



**ALPHA
PLATFORMS**

WE LIFT YOU ABOVE ALL

HOW TO INSPECT AND SECURE DISLODGED ROOF PILLARS AT THE 230+ FOOT NATIONAL CATHEDRAL WITHOUT ANY CONTACT WITH THE BUILDING

www.alphaplatforms.com



Washington National Cathedral, the majestic gothic cathedral, is the sixth-largest cathedral in the world and the second largest in the United States. Built over 83 years, its two west towers rise to 234 feet, and the height of the central Gloria in Excelsis Deo tower is 301 feet - the highest point in Washington, D.C.

As a result of the 2011 earthquake, the cathedral sustained \$34M in damage, especially to its high structures. The cathedral's Head Mason hired civil engineering architects to survey the damage and develop a plan of action.

They surveyed that the bottoms of decorative pillars at the top of the building became dislocated, and one of the main pillars was very unsafe. According to the quote of potential contractors, it would be very expensive to set pipe scaffolding (\$100k plus) around the roof pillars.



THE CHALLENGE

Pipe scaffold has a high risk of wall damage because it requires drilling into the building. After the workers drill into the old natural stone, the stone would need to be repaired or replaced. With only a few providers of natural stone repair materials for historical buildings, Washington Cathedral would have waited for a long time and would have had to spend a lot. Drop scaffolding where ropes go around the roof was not an option: the ropes could damage the intricate roof with decorations.

To further complicate matters, the cathedral was built the medieval way - there was no reinforcement between roof pillar stones making its structure very fragile.

The client hired Alpha Platforms for the contactless reach offered by our truck-mounted aerial platforms that's especially valuable to fragile or historic buildings.

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and equipment, just call or email:

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855-2000-855

THE SOLUTION

To preserve the delicate historic building while reducing the cost of the project, Alpha Platforms deployed the [A-230](#), our unique contactless reach 230-foot boom lift. The project was scheduled for 3-5 days and required lifting two inspectors to survey the damage and secure dislodged pillars.

Our IPAF-certified operator arrived in the morning, quickly set up the boom lift into working position and within 10 minutes was ready to work.

THE OUTCOME

Due to the 31' jib and its maneuverability of 2 x 80 degrees, the operator was able to bring inspectors front and back 360 degrees around the pillars inspect and secure them from just one setup.

The client was able to avoid high pipe scaffolding costs, saving multiple tens of thousands of dollars. Our national landmark, Washington Cathedral, was also spared more wall damage and preserved its original stones without having to cover them up for weeks with more scaffolding.

TESTIMONIAL

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“The project was performed successfully, and we were really glad to have contactless means of reaching the building, as we all know that pipe scaffold might damage the structure, in this case, very very sensitive.”

Joseph A.
Head Stone Mason



To the big surprise of the client, instead of 3-5 days, the Alpha team was able to finish the entire inspection on the second day before lunch.

Our precise German-made lifts have become the height access method of choice for those who try them, as they combine unmatched productivity, safety, and reach.



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