



Saving Motor Mill

Foundation Rescue

In 2020, as part of the decade's long restoration of the Mill, a group excavated silt from the Mill basement that had accumulated over the prior 140 years. Fifty truckloads of silt were carefully removed. Sedimentation reached 9 feet deep in some areas! During this process, beautifully crafted pyramidal native limestone piers were exposed that support the central portion of the structure. Subsequent flooding and weathering further revealed issues of structural instability on two piers that are partially supported by crumbling and exposed bedrock. In July 2024, a professional engineer was consulted who expressed a high degree of concern for the Mill's short-term structural stability.

Project Summary & Case Statement



As the Motor Mill is the keystone structure for the Motor Mill Historic Site and a historic iconic structure of Northeast Iowa, proper and professional reinforcement of the foundation is critical. The effort will require significant and careful excavation, including construction, concrete reinforcement, pier stabilization, tuck pointing, and stonework. To successfully stabilize the structure, a capital campaign is needed to raise \$211,000 to complete these tasks necessary to keep the Mill available for visitors, tours, and school groups for years to come.

Budget & Timeline

Phase	Timeline	Cost	Committed
Planning & Engineering	Jul. 2024-Dec. 2024	\$26,000	\$26,000
Phase 1: Short-Term Stabilization	Spring 2025	\$85,000	\$64,000
Phase 2: Long-Term Stabilization	2026	\$100,000	\$0

Fundraising Goal

\$211,000 by June of 2025
Recommended minimum donation is \$500, however, the Motor Mill Foundation appreciates any and all contributions for this critical effort!

Visit MotorMill.org/donations to make a tax deductible gift today!
Checks Payable to: Motor Mill Foundation
Mail To: 29862 Osborne Rd. Elkader, Iowa 52043

Motor Mill Foundation
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