

Old General Land Office / Capitol Visitors Center

Exterior Preservation and Roof Replacement Project

The 1857 Old General Land Office Building, which houses the Capitol Visitors Center, will be undergoing historic preservation on its exterior stucco and windows. The slate roof will be replaced and rehabilitated. State Preservation Board (SPB) project specialists and consultants have performed an extensive condition assessment that indicates the building, now 30+ years since it was restored, needs some intervention to continue to protect it from the harsh Texas weather. Stucco areas along the skyward facing horizontal bands and cornices are cracking and exposing the limestone substrate to moisture infiltration. The wood casement windows are exhibiting varying degrees of UV deterioration and need to be reglazed to better ensure protection from the elements. The slate roof is also showing signs of fatigue with cracked and dislodged slates. Once all preservation is complete, the building will get a fresh new coat of paint on all of its exterior surfaces. The project will involve industry leading masonry consultants to train the contractors on the specific mix of stucco used on the building to best blend into existing conditions. The SPB, in conjunction with its roof design consultant, saw an opportunity to restore the historic configuration of the gutter system during this project. A late twentieth century box gutter will be replaced with a period-specific pole-style gutter seen in early historic photos. The restoration of the original gutter profile will make for an accurate interpretation of what the building looked like in its interpretive period of 1880 to 1920.

Stucco Conditions



Window Conditions



Slate Roof Conditions



Gutter Restoration

