

Wagner Roof Lines

A Seasonal
Newsletter

Wagner Roofing...between Washington and the weather since 1914

Summer 1995

Temple Restoration Takes Workers Into the Skies

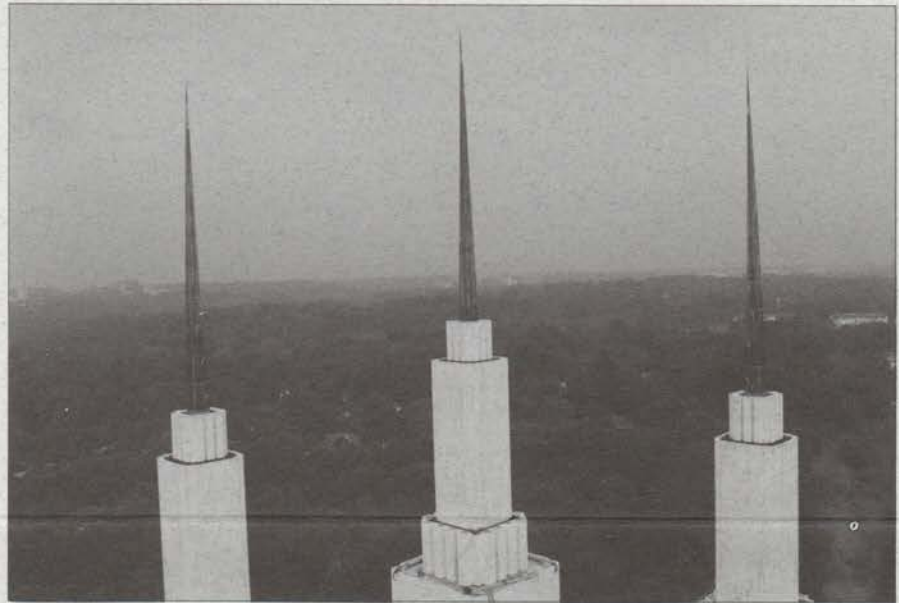


For several weeks last summer and fall, Wagner Roofing employees worked atop one of the area's tallest and most visible structures, the Mormon Temple. Climbing the same scaffolding used to clean the Statue of Liberty, our workers stood eye-level with passing birds and helicopters. On clear days, they could even see the mountains of West Virginia and Maryland.

The 248-foot tall temple, formally known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is in Kensington, but can be seen along the east side of the Capital Beltway.

"This was probably the tallest building our company has worked on in its 80-year history," said president Chuck Wagner. "It was excellent scaffolding, very sturdy. But we couldn't work on windy days. It was just too dangerous."

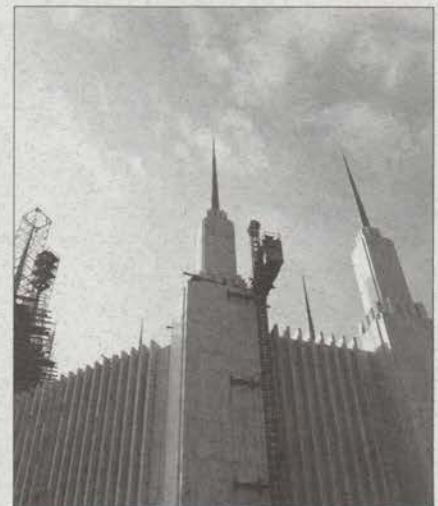
Most of Wagner Roofing's work involved replacement of copper flashing that had been torn off or damaged by high winds. But repairs to the church's roof were only one part of the temple's enormous \$2 million restoration project.



Above, The 248-foot Mormon Temple in Kensington towers above the city. The Temple scaffolding, right, was also used to clean the Statue of Liberty.

"The church's manager wanted everything checked out and even the smallest repairs taken care of," Wagner said. "It will probably be a long time before scaffolding is put up there again." In fact, all the roofing work was water-tested to be certain everything was watertight..

Other aspects of the project included replacement of 16 miles of caulk trimming the building's white marble, and restoration of the gold, 2 1/2-ton angel and six gold spires.



WAGNER ROOFING COMPANY

since 1914

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

It has been almost three years since I "officially" became a member of the Wagner Roofing Company family business. My title is vice-president, and I do everything from taking estimate requests over the phone to creating retirement programs for our employees.

But my connection to the company goes back almost two decades. Chuck-- the company president--and I will celebrate our 18th wedding anniversary this year, and Wagner Roofing has been a part of my life from the moment I said, "I do."

In Our Words

The words "family business" have taken on different meanings for me over the years. Initially, it meant that Chuck would always have a job and that he could come home early on occasion to see the children and be involved in the raising of our family. We could take a week's vacation without asking for permission from a boss, and we had health insurance.

But during the recession of the late '70s and early '80s, family business meant that Chuck worried about the company's future and the job security of his employees. He had to work even harder to insure the company's stability, not only to support his own family, but to help the many families connected to Wagner Roofing.

Now, as an official Wagner Roofing employee, the words family business encompass much more than just my husband and children. We are a family of 40 employees and their families. As Chuck and I have hired new employees over the past few years, I find myself explaining that working here means being a part of that large family. We really try to create an environment of honesty and reliability, where teamwork--helping each other--is crucial.

Recently, I brought my youngest daughter Rachel, 14, to the office for the national "bring your daughter to work" day. She spent half the day here with me and half with Chuck visiting job sites. Certainly, the roofing business is not very glamorous to a teen-age girl, or even to a 48-year-old woman for that matter, and I am sure that all my daughters, (there are four) have thought, "What could I ever do in the roofing business?" But Rachel enjoyed her visit, and like my third daughter, Lisa, may work with us during a summer or two.

Interestingly, we have been able to find ways for many of us to be involved in the family business. My oldest daughter, Wendy, is a freelance writer and the brains behind this newsletter. Who better to write about the family business than a family member who grew up looking at roofs with all of us? Chuck and I are extremely proud of this newsletter and her involvement.

I am proud to be a part of the family business, and I hope that the Wagner tradition will continue for many generations. I would like to thank you, our customers, for your continuing business and your support of the Wagner Roofing family.

Sheila Wagner
Sheila Wagner



Jobs in Progress



We'll be working at these jobs through part or all of the summer. Drive by and see us in action.

❖ The Arts Club of Washington, 2015 and 2017 I Street, N.W. This building served as the temporary White House for President James Monroe after the British burned 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. We are reroofing with new slate and tin.

❖ Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Butternut Street and Georgia Avenue, NW. A 150-ton crane crashed through the roof of the administrative building while another company was working on an adjacent building. Under emergency conditions, we are installing a slate roof with copper built-in gutters and cornices.

❖ Dumbarton United Methodist Church in Georgetown, Dumbarton Street and Wisconsin Avenue N.W. We are reroofing this historic building, the oldest Methodist congregation in the Washington area, dating from the 1830s. Abraham Lincoln attended services here during the Civil War.

❖ The Organization of American States, California Street NW. We are reroofing the Secretary General's residence in rubber. Tin roofs are also being refurbished.

❖ Galludet University, Fourth Street and Florida Avenue NE. We are doing major masonry repairs and built-up reroofing on Cogswell Hall.

❖ St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, Maryland. This college, established in 1840, is being reroofed in slate, with new copper dormers and terne-coated stainless built-in gutters and downspouts. The flat roofs are being reroofed with coal tar pitch.

❖ National Cathedral School for Girls--Hearst Hall, Woodley Road and Wisconsin Avenue NW. We are restoring a 1920 copper skylight, cornice and built-in gutter.



From Our History File: The White House



The Nixon administration certainly had its share of leaks to the press. But one leak you may not have heard about occurred in the White House Press Room 20 years ago.

Wagner Roofing Company was called in to repair a coal tar roof that was leaking into the press area. For a time, GSA, the building manager, was able to conceal the leak with a copper pan in the ceiling. But the work needed to be done properly and Wagner Roofing got the job.

Interestingly, we were asked to do the repairs quietly, on the weekend, when the press was not around, with the hope that reporters wouldn't make a story out of it.

This picture, right, was taken on a Sunday. The self-healing coal tar roof is still there today, making it more than 55 years old.



Research Roofing Contractors Before You Hire

Property owners' headaches can begin the moment they select an unqualified contractor to work on their property. But with a little investigation, it is easy to find and hire professional contractors who will not only perform quality work, but also will make working with them a satisfying experience.

We suggest you protect yourself and your property by using the following guidelines when selecting a roofing contractor:

- ❖ Obtain customer references and check them. Ask about the company's stability, reputation, record in completing jobs on time and quality of work performed.
- ❖ Make sure that the company is licensed and bonded.
- ❖ Call your local Better Business

Bureau or your state's Department of Professional Regulation to check for possible complaints filed against the contractor.

- ❖ Insist on a written proposal and examine it for complete descriptions of the work and specifications, including tasks the roofer will perform, types of materials, financial arrangements, and guarantees. Remember to check on the roofer's plans for keeping the property as clean as possible.
- ❖ Have your contractor list the roofing manufacturers with which his firm has licensed or approved applicator agreements. Most materials require special application expertise in order to achieve a quality roof system that will last.
- ❖ Carefully read and understand any warranty offered and watch for provisions that would void it.

- ❖ Don't hesitate to ask the roofing contractor for proof of insurance. In fact, insist on seeing copies of his liability coverage and workers' compensation certificates. Be sure the coverage runs through the duration of the job.
- ❖ Keep a healthy skepticism about the lowest bid. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Remember, price is only one of the criteria for selecting a contractor. Professionalism and quality workmanship should also weigh heavily on your decision.

At Wagner Roofing, we strive to make all of this information available to our customers. Our goal is to offer the highest quality work with top-quality service. Please call us if you have any further questions.

Excerpted from a consumer bulletin issued by the National Roofing Contractors Association.

Wagner Roofing Puts New Roof on Pediatric AIDS Center



respite care center for Washington-area children with AIDS and their families opened last year, and Wagner Roofing Company is proud to have been a part of the project.

Wagner donated a new roof to Friends Unlimited, which offers day care for sick children and their siblings, counseling for parents and children, and a wide array of other non-medical support services. Renovation of the center, a Shaw-area rowhouse, was completed with donated funds and services. Wagner Roofing is just one of many area contractors who helped in the project.

"We couldn't be happier to be a part of this home, which offers important support to children with AIDS and their families," said Wagner Roofing President Chuck Wagner.

The center is run by Pediatric AIDS/HIV Care, Inc., a private, non-profit group that conceived of the home and directed the project. The organization began giving counseling and support services to families of children with AIDS eight years ago. The new center has allowed Pediatric AIDS/HIV Care to greatly expand its programs and services.

Friends Unlimited provides day care for up to 15 children, support groups for parents and teens, indi-

vidual counseling, art and play therapy for children, and case management.

The rowhouse was donated to the group by a mother who lost both her sons to the AIDS virus. The house belonged to Mercedes Arnold's oldest son, Daniel Wright, who lived there until the early 1980s when he died at age 37.

"This is an effort about love and caring," Arnold said. "I want this to come out of being a loving mother. I've spent most of my life taking care of ill people, and I know what it means."

For more information about the Pediatric AIDS/HIV Care program, call 202-347-7707.

Written by Wendy Price Jones; designed by Carolyn Weary Brandt

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Since 1914

