2"
Was tree Moved?



PETER A. ZIMMERMAN
DIRECTOR
OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

CITY OF MANSFIELD, OHIO

RICHARD A. PORTER
MAYOR



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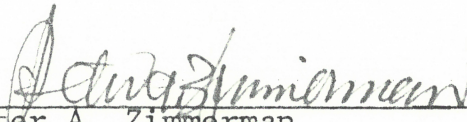
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Mr. Fred Plew
General Superintendent
October 20, 1978
Page 2



Peter A. Zimmerman
Director of Public Service

PAZ/db
Encl.

cc: Mayor Richard Porter
Safety Director Long
Mr. George Cunitz
Mr. James Lichtenwalter
Mr. Jeff Becker
Mr. Kenneth Hall
Mr. Jeff Kellner
Councilman Dan Stevens
Mr. Richard Stander
Mr. Peter Moritz
Mr. Peter Pasheilich
Solicitor Robert Rath
Remaining Members of City Council
Clerk of Council
Park Commission
Mansfield Downtown Business Association
James E. Bassett
File

SPECIFICATIONS FOR VASBINDER FOUNTAIN

DESCRIPTION

The intended use of this specification is to construct the Vasbinder Fountain in South Central Park as shown on the drawings and specified herein.

ITEM W-1 - CAST IRON, DUCTILE-IRON AND PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PRESSURE PIPE

This item shall be amended to include copper tubing and fittings.

W-1.02 (d) Copper Tubing 75-CR Type K specification A.S.T.M. B-88-62, AWWA approved.

W-1.19 Payment. Payment for Copper Tubing shall be at the contract unit prices bid and shall constitute full compensation for excavating, backfilling, furnishing and installing all pipe and fittings necessary including testing, disinfecting, etc. and for furnishing all labor, tools and equipment necessary to complete this item.

ITEM W-2 WATER LEVEL SENSING VALVE

Contractor shall provide and install one water closet float valve at the location shown. Float valve shall be connected to a 3/4 inch brass pipe anchored in the wall and extending one foot beyond the outside of the wall at a point near the junction with the base slab.

Contractor shall furnish and bolt in place a 1/4 inch brass grate on wall over float alcove. Grate shall be three inches larger in each direction than float opening.

ITEM W-2.06 STOP AND WASTE CURB STOP

Curb stop shall be Mueller Company Catalog Number H-15310 or an approved equal.

ITEM W-6 GALVANIZED IRON PIPING

W-6.01 Description. Under this item the Contractor shall furnish and install, complete in place, all pipe and fittings shown on the plans or ordered by the Engineer.

W-6.02 Pipe Laying. The Contractor shall provide and use proper tools and equipment, satisfactory to the Engineer, for the handling and laying of pipe and fittings. Dirt and foreign matter shall be removed from the inside of pipe and fittings and the interior shall be kept clean during and after laying. Piping shall be

laid at a uniform grade between the fountain basin and the pump pit. No pockets or low points will be permitted.

W-6.03 Measurement. The footage of pipe to be paid for shall be the actual number of lineal feet of pipe installed, measured horizontally, including fittings and valves connected in place.

W-6.04 Payment. Payment for Galvanized Iron Piping shall be at the contract unit prices bid and shall constitute full compensation for excavating, backfilling, furnishing and installing all pipe and fittings necessary and for furnishing all labor, tools and equipment necessary to complete this item.

ITEM W-7 FOUNTAIN SPECIALTIES

W-7.01 Description. Under this item the Contractor shall furnish and install, complete in place, all specialties required in the water recirculating and filtering systems of the fountain basin.

W-7.02 Materials.

- a) Intake drain shall be Jacuzzi Model SP1019 cyclac Gutter Drain or an approved equal.
- b) Inlet from filter shall be Hydrel Model A EF-150 Eyeball Inlet Fitting, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " size, cast bronze body, cyclac adjustable ball or an approved equal.

W-7.03 Payment. Payment for each specialty shall be at the contract unit prices bid and shall constitute full compensation for furnishing and installing each specialty called for and for furnishing all labor, tools and equipment necessary to complete this item.

ITEM 511.10 POLYVINYL DUMBBELL WATERSTOP

Six (6) inch Polyvinyl Dumbbell Waterstop shall be inserted in the keys at locations as shown on the drawings. Joints in the waterstop shall be welded together with a heating tool forming a water tight joint.

ITEM 516 MASTIC JOINT SEALER

A silicone sealant shall be applied to the joint in full accord with the manufacturer's recommendations. Sealant shall be Dow Corning No. 790 Building Sealant, General Electric Silicone Sealant No. 1300 or an approved equal.

ITEM 503 EXCAVATION FOR STRUCTURES

Excavation and rough grading for the fountain basin is to be performed by the City. Removal of concrete sidewalk will also be performed by the City in accordance with directions shown on the plans or given by the Engineer.

The Contractor shall finish grade areas upon which concrete is to be placed by removing unexcavated material or by adding granular material compacted with mechanical tampers so as to provide the proper elevation.

No separate payment shall be made for this item of work. Cost of work shall be included in the price bid for concrete labor.

Pump Pit excavation shall be performed by the Contractor. The Contractor shall excavate the minimum amount of earth needed to construct the pump pit. Care shall be taken so as not to disturb unnecessarily the surrounding landscaping.

No separate payment shall be made for this item of work. Cost of work shall be included in the price bid for pump pit labor.

ITEM 604 PUMP PIT

The Contractor shall construct a concrete block pump pit as shown on the drawings. A Neenah R-1749B manhole casting with security bolts, or approved equal, shall be furnished and placed in the top slab. A Neenah R-4953B floor drain, 4 inch 90° cast iron bend and four foot of four inch cast iron pipe shall be provided for future drain.

Recirculating pump, filter and electrical controls will be furnished by the City. The Contractor shall furnish 3 inch high concrete bases for pump and filter.

VASBINDER FOUNTAIN

IN SOUTH CENTRAL
PARK

BOORUM & PEASE S 252-2

QUAN		ITEM	Unit Price		Total Price		
			\$		\$		
1	55	Cu. Yd. Class "C" Concrete					1
2	1,065	Sq. Ft. Concrete Sidewalk - 5" Th.	2	-	2,130		2
3	650	Lbs. Reinforcing Steel	1	-	650	-	3
4	1	Ea. Float Valve Mechanism	150	-	150	-	4
5	1	W.S. L.S. Pump Pit	4,000	-	4,000	-	5
6	150	Lin. Ft. 2" Galvanized Drain Pipe, Incl. Fitt.					6
7	4	Ea. 2" Intake Drains - SP-1019					7
8	25	Lin. Ft. 4" C.I. Drain Pipe, Incl. Fitt.					8
9	270	Lin. Ft. 1" Copper W.L. Type K, Incl. Fitt.					9
10	1	Ea. 1" Corp. Stop & CURB Box					10
11	25	Lin. Ft. 3/4" Copper W.L. Type K, Incl. Fitt.					11
12	1	Ea. 3/4" Stop & Waste Valve					12
13		& CURB Box - Mueller H-15310					13
14	125	Lin. Ft. 6" Polyvinyl Dumbbell Waterstop					14
15	1	Ea. Eyeball Inlet Fitting AEF-150					15
16	110	Sq Yds. Seeding & Mulching	1.50		165	-	16
17							17
18							18
19							19
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21							21
22							22
23							23
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35							35
36							36

G. P. WIEGAND CONSTRUCTION, INC.

362 LENOX AVENUE • MANSFIELD, OHIO 44906 • (419) 529-3106

August 30, 1978

Jeff Becker, City Building
City Engineer Department
30 North Diamond Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44902



Re: Vasbinder Fountain

Dear Jeff;

In reference to our telephone conversation regarding the above job; I am happy to quote you the break down as follows:

1. Excavation; gravel back fill; compaction and hauling as required for pool and fountain which is 28 feet in diameter.

Labor and material - for sum of \$6,586.00.

2. Concrete work, forming of all surfaces for fountain including rebar; water stops; forming and pouring of sidewalk etc., according to specs.

Material - \$5,270.00

Labor - 7,904.00

13,174.00

6,586.00

Making a total sum of \$19,760.00

Note: This does not include pump, pump-pit or other equipment or installation of fountain. This is to be performed by others.

Yours Sincerely,

G. P. Wiegand Construction, Inc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. P. Wiegand".

G. P. Wiegand, Pres.

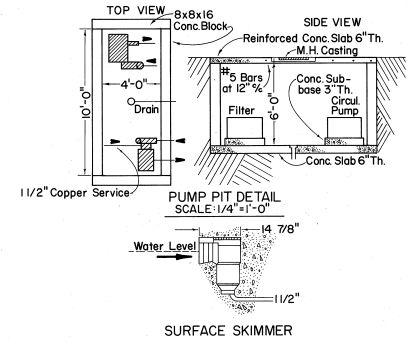
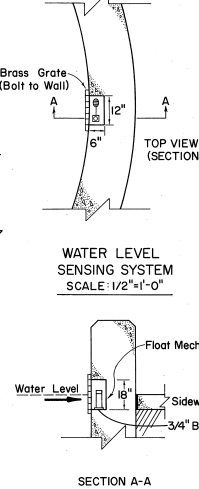
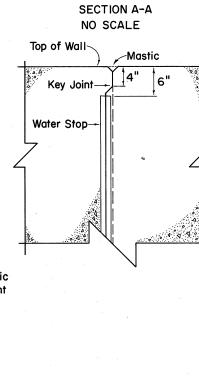
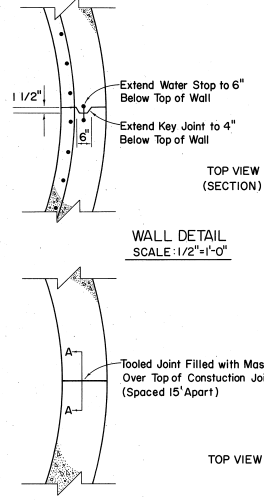
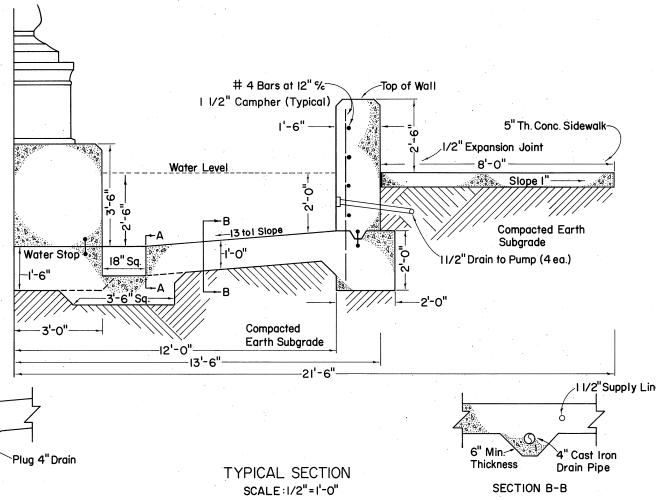
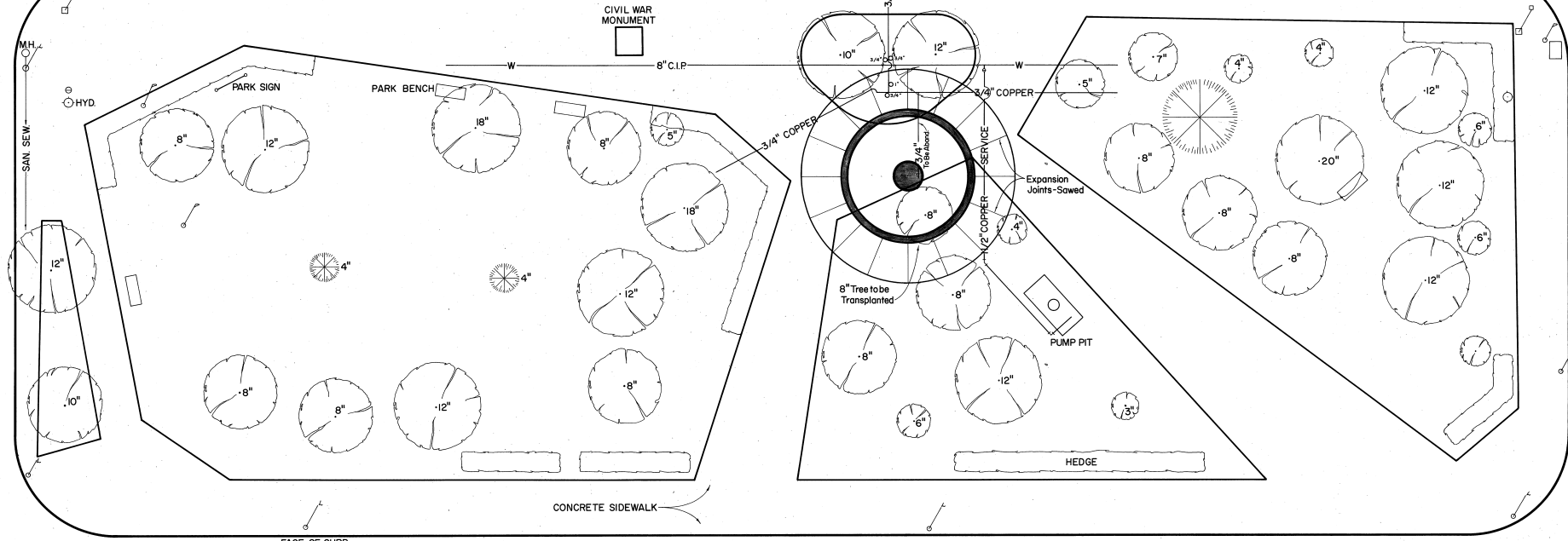
GPW/fc

EASTBOUND TRAFFIC →

SOUTH MAIN STREET

FACE OF CURB

N
SCALE
1"=10'



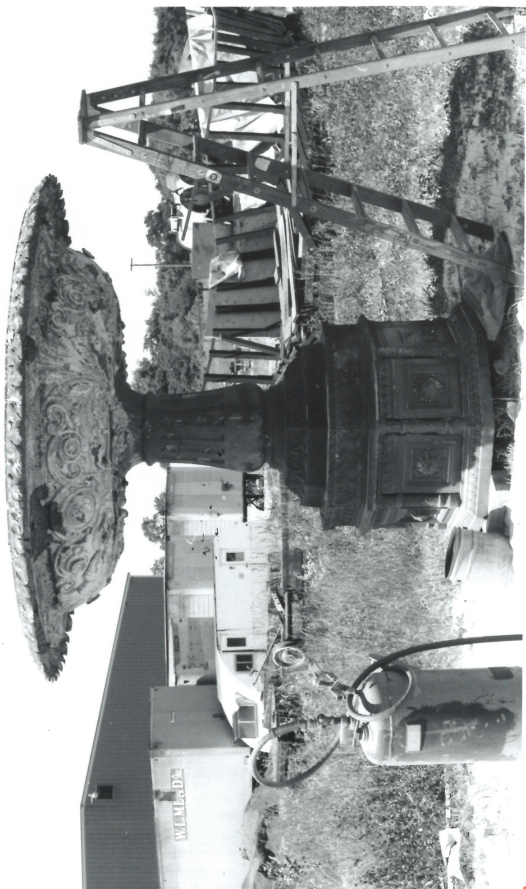
CITY OF MANSFIELD, OHIO			
RICHARD A. PORTER-MAYOR			
PETER A. ZIMMERMAN GEORGE R. CUNITZ			
SERVICE DIRECTOR CITY ENGINEER 7655			
PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF			
VASBINDER FOUNTAIN			
IN SOUTH CENTRAL PARK			
DRAWN BY	J. BECKER	CHECKED BY	K. HALL
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	JULY 1978
PRINTED			

J. Becker
July 17, 1978

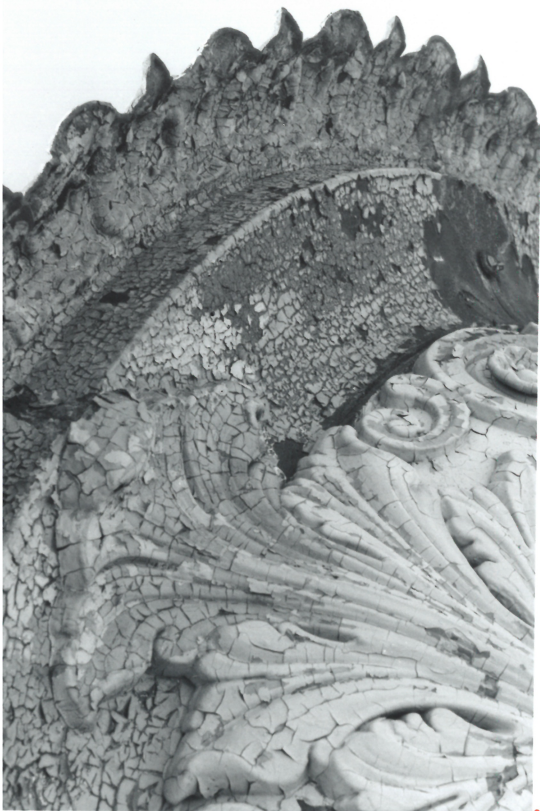
VASBINDER FOUNTAIN
IN SOUTH CENTRAL PARK
PLAN NO. 1919

1. Pedestal Base, partially sandblasted by Mike Volk Co.
2. Pedestal base.
3. Pedestal base.
4. Pedestal base, showing layers of existing paint.
5. Fountain Head
6. Small bowl.
7. Detail of fountain head.
8. Detail of fountain head, NOTE: Silver Solder on Neck.

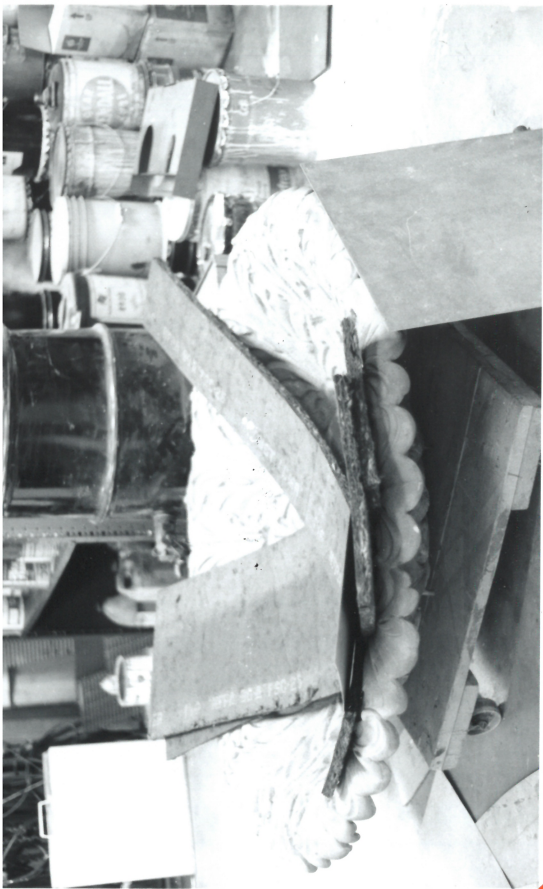
















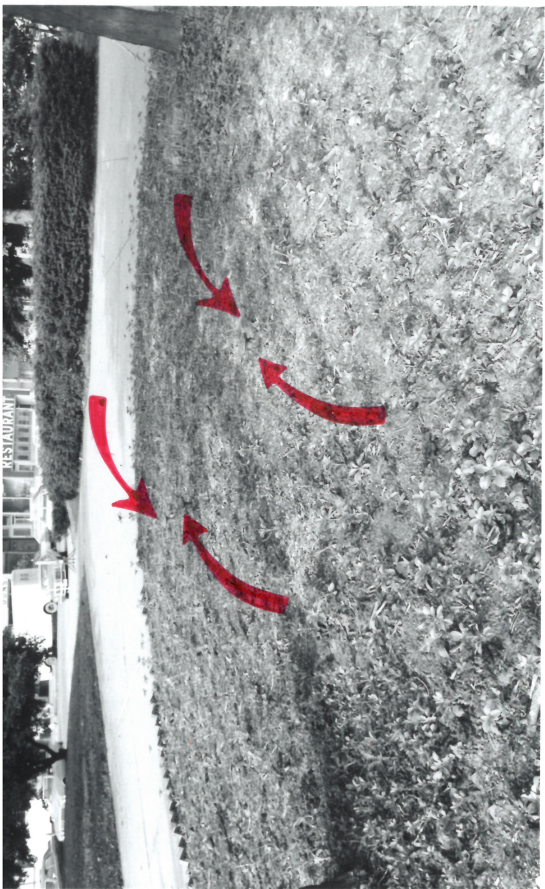
VASBINDER FOUNTAIN
IN SOUTH CENTRAL PARK
PLAN NO. 1919

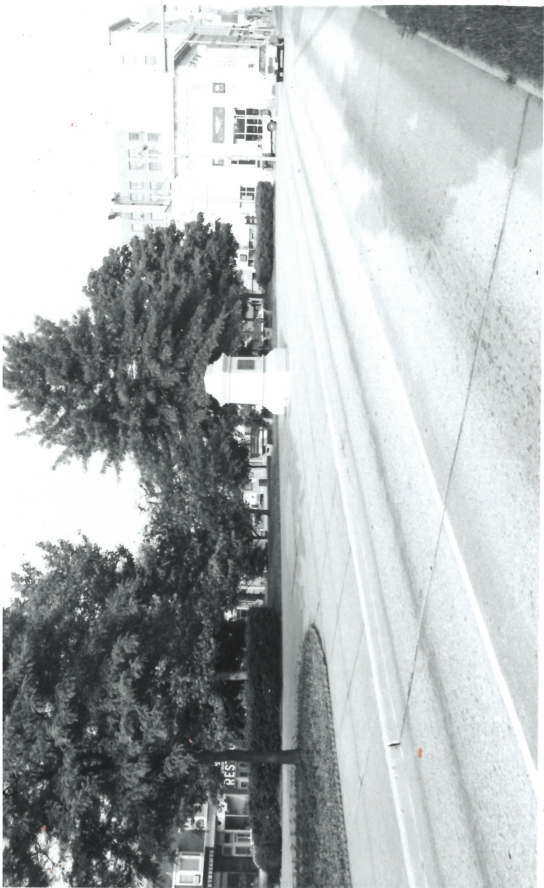
J. Becker
July 24, 1978

1. South Central Park, taken from Park Ave. West, facing south.
2. South Central Park, taken from Park Ave. West, facing southwest.
3. South Central Park, NOTE: Existing curb stops.
4. South Central Park, taken from Park Ave. West facing west. NOTE: Monument.
5. South Central Park, taken from south side facing northwest. NOTE: Existing trees.
6. South Central Park, taken from south side facing northeast. NOTE: Existing trees.
7. South Central Park, taken from south side facing north. NOTE: Existing trees.















Nov. 1, 1978
J. Becker

VASBINDER FOUNTAIN

1. Finish grade for fountain base.
2. Finish grade for fountain base.
3. Finish grade for fountain base.
4. Finish grade for fountain base.
5. Finish grade for fountain base.









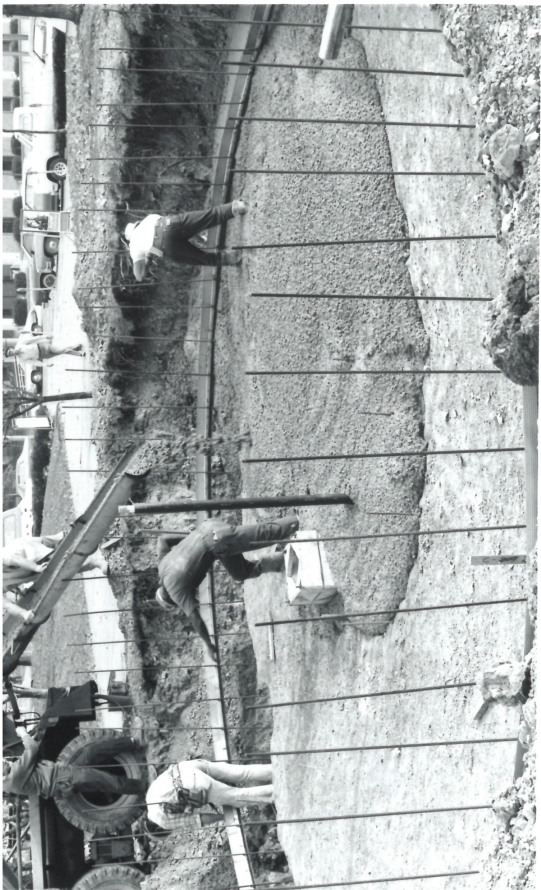


J. Becker

VASBINDER FOUNTAIN

Nov. 6, 1978

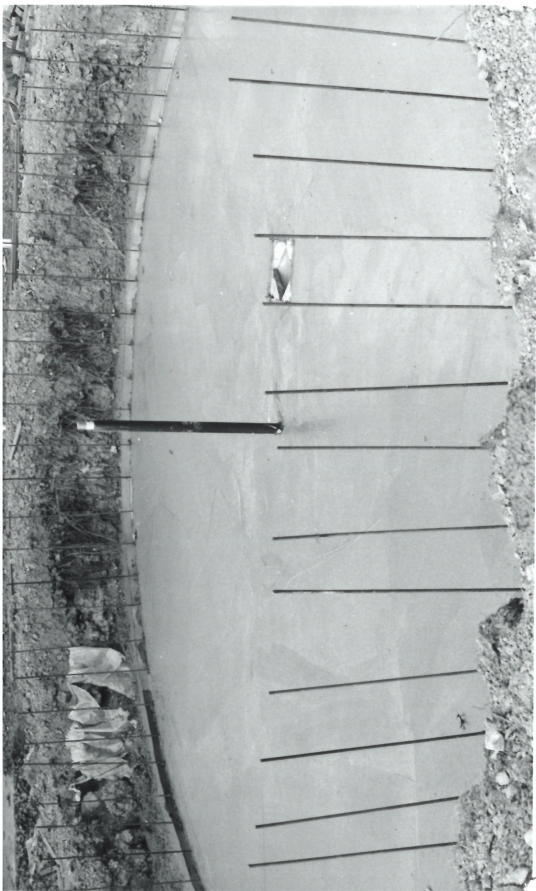
1. Pouring Fountain Base
2. Pouring Fountain Base
3. Pouring Fountain Base
4. Pouring Fountain Base
5. Pouring Fountain Base











J. Becker

VASBINDER FOUNTAIN

Nov. 11, 1978

1. Pedestal Base
2. Pedestal Base
3. Pedestal Base
4. Pedestal Base
5. Pedestal Base











J. Becker
November 22, 1978

1. Forms for first wall section - North section
2. Detail of end showing waterstop, key joint and reinforcing steel.
3. North wall section
4. North wall section









J. Becker
November 28, 1978

1. Three sections of fountain
2. Main bowl and pedestal
3. Setting main bowl in place
4. Second section - Note $1\frac{1}{2}$ " plastic water pipe
5. Third section - Not set at this time, Note cut-off threaded rods on bowl.











J. Becker

December 1, 1978

42⁰

1. Northwest wall Section - Second Section

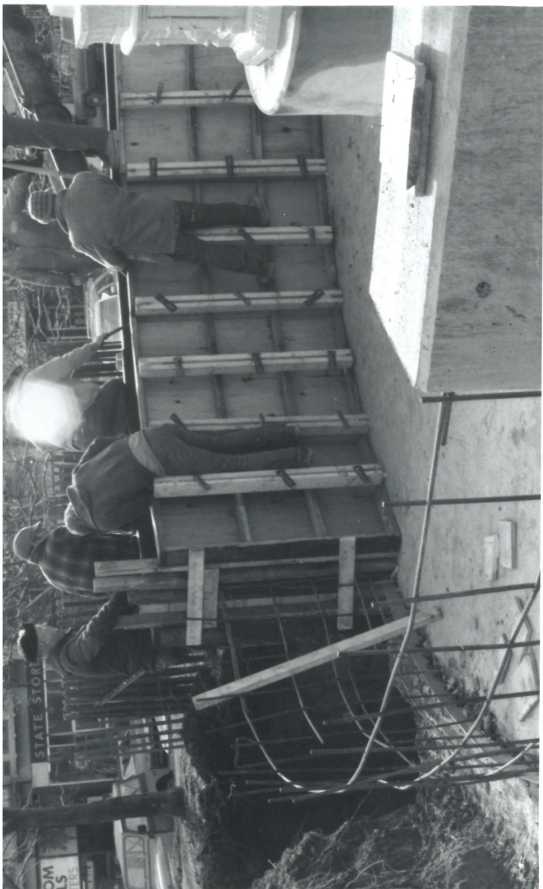


J. Becker

December 7, 1978

40°

1. South wall section - Third section
2. South wall section - Third section - Note drain and feed line location





J. Becker

December 13, 1978

32°

1. East wall section - Fourth section
2. East wall section - Fourth Section
3. East wall section - Note skimmer placement







J. Becker
May 10, 1979

1. Pump Pit, Note $1\frac{1}{2}$ " lines, facing southeast
2. Pump Pit, facing northwest.
3. Discharge lines to fountain, skimmer line, facing northwest.
4. Detail of feed and discharge lines at southeast section of fountain.









J. Becker
May 11, 1979

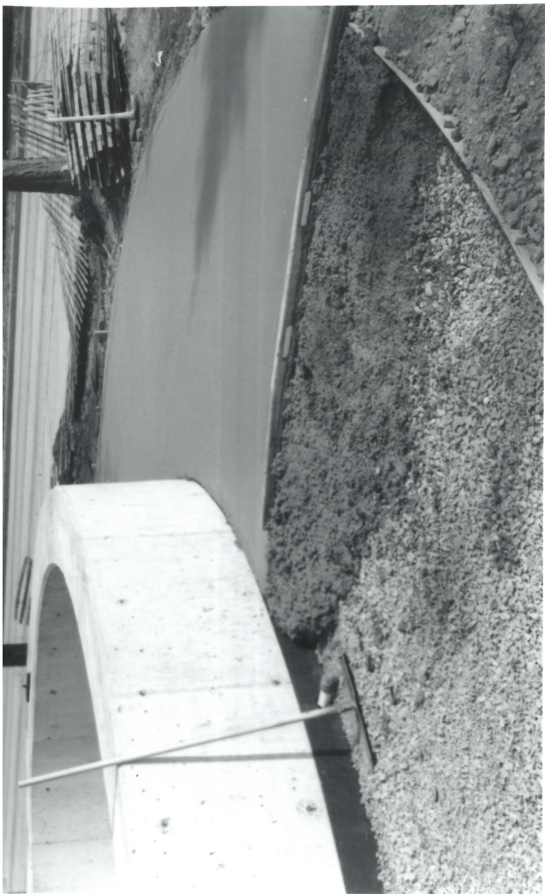
1. Setting top bowl
2. Reinforcing steel rod and bracket joining top bowl to main bowl.





J. Becker
May 22, 1979

1. Pouring 8' circular sidewalk, facing north.
2. Pouring 8' circular sidewalk, facing north. Note: Expansion joint material on circumference of wall and perpendicular joint.





Although this fountain is seen daily by our people a brief description may not be out of place. The fountain proper above the water line is hexagonal, and has a well-designed column upon each corner. In the center above this is a round standard supporting a large iron basin, which is artistically enriched with high-class carving, and in the center and above is a group of statuary—three allegorical figures, one representing the Horn of Plenty, another representing Rebecca at the well, and the third is a figure beautifully draped, holding a wreath of flowers in her hand. Above this group is a smaller basin surmounting which there is a statute, from which a number of water jets are thrown in semi-circular streams into the basins below. The beauty of the fountain has been marred by painting. The material is bronze, and, if painted at all, it should be of a plain bronze color. The fountain was designed by J. L. Mott & Co. of New York City, and the work was done by E. M. Wolff, of Mansfield.

David and Jane Vasbinder, brother and sister, the generous donors of the fountain, were old residents of Richland county, and this gift to the city was made in the evening time of their lives.

A. J. BAUGHMAN

The statements about materials is false, see the article from South Bend's restoration for material information.

6 That the ladies be specially invited to participate in said ceremonies.

The fountain, purchased for the donor by Mr. Peter Ott, was cast at the J. L. Mott Iron Works, New York, and was shipped on Tuesday last. Its weight is three tons, is eighteen feet in height and provided with two pans or basins, the lower of which is 9 feet 6 inches in diameter and the upper 5 feet in diameter. The diameter of the base is 4 feet four inches. Between the basins and facing outward are four female figures, life-size, while a fifth figure representing a flower girl with vase is stationed on the summit. As stated in THE HERALD last week the cost of the fountain is \$1200. To whose generosity the city is indebted for this beautiful and costly gift, is a question which cannot be answered at present, but the name will be revealed when the fountain is unveiled.



Mar. 12/1957

'Bronze' Fountain Turns To Cast Iron

(Continued From Page 1)
last Christmas, a startling discovery was made.

While park employees were removing the Christmas lighting from Central Park, one of the wires was accidentally pulled against the statue which crowned the fountain.

Falling off, the figure acted not at all like bronze and shattered into numerous pieces. The material used in the figurine was found to be a metal which could not be welded or repaired.

His curiosity aroused, Burton checked the rest of the fountain and found the base and bowls to be of case iron and the figures made of white metal.

★

How did the fable of the bronze beauty begin? Its hard to tell. Most likely some citizen elevated the three-ton iron structure into the bronze rank as a point of local patriotism.

Seventy-six years ago, this fountain which delighted families taking a Sunday stroll through the beautiful park, cost \$2,500. Today the same structure is worth \$144 at current scrap prices, and the yards are not buying cast iron.

Our other metal mystery concerns the bandstand which was torn down last year, long after outliving the purpose for which it was built. Burton had plans to use the copper roofing which he had been told covered the stand.

Again came a disappoint-

ment. The covering proved to be nothing more than tin-like sheet metal.

If by chance you do manage to get through traffic on the square alive, and take a stroll through Central Park, better leave your gold watch at home—you never know.

April 11, 1957

28 Windows Smashed

Vandals Strike At Liberty Park

Window - breaking vandals were sought today by police following reports of \$50 damage at Liberty Park bath house, broken windows at two homes, and extensive damage to parked autos in the Ideal Electric Manufacturing Corp. lot.

Parks Supt. Frank Burton told police yesterday 28 windows and one window frame, were broken out of the bath house Tuesday night.

Four autos parked in the factory parking lot were found with windshields and windows broken out at 4:45 p.m. yesterday. Police said they were notified of the damage by E. K. Tingley, 200 Fairview Ave. One late mod-

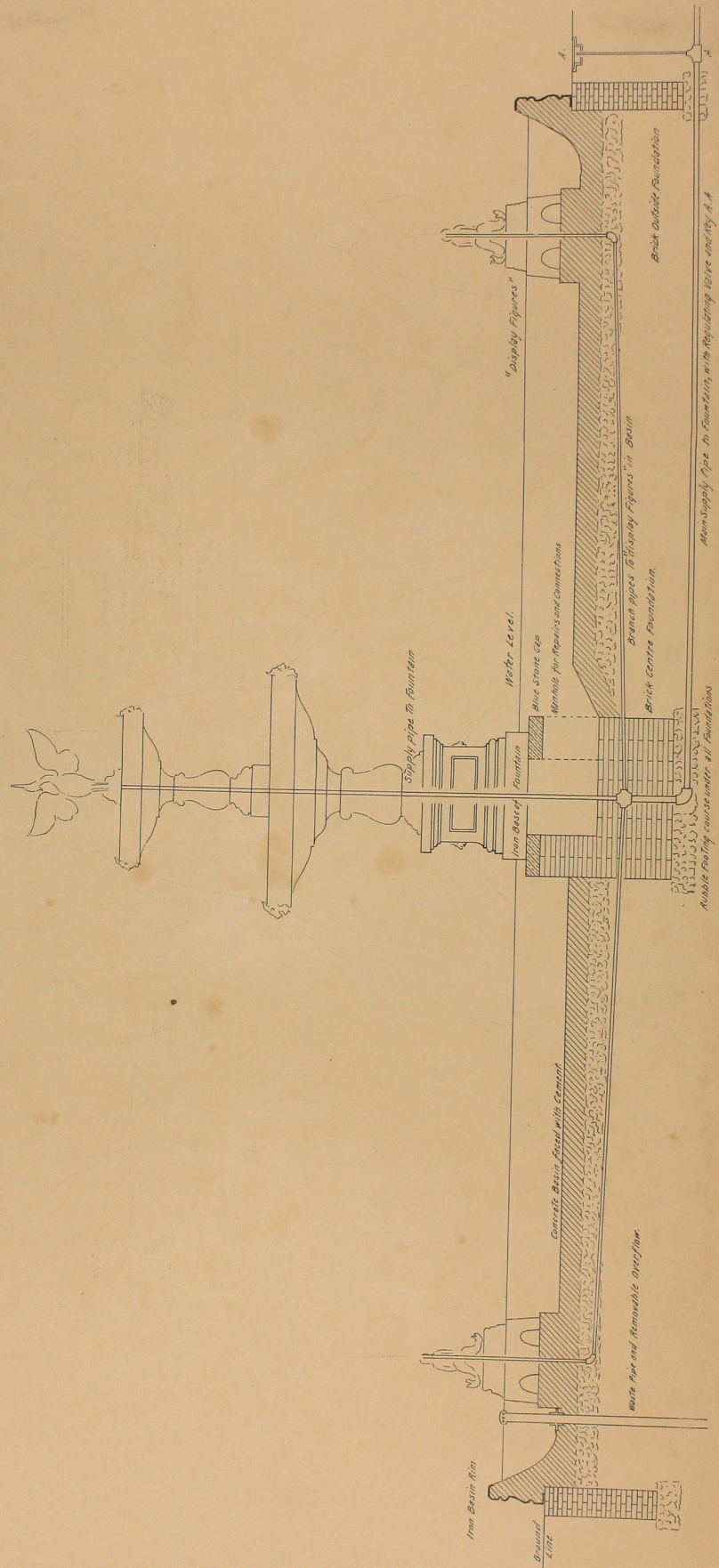


Plate 559-H

Above illustration shows foundation work and piping required for installing any of our large Fountain with Iron Ground Basin Rim and display figures shown thereon.



Plate 309-H

FOUNTAIN ERECTED IN YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Our Plate 639-H in Section 3 of Fountain Catalogue.

PLATE No. 66. FOUNTAIN.

BOY AND SWAN BASE, WITH GROUP "VENUS
RISING FROM THE SEA."

STYLE "RENAISSANCE." DESIGN PATENTED.
Height to top 8 feet. Total height
18 feet. Diameter of top Pan 3 feet
8 inches. Diameter of second
Pan 3 feet 3 inches. Dia-
meter of base including
Trough 7 feet.

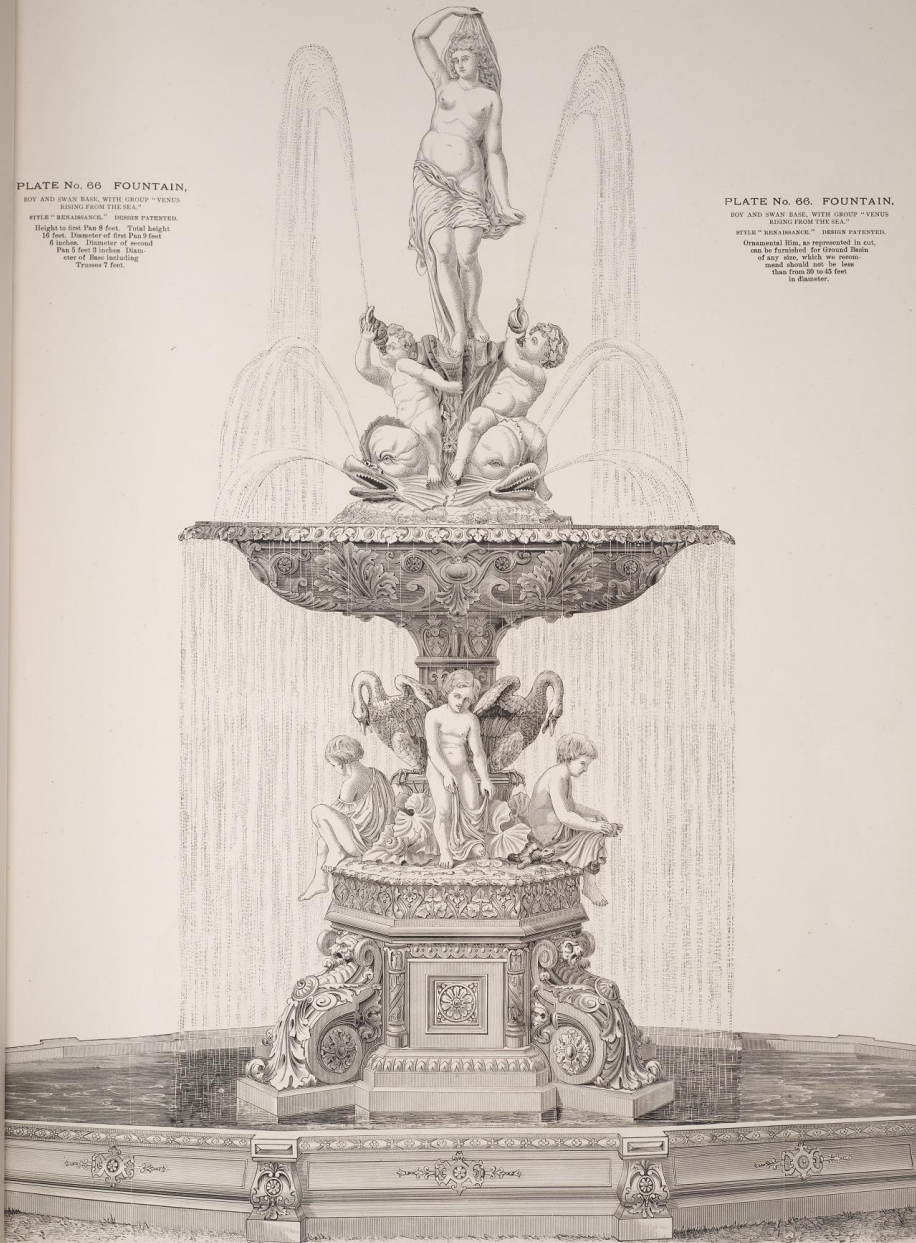


PLATE No. 66. FOUNTAIN.

BOY AND SWAN BASE, WITH GROUP "VENUS
RISING FROM THE SEA."

STYLE "RENAISSANCE." DESIGN PATENTED.

Ornamental Rim, as represented in cut,
can be finished for Ground Sheet
of any size, which we recom-
mend should not be less
than from 30 to 45 feet
in diameter.





LOCAL

Restored Studebaker Electric Fountain, originally dedicated in 1906, is rising in Leeper Park

Margaret Fosmoe South Bend Tribune

Published 5:00 p.m. ET July 16, 2019

SOUTH BEND — A landmark once thought gone forever is being assembled piece by piece in Leeper Park.

The historic Studebaker Electric Fountain, rebuilt and restored to its original glory, occupies a place of prominence in the central section of the park. All the fountain's pieces — both restored original pieces and newly cast replacement pieces for those that were missing — have been delivered.

Ancon Construction workers this week have been assembling the fountain. By Tuesday morning, the fountain's central lower basin was in place, as well as one level of ornate figures topped by a large basin. A smaller basin and a section of classical-style female figures rose next. By Tuesday afternoon, the fountain had been topped with its crowning figure: a woman holding aloft a vase from which water will flow.

The elaborate Edwardian-era fountain's female figures, cherubs, dolphins and turtles gleam, much as they must have back in 1906 when the fountain was originally dedicated in Howard Park. It's impossible to tell the newly cast pieces from the restored pieces of 113 years ago.

The fountain is expected to be complete and in operation by the end of July, according to the city's Department of Venues, Parks & Arts.

The basins and central sections of the fountain are made of cast iron, while the ornate figures are cast zinc (original figures) or cast aluminum (replacement pieces), said Luke Robinson, a representative of Robinson Iron Corp. of Alexander City, Alabama, who was in town Monday. That company crafted the plans and provided the casts for the replacement pieces.

The cherub figures weigh about 100 pounds each, Robinson said, lifting a figure to demonstrate.

Robinson Iron doesn't own a cast of the cherub figure, so the two remaining South Bend cherubs had to be taken apart in order to create a cast to produce four new cherub figures for the fountain.

Restoration of the remaining original pieces was handled by McKay Lodge Fine Art Conservation Laboratory Inc. of Oberlin, Ohio.

Local residents can watch the fountain assembly progress through a chain link fence around the work site.

The fountain was a gift to the city by John M. Studebaker, co-founder and president of the Studebaker Corp. It was expected to last generations, but it started deteriorating within a couple of decades.

The crumbling fountain was removed from Howard Park in 1941, when the city had no money to repair it. It was long thought lost, but part of it resurfaced a few years ago and was donated to The History Museum.

The top two-thirds of fountain had come into the possession of a local family, who displayed it during the 1950s at a miniature golf course along U.S. 20 in what is now part of Mishawaka.

In about 1960, it was moved to the backyard of the home of John and Mary Seiler along the St. Joseph River near Osceola, where it stood until 2009. The Seiler children donated the pieces to museum in 2009, after their parents died and the house was to be sold. The donors didn't know the fountain's history.

After the remaining piece were donated, a plan arose to restore the fountain as a public landmark. In less than eight months, a committee of community volunteers managed to raise more than \$648,900 in private contributions to restore the fountain's existing pieces and recast missing pieces.

The fountain is large: about 28 feet tall, with a pool nearly 42 feet in diameter. As it did in 1906, the fountain has a 14-foot circular concrete plaza around it.

The South Bend fountain was one of the largest and most ornate offered by J.L. Mott Iron Works, the prominent company that crafted it, Robinson said.

His grandfather, Joseph Robinson, began buying vintage casts for iron work in the 1940s, including many casts that originally belonged to the defunct J.L. Mott company. That's why Robinson Iron already had many of the original casts needed for the South Bend fountain.

"There are fountains very similar to this one in Memphis, Tennessee, and Brooklyn, New York," Robinson said.

Robinson Iron Works frequently does repair and replacement work of vintage fountains. "Sometimes there's nothing left but a postcard image," he said, noting the company can create vintage-looking fountains from scratch.

The restored fountain will be lit with colored LED lights, similar to the incandescent lights that awed South Bend crowds when the fountain was originally dedicated in 1906 in a central spot in Howard Park. Electric lighting was relatively new then, and a lighted public fountain was a great novelty.

Ancon Construction, the firm handling assembly of the project, is awaiting several parts that are on order to complete the project. When those parts arrive, the work can be completed. And South Bend's history fountain will flow again.

How to contribute

Public donations are still being accepted for an endowment fund for the Studebaker Electric Fountain's future maintenance. Donors may purchase commemorative bricks that will be placed in the fountain plaza.

Donations are tax-deductible. Checks may be mailed to Studebaker Fountain Committee, c/o Mo Miller, CPA and treasurer, 814 Marietta St., South Bend, IN 46601. For more information, contact Vicki McIntire at vickimcintire@comcast.net.

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