

Miami-Dade County Courthouse  
Facade Inspection  
Miami, Florida



CLIENT

GSA/Construction Management, Miami-Dade County McHarry Architects

STRUCTURE

The Miami-Dade County courthouse was built in 1928. This 360-foot-high building is a historic landmark structure with a terra cotta facade.

CHALLENGE

After decades of neglect, the terra cotta facade of the Miami-Dade County Courthouse had deteriorated beyond a serviceable condition. WJE was selected to investigate the cause of distress and develop a sympathetic repair approach to preserve the original aesthetics of the landmark structure. The key to insuring serviceability of this facade was a thorough understanding of the original construction, causes of deterioration, and appropriate methods of preservation.

SCOPE OF SERVICE

- Determine general facade condition
- Identify imminently hazardous conditions through the following inspection methods:
  - Rope descent systems and suspended scaffolding drops
  - Optical borescope inspections and limited exploratory openings
- Develop conceptual repair schemes and preliminary cost estimate for budgeting



SOLUTION

- Recommended phased repair schedule for budgetary considerations
- Completed conceptual repairs and budget estimates as precursors to the subsequent phases:
  - Reconnaissance survey
  - Verification of as-built conditions
  - Materials testing and confirmation of repair techniques through mock-ups
  - Design and construction period services

