

Restoration Blends Old and New

Ulysses S. Grant's leadership in the Civil War has long been chronicled in history classes around the globe, and with the restoration of Grant's Tomb, Riverside Drive, New York, his heroics will span generations to come ... thanks to a New Jersey firm.

While the 18th president's most memorable victory was at the Battle of Chattanooga, and although he resided in Galena, Illinois after the war, Grant requested to be buried in New York. His ornate tomb, with its dome rising high above the Hudson River, was dedicated in 1897. Sadly, it has become a magnet for the homeless, graffiti and drug use in recent years.

Restoration is underway to transform the dilapidated structure back to the glorious condition it so long enjoyed. In order to preserve the authenticity of the tomb, the restoration is under the direction of the National Park Service and Island Restoration.

Pfister Industries Inc., Fair Lawn, played an intricate role in the tomb's revitalization by replacing the 70' and 120' high roof levels. The job presented Pfister with many unique challenges not often seen in commercial or private roofing.

Careful to maintain the tomb's nearly 100-year old charm and architectural style, the National Park Service banned the use of many conventional roofing materials. Pfister installed a cutting-edge PVC single-ply waterproofing material. This system allows the roof material to be laid directly over the existing brick deck. The membrane is then held in place by the installation of 1"-2" of river bed stone.

The roofing work was extremely difficult due to the narrow three foot working areas around the perimeter of the tomb. The materials were loaded onto the roof via roof-mounted

hoists—taking extreme care not to damage the national monument in the



Grant's Tomb during Pfister's roof restoration.

process. The tomb's interior will also be refurbished and the park is expected to be completed on its centennial on April 27, 1997. On April 20, 1995, four of Grant's descendants gathered at a ceremony marking Grant's 173rd birthday.

Pfister's roofing restoration proved to be a true blend of old and new—the architectural style of a century ago with the roofing technologies of the '90s.

- **Hospitality Franchise Systems Inc.**, Parsippany, purchases **Century 21 Real Estate Corporation** for \$200 million in cash and stock.

- **The Morris Companies**, Secaucus, is selected by **Barnes & Noble** to design and build its new \$32-million national distribution center in South Brunswick.

- **Hall Construction Co.**, Wall, is selected by **NJ Transit**, Newark, to perform the \$6.3 million restoration of the Newark Penn Station facade.

- **American Truck and Trailer Corp.**, East Brunswick, purchases 10 acres of industrial land at 650 Jernees Mill Road, Sayreville.

- **Subcon Products Corp.**, a worldwide importer and distributor, purchases an 82,000-square-foot office/industrial building in Totowa to house its U.S. headquarters.

- **The Joint Venture Architects**, Princeton, is selected to design the new offices for the **New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency** to be located in the 66,500 square-foot industrial building in the historic **Roebling Market Complex**, Trenton.

- **Rhone-Poulenc**, South Brunswick, leases a 54,000 square-foot office building at **Princeton Forrestal Center**.

- **The Tarquini Organization**, Camden, is selected by the **Kennedy Property Corp.** to design and oversee the construction of a 30,000 square-foot surgical center adjacent to the **University Medical Center**, Washington Township.

- **Juengert Grutsmacher Harkness**, P.A., Holmdel, changes its name to **ARCNET Architects, Inc.**

- **Elisabeth J. Kluffer** is named publisher for two regional editions of *Black's Guide*, the directory for commercial real estate.