

Virginia Governor's Mansion

Condition Assessment, Restoration Plans, and Construction Administration
Richmond, Virginia



CLIENT

Commonwealth of Virginia Department of General Services

CHALLENGE

Portions of this historic mansion and two adjacent structures were in need of restoration. Problem conditions included warping wood and mold growth, cracking and spalling in the exterior masonry walls, and deterioration of the standing seam metal roof and brick chimneys. A detailed restoration plan was required to address these problems. The plan had to comply with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

STRUCTURE

Built in 1813, the Virginia governor's mansion is the oldest continuously occupied governor's mansion in the United States. Architect Alexander Parris designed the structure, which is now a national historic landmark. A cottage/guest house and a carriage house are also part of the executive mansion's complex.

SOLUTION

WJE's investigation of the facility's problems included visual documentation of deterioration and distress and localized water testing. Together with the owner, we prepared a phased restoration plan in conformance with the applicable historic standards. Repairs included recoating of the mansion walls to address water leakage, tuckpointing and other retrofit work on the cottage/guest house chimneys, and replacement of the entire cottage/guest house metal roof and underlayment systems. To confirm that the repairs were implemented in conformance with the plans and specifications, we assisted the owner during the construction phase by providing periodic observation of the work.

