



The Old Manse: Historic Restoration Project – Exterior Envelope

Project Status Report & Completion Notice

10/2022

Project Summary:

Built in 1770 for patriot minister William Emerson, the Old Manse became the center of Concord's political, literary, and social revolutions over the course of the next century. Since 1939, The Trustees has operated the Old Manse as a house museum representing local and national history with its connections to the Battle of Concord on April 19, 1775, and the Transcendentalist movement. Today the property welcomes more than 100,000 visitors a year from within the community and beyond, for both guided tours and public programs offered by The Trustees, as well as to simply enjoy the picturesque grounds of the historic home.

The building's exterior was last painted in 2010 with funding from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. While the work completed then has largely held up well over time, the exterior's condition was beginning to deteriorate. More specifically, much of the windows needed reglazing, there were areas of rot and woodpecker damage that need repair, and the building was showing signs of mildew and moss growth on the north and west sides. The necessary repairs and repainting of the exterior have now been completed, helping to preserve the building's integrity and improve the aesthetic appearance of this important historic home for years to come.

Carpentry :

Partnering with John Watson, Expert carpenter and preservationist of The Gothic Carpenter, select clapboards were identified and replaced in kind with radially quarter-sawn pine clapboards with feathered lap joints. These were primed prior to installing and secured with rose head nails.



Paint & Glazing:

As a Certified Women Owned business, BLC Painting was contracted with an excellent award winning reputation for this historic work. Providing care and attention to not only our building, but surrounding landscaping protections, safety, and general visitor courtesies, their team was wonderful to work with.

Window Glazing:

BLC Painting performed hand scraping and re-glazing on most windows, with high attention to glazing bar muntins between each single pane divided lite. Two replacement panes were installed, performed by a specialty subcontractor.



Painting:

Paint in this restorative context is used to maintain a coating to cover the historic clapboards, trims, sills, doorways, and shutters. Preparing and restoring the exterior envelope paint system of the structure has now provided a comprehensive physical barrier to the elements. Additionally, mold resistance additives were able to be utilized within the primer application of the north and west sides. This will enable the exterior envelope to avoid biological growth and moisture penetration that can lead to deterioration of the siding and ultimately the structural members of the building.

Conclusion :

This project has enabled preservation of the historic integrity of the Old Manse as a National Historic Landmark. The completion of this critical work has helped to ensure the integrity of the building's exterior envelope, preventing deterioration, and improving the appearance while retaining the character of the Old Manse so that it may be enjoyed for decades to come.