BKV Group retained WJE to perform a limited evaluation of the exterior facades of the historic Pillsbury A-Mill North, South Mill and Cleaning House, and Red Tile Elevators located at Main Street and 3rd Avenue SE. Symptoms of deterioration included the effects of 130 years of weathering and industrial wear, prolonged vacancy and neglect, and cladding materials, including Platteville limestone and terra cotta tile that presented complex and unique preservation challenges.

WJE’s scope of services included a review of the original building documents, close-up visual inspections of the exterior facades of the three historic buildings using industrial rope access systems and climbing techniques (rappelling), specifying and conducting vibration monitoring and controls during site excavation and demolition, and consultation during repair detailing and building envelope retrofit design. WJE provided architectural, structural and material science analysis and recommendations, allowing BKV to pinpoint repairs at specific areas of advanced facade deterioration while preserving significantly more of the historic material than would have been possible following a more general condition survey.