

Blackstone Hotel

Facade Restoration

Chicago, Illinois



CLIENT

Sage Hospitality Resources and Lucien LaGrange Architects

CHALLENGE

In recent decades, the original ornate facade of the Blackstone Hotel had experienced severe deterioration. In 2005, new owners initiated a comprehensive restoration of the building. Lucien LaGrange Architects retained WJE to provide consulting expertise for restoration of the building's exterior masonry, windows, and roof.

STRUCTURE

The Blackstone Hotel, built in 1910 and designed by Marshall & Fox Architects, is a Chicago landmark with a neoclassical Beaux-Arts facade. Its primary exterior features include brick, ornate terra cotta, and an extensive metal mansard roof.

SOLUTION

WJE performed a detailed hands-on evaluation of the building's exterior envelope, including strategic inspection openings and cleaning studies, to thoroughly understand existing conditions. We used the information provided from this study, and their experience with similar systems and materials, to develop methods that could be used to salvage the vast majority of the historic facade. Where extensive deterioration of critical materials made replacement necessary, details and specifications were prepared to integrate this work efficiently and in an aesthetically sensitive manner with the surrounding elements. We also provided construction period services to facilitate implementation of this extensive restoration.

The Blackstone Hotel is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has recently won the following four awards: Chicago Landmark Award for Preservation Excellence from the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, Excellence in Masonry (gold award) from the Illinois Indiana Masonry Council, Design Award (silver medal) from the Association of Licensed Architects, and Project of the Year from *Midwest Construction*.