

Ocmulgee National Monument

Assessment & HVAC Upgrades

Macon, Georgia



The Building:

Ocmulgee Mounds National Monument is a National Park on the east bank of the Ocmulgee River in Macon, GA. The park is home to ceremonial earthworks dating back to 1000 BC. The park's visitor center is significant for its Art Moderne architecture and for its early use as one of the first National Park Service visitor centers. It was constructed in two phases. The main entry, rotunda, bathrooms and rear offices were built chiefly by Federal Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) relief workers from 1938 to 1941. Construction stopped when World War II interrupted. The western portion was completed in 1950-1951.

Nature of Firm's Responsibilities:

In 2014, Landmark Facilities Group performed an assessment of the existing mechanical and electrical systems of the visitor center. The existing system consisted of heat pump units connected to a gas-fired, hot water boiler, and a closed-circuit cooling tower. The assessment identified that the existing system was energy inefficient, difficult to maintain, and could not create the interior climate necessary for the collections areas. The assessment provided three system options with probable costs for the consideration.

Using input from the National Park Service, the firm designed a new Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) climate control system. The system was chosen for its low operating cost and ease of maintenance. The system uses high-efficiency units with heat recovery for simultaneous heating and cooling. Maintenance costs for the system are much lower than the previous console heat pump system.

The new system provides heating and cooling for all spaces. In collections spaces, high-capacity side-stream dehumidifiers regulate the relative humidity levels. The existing electrical systems were updated to support the new climate control equipment.