

Bethel AME Memorial Site

Civil and Environmental Engineering

May 12th, 2026

IOWA



Our Team



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A Comprehensive Design and Engineering Solution for Bethel AME

Project Information



Goals & Objectives



Final Design Details



Cost Estimate & Questions



The Rich History of Bethel AME and Clinton, Iowa

- Church organized in 1868 and building erected in 1884
- Melissa Glanton, a former slave, was a founding member, selling \$600 worth of books to fund construction
- Pillar of the African American community
- The building is structurally deficient
- Local advocates envision a commemorative site using elements of the church to tell Bethel's story



Current Condition of Church



Church Interior



Design Must Balance Spatial Memory with Safe, Public Functionality

Client's Objectives

- Commemorative site to be used by the community
- A place for gathering with potential for ceremonies
- Implement stairs, pillars, and stained-glass windows

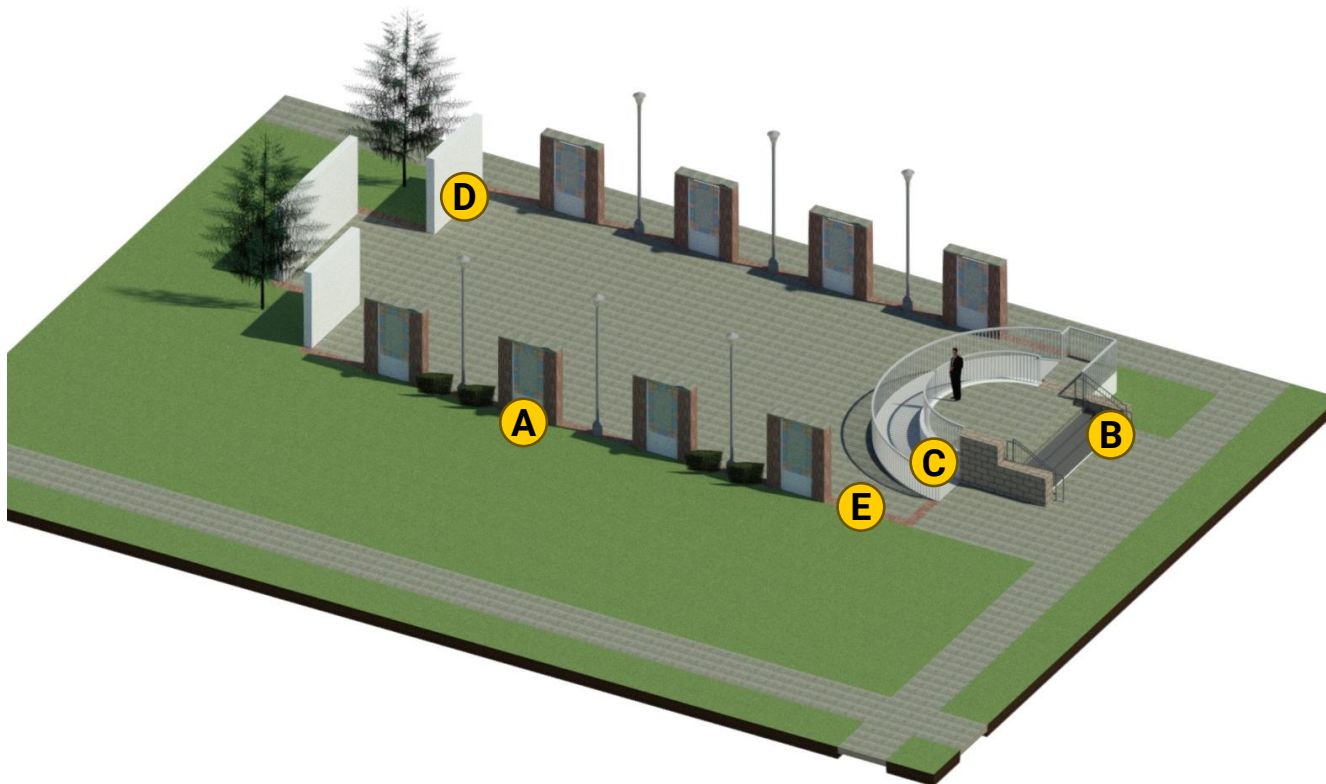


Design Team's Goals

- Community Involvement
- Educational Storytelling
- Accurate Historical Representation
- Community Function
- Iterative Design Process



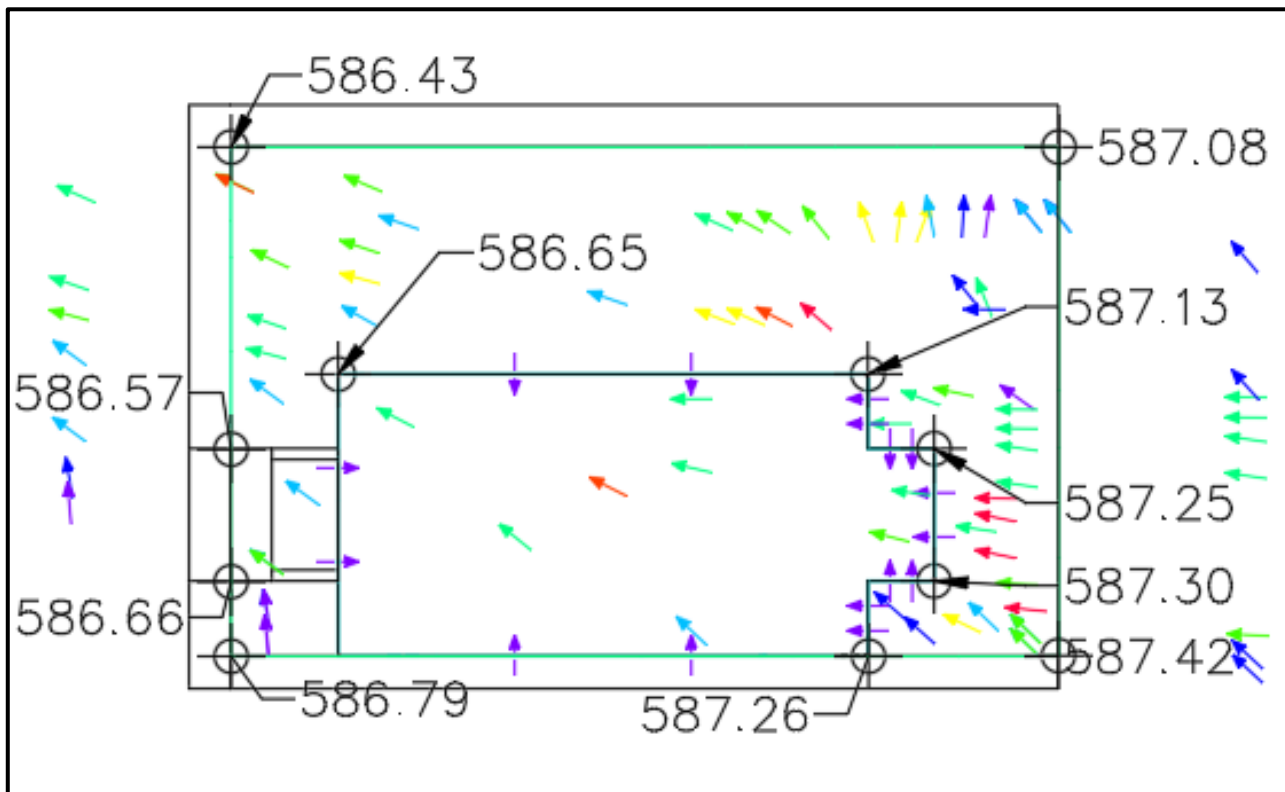
The Final Design is Open-air, Low Maintenance, and Promotes Community Use



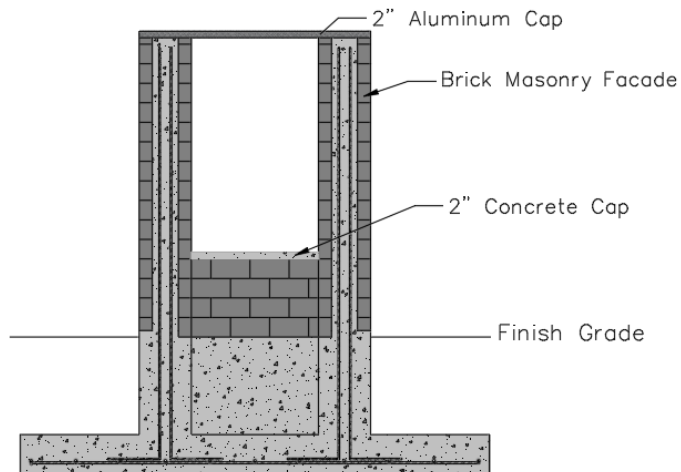
- A** Stained Glass Windows
- B** Steps into Landing Lookout
- C** ADA Accessible Ramp
- D** Walls that Outline Original Choir Loft
- E** Brick Outline of Church Footprint

Proposed Grading Maintains Current Stormwater Performance

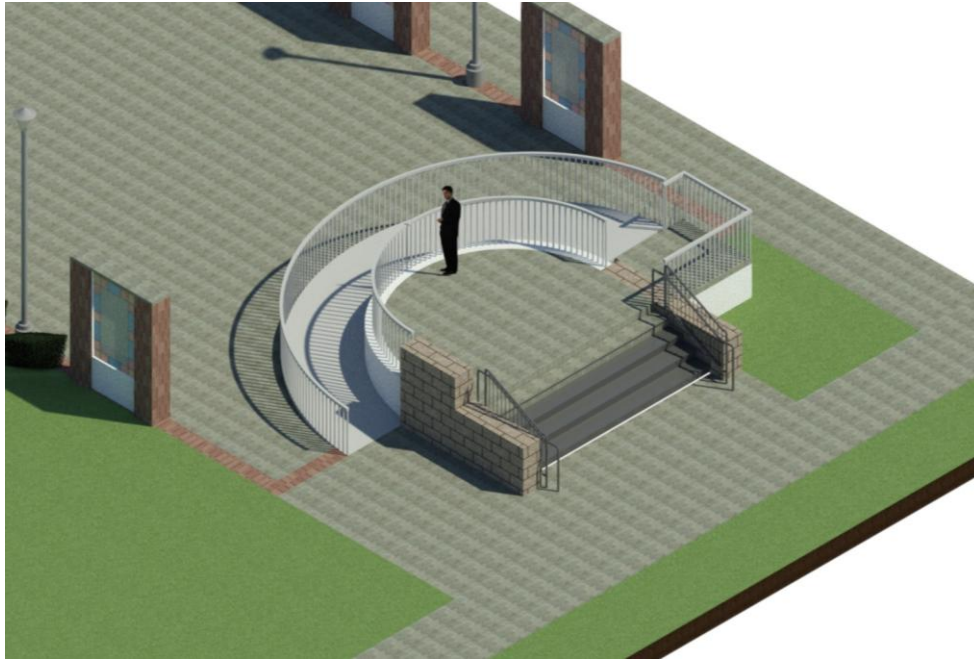
- Based on 24-hour, 100-year storm event
- Negligible Change in Flow



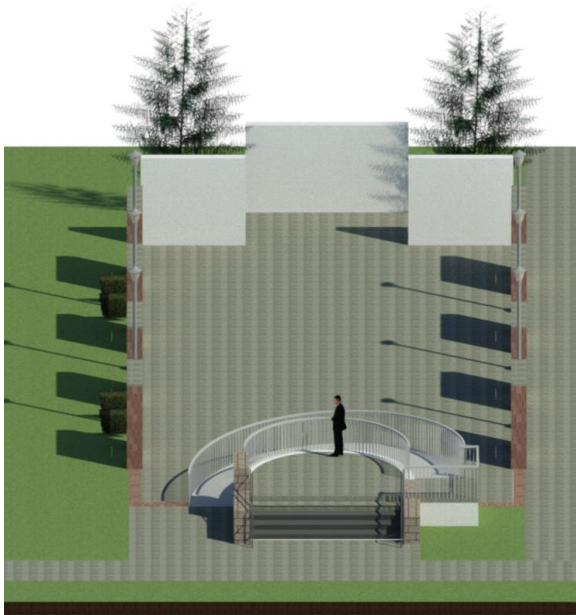
Structural Systems Secure Historic Stained Glass for Long-Term Viewing



Reconstruction of the Stairs Preserves the Historic Footprint and Entrance



New Masonry Walls Provide Privacy and a Formal Backdrop for Events



- Provide a backdrop for ceremonies and services
- Adequate amount of privacy from alley
- Match masonry used for windows



Integrated Plaque and Brick Detailing Enable Ongoing Educational Storytelling

- Leave space for plaques
- Incorporate names into the bricks
- Use existing facade art from front of church

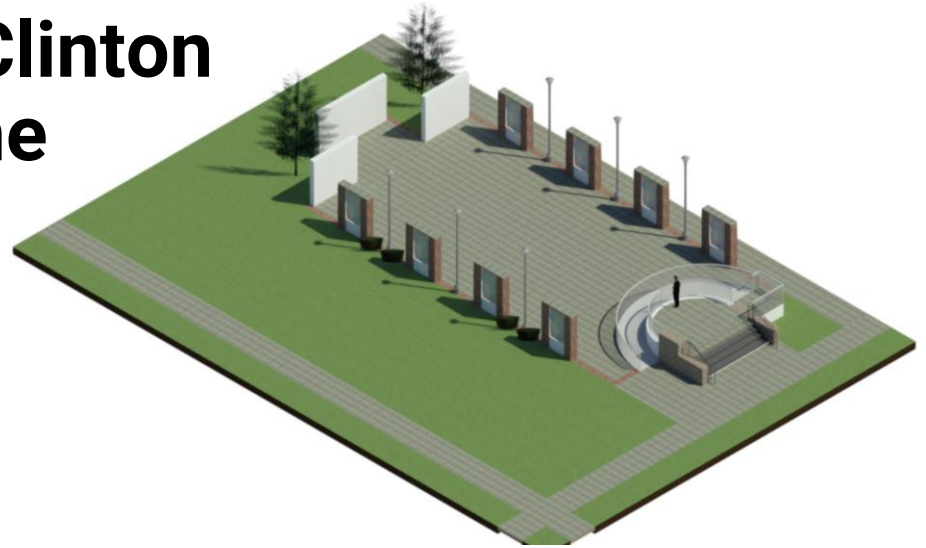


Cost Estimate

Site Component	Cost
Demolition	\$98,662
Concrete	\$25,183
Brick	\$413
Subbase	\$2,516
Fill	\$4,532
Lighting & Signage	\$7,300
Walls & Stairs	\$11,100
Landscaping	\$880
Total Construction Cost	\$150,373
Contingency (5%)	\$7,519
Engineering/Administration (15%)	\$22,556
Total Project Cost	\$180,448

Site Design will Serve Clinton for Generations to Come

- ✓ Cultivating Civic Gathering
 - ✓ Dedicated flexible spaces
- ✓ Preserving Living History
 - ✓ Interactive plaques turn the site into an outdoor classroom
- ✓ Honoring Clinton's Roots
 - ✓ The design connects to the Underground Railroad



Questions?

