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Laramie, WY



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High Plains Painter



▲ Finished project, with historic colors, eroded over 40 years of neglect.

This was a special project – the first mansion to be built in Laramie was constructed in 1878 for W.H. Holiday, whose business sold, among other things, hardware, lumber, brick... and baby carriages. Nearly 100 years later, the city decided that, rather than tear down the neglected and unoccupied house, they would move it from the city center to a new location about a mile outside city limits, a difficult task that was accomplished while still keeping the house completely intact.

And there it stood, peeling and failing in the harsh Wyoming climate. "In 2018, we were contacted to provide a painting estimate for the entire exterior," said Rob Yarbro, president at Wyoming View Painting. "It was obvious that the house had not been painted in over 20 years." Laramie sits about 7,200 feet above sea level. Winters are harsh, bringing subzero temps and winds of up to 60 mph. And while

preserving history matters, it still costs something to bring it back to life. "Our initial quote was to properly strip all the paint off the house to get down to a bare substrate, but due to the customer's budget, that was not going to be possible," said Yarbro. "So instead, we decided to use two coats of PrimeRx Peel Bonding Primer followed by two coats of Duration after thoroughly scraping, caulking and puttying. Project manager Chad Aschoff was put in charge, along with senior painting technicians Michael Choma and Jason Lux. The customer chose beautiful colors to keep with the history of the building, and we decided where to place them."

Yarbro pinged the budget as the biggest challenge on this job, followed by the EPA's RRP (Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting) Rules and Regulations, but he was still determined to deliver a high-quality paint job. This was an adventure in prep, as there was peeling and failed



▲ Great plains weather ravaged this 1870s exterior.



▲ A 40-foot climb greeted painters each morning.

paint all over this building. High peaks and difficult-to-reach areas required a lot of planning with fall arrest placements and lift operations.

With all those restrictions in place and accounted for, they set to work. First was to thoroughly scrape all the peeling paint, then apply two full coats of PrimeRx to create a smoother substrate for the top-coat. One of the peaks at this house was 40 feet up, so again, safe practices came into play. As an incentive, the view over the Wyoming plains was incredible, keeping in line with the company name.

"To this day, this project is one of our favorites," said Yarbro.

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Key Products

- Sherwin-Williams PrimeRx Peel Bonding Primer
- Sherwin-Williams Exterior Duration Low Lustre
- Sherwin-Williams SherMax Urethane Elastomeric Sealant