

TEXAS MOVER

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2015

TASM member **George McMillan Moving Company** of Galveston County did not have to float a loan for this beautiful structure move, he simply had to float it to its new home location on Bolivar Island, Galveston

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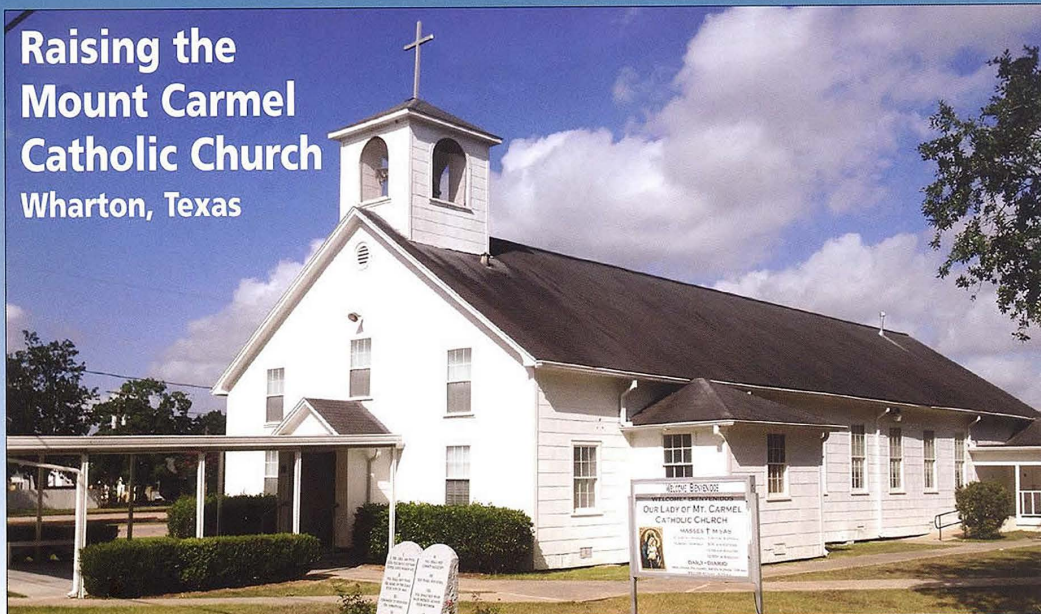
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Raising the Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Wharton, Texas



Church before current modifications.

Clegg Services, Victoria, Texas



Cross loader beams being placed under structure.



Built on its current location in 1948, Mt. Carmel Catholic Church has been subject to repeated flooding's and water risings. Situated below the 100-year flood elevation, the city of Wharton determined that the 66-year old church was due a raising.

Father Espinosa Gabriel contacted me, John Clegg, in April of 2013, to look into the project. I began the process of designing a way to lift the structure, raise it to the recommended height and install all new foundation. The new floor line would be 24" higher.

I hired Milton Blume, a local civil engineer. Mr. Blume designed a very robust foundation design which featured bell bottom piers. A 24" x 24" steel reinforced concrete beam around the perimeter and runners across. The concrete beam would then have a 16" block wall around the perimeter and solid block piers standing on the runners.

My design for lifting the building consisted of long 12" X 12", #72 wide flange steel I-beams. We installed the seven cross loaders under the structure at the chosen positions. The church only had about 13" of crawl space.



Building cribs.



David Wilson, Oney House Moving Company, operates the Unified Jacking Machine.

We modified the ends of our beams with a “skid” end and chain holes. We needed the beams to lay flat outside the church so we could winch and slide them under the structure. Since the sidewalks were at a higher elevation than the church, our first task was to demolish and haul off the existing concrete, which was as many as 3 layers in some areas.

Next, the crew used a long section of PVC pipe to push a rope under the church which was used to pull the big winch cable across. The notches made a gap to slide the cross loaders through. We put big notches into the perimeter concrete wall with a special chainsaw. The winch truck then pulled each cross loader beam under the structure.



After the cross loaders were positioned, we installed 12"X12", 72# picker beams on top of the cross loaders. Prior to installing the cross loaders, we dug holes to allow our crib jacks to recess low so as to set up under our picker beams. We then clamped the picker beams to the cross loaders with heavy Armstrong C-clamps, to build our jack set. We laid down 1" thick pieces of plywood with a hole cut in the center. We then laid down six (6) cribs, 6"X6"X36. We then laid our 4# steel I-beams. The jack bases set on our 4" I-beams. We barely had room under our picker beams.



Almost up.



Raising the Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Clegg Services, Wharton, Texas



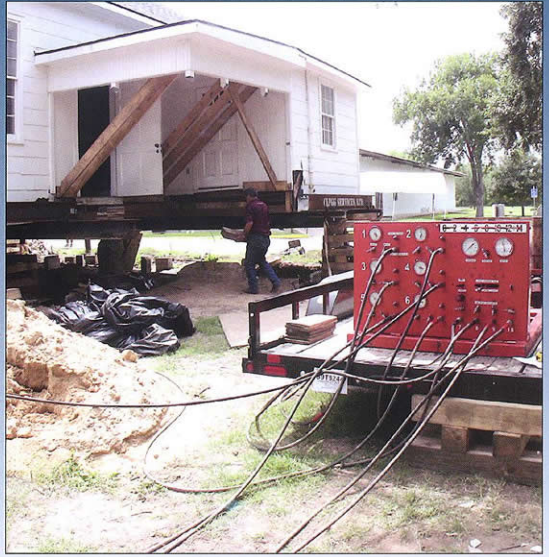




Notches in the new perimeter wall allows space for crossloaders to be removed when building is lowered.

We purchased a used 6-Jack Unified Machine from Kendal at Buckingham Structural Moving Equipment, one on each end and one in the middle, on each long side of the structure. The machine's 4 helper ports gave us two additional jack positions per side bringing our jack sites to five on each side.

I enlisted Lonnie Oney to travel to Wharton to train us to operate the Unified Jacking Machine since we had never operated one. Lonnie brought his main helper, Mr. David Wilson, Lonnie and David jumped right in and we had the structure raised in short order.



After repeatedly being flooded, Church leaders contracted Clegg Services to raise the 66-year old Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.



The outer cribs and picker beams had to be removed in order to allow the boring machine and workers to have access to the perimeter of the structure. So, after raising the building approximately five feet, we built crib piles under the cross loaders, under the building. After setting the inside crib piles, we set the building on them. We then removed the outer cribs and the packer beams. After spending two more days removing all foundation debris, the crew loaded up and left the site to the foundation contractor.

When we returned to the site, the foundation was ready for us to proceed. The crew re-installed the picker beams and the cribs under them; then reset the 10 jacks to start the lowering process.

On Wednesday, October 8th, we started lowering the structure. A good friend, Edgar Dodson, traveled to Wharton to assist me in running the jack machine. First we had to raise the structure in order to remove the inside cribs. Once they were cleared out, the lowering started. Even with a long lunch break, we had the church sitting on the new foundation by early afternoon.



New foundation trenches.



The next day, we built three raised platforms for the air conditioning units, then started the breakdown process. We loaded the sizeable pile of cribbing and an additional two truckloads of steel to return to Victoria.

The church now rests on a secure foundation elevated above the threat of flooding from the Colorado River. New entrances will be built to accommodate the new height of the church along with final trim and painting.





New foundation ready.



New siding going on, new sidewalks and entrance.



Lift crew left to right: Ryan Stewart, Shannon Bessey, David C. Bucek, Sr., Lonnie Oney, John Clegg, Dereck Talkington, David Wilson, Elisea Hernandez, Devon Dioguardi, Felipe Jimenez, Jr. and Gilbert Rodriguez, Jr..



Completed job.

This was a challenging and rewarding venture. The following people made the project possible:

Most Reverend David E. Fellhaver -

Bishop of Diocese of Victoria

Mike Brown - Victoria Diocese C.F.O.

Jeri Joseph - Administrative Assistant

Reverend Gabriel Espinosa -

Pastor of Mt. Carmel Church

Mr. David Bucek -

Long time parishioner of Mount Carmel Church

Elisea Hernandez - Long time parishioner of Mount Carmel Church

Reverend Ty Bazar -

Parochial Administrator of Mount Carmel

Lonnie Oney, Oney House Moving Company

David Wilson, Lonnie's helper

Edger Dodson - Dodson House Movers

Pete Sanchez Construction, LLC. - Concrete Construction

Alan Bass & Son - Foundation drilling

Milton Blume - Foundation design

And the Clegg Crew:

Derrick Talkington

Anne Lemke

Devon Dioguardi

Gilbert Rodriguez

Felipe Jimenez

Stephen Balboa

Trey Lockhart

Ryan Stewart

Patrick Freeman - Photos