May 11, 2000

SUBJECT:  Hiawatha Big Indian Inspection

LOCATION:  Riverside Park
LaCrosse, WI

DATE OF INSPECTION:  May 10, 2000

REQUESTED BY:  Mr. Gar Amunson
(LaCrosse Parks Superintendent)
2000 Marco Drive
LaCrosse, WI 54601

This report represents the professional opinion of Mr. David D. Holstrom, AIA, PE, during a limited time inspection of exposed to view elements. No testing (non destructive or destructive), nor removal of coverings was done.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

The Big Indian statue has numerous cracks. Many of the cracks are major sized. (3/4" wide x 4" deep) Several locations are missing sections of plaster finish, with exposed steel reinforcing. The rear vest located on the shoulder and back of the Indian is cracked from top to bottom and extremely loose. This major piece can be wiggled freely and implies that it is hollow and not securely fastened to the main structure.

CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The existing condition is dangerous. I recommend that a construction fence be placed around the base of the sculpture to avoid large fragments of plaster from falling on anyone below. I believe that further severe weather (hard rain or frost conditions) will continue to damage the structure and loosen additional fragments.

2. This structure can not be repaired by caulk, sealants and a paint job. I recommend that a sculptor/artist be hired to scaffold the structure, remove all paint finishes, remove all loose and damaged plaster finishes, install new steel reinforcing/bonding agent/plaster finish system as required/seal all hairline cracks with paint grade sealant, then repaint/seal entire structure.

David D. Holstrom, AIA, PE
Architect & Structural Engineer