

Exterior Door Preservation Project August-November 2018

The exterior doors that greet visitors to the Capitol are original 1888 construction. In addition to facing sun, rain, and wind for the past 130 years, they are currently used by more than 1 million visitors per year. Built of a thick layer of oak laminated over a core of white pine, the doors are hung on the largest of the massive "Texas Capitol" hinges found throughout the building.

This year, the SPB conducted a preservation effort on these important historic elements. The sensitive treatment included stripping loose paint, patching cracks and nicks, replacing perimeter sealants, and applying a fresh coat of protective paint to the exterior. Sweeps were replaced at the bottoms of the doors to keep out air and insects. New closers were installed to make these massive doors as easy as possible to open, while keeping them securely shut to keep out the elements. All historic hardware was restored to smooth function. Attachment points of hardware were reinforced to protect adjacent historic wood, and catches were adjusted to accommodate each door's unique shape without placing them under stress.

