



1995 CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Gary L. Howes of The Durable Slate Co. was responsible for the challenging slate work on the spire of St. Mary's Church in German Village.

When the existing roof of the 197-foot church spire was removed, it exposed rotting timber at the base of the steeple.



Howes and a crew of seven repaired and rebuilt the base.

The steeple was slated with more than 7,000 pieces of Virginia-Buckingham slate.

The partially fabricated pieces of slate, ranging from 5 1/2 to 8 inches, were installed with 14,000, 10-gauge copper nails and 7,000 3-inch stainless steel hooks to prevent wind lift.

One hundred pieces of slate were hoisted up from the base of the spire on a power lift platform, for a total of 400 pounds at any given time.

Some pieces required extensive on-site handcutting by Howes due to more than 2,000 mitres and transitions.

Howes, working in excessive winds and rain on narrow scaffolding, was unable to stand in several areas.

His organizational skills were evident, as no materials were dropped onto the street and sidewalk, which were kept open during the re-roofing.

General contractor for this



project was Martin Construction.

Howes has spent his six-year career with The Durable Slate Co.

The metal work on the spire of St. Mary's Church in German Village is the craftsmanship of Richard A. Ladina of The Durable Slate Co.

Ladina partially fabricated the copper dormers and flashings in the shop and completed the fabrication on the scaffolding on-site for the 197-foot church spire.



Four 4- by 18-foot dormers, weighing 2,000 pounds each, were meticulously attached to the spire. Each dormer consisted of hundreds of pieces requiring precise installation.

Over 2,000 pounds of flashings were placed in the work.

Working at an elevation of 140 feet, all materials were hoisted by an electric-powered platform to the base of the spire and then hand-carried to the top.

Working alongside the slate crew, Ladina and his crew of five attached the dormers and flashings.

During high gusts of wind, the spire Ladina worked on moved in one direction while the scaffolding moved in another.



Neither the street or sidewalk below his worksite were shut off during this 30-day project.

Martin Construction served as general contractor for the project.

Ladina holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Columbus College of Art & Design. He has worked in the construction industry for 12 years, spending nearly three years with The Durable Slate Co.