

WAGNER

ROOFLINES 
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WINTER 2011

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‘Folk Art Roofing’ in Historic Capitol Hill Neighborhood

Eight blocks from the U.S. Capitol sits a house that marks Wagner Roofing’s foray into “folk art roofing.” Or at least that’s what the owner, Dana Carstarphen has called it.

“I’m not very artistic,” says Carstarphen, who bought the 1898 house with her husband in 2002. “But the workmanship is really folk art. These are skills that typical workmen don’t have. With all the work that has been done on this house in the past, it’s clear that the previous owners planned on it being around for a while. We wanted to do her right.”

The corner house, on 8th and A streets, Southeast, still had its original roof, two hip roofs and one round tower, all of which were covered in slate. Wagner removed the old roof, added an ice and water shield, replaced the slate, fabricated the three portal windows in copper, replaced the galvanized downspout in copper and fabricated finials that went atop the turrets.

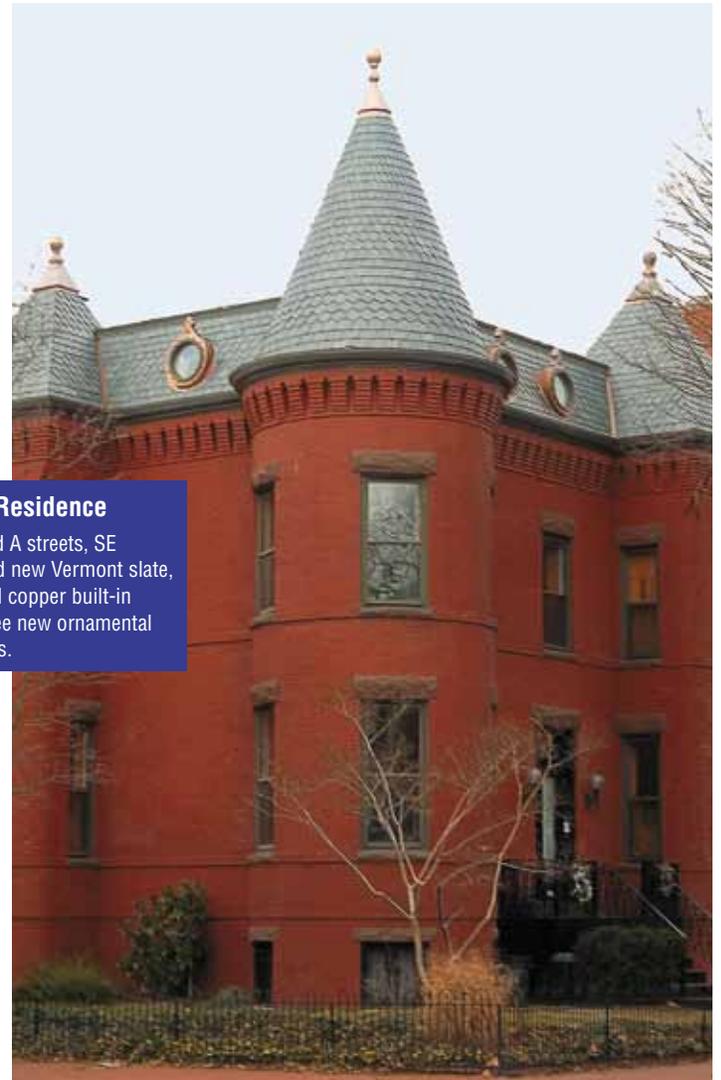
“It’s a re-creation of exactly

what was up there and lasted for 112 years,” Carstarphen says. “I think a lot of Capitol Hill restorations are cosmetic. To really get the right workmanship and historical accuracy, there’s probably only one roofer in the whole city that can do it, and that’s Wagner. I was never happier to write a check.”

The Wagner crew enjoyed their month working on the house, and they took breaks by going Eastern Market for lunch. Carstarphen says that may have been the same experience the original craftsmen had when they built the house more than a century ago.

“It’s great to work with a customer who knew what she wanted,” says Wagner operations manager Kevin Morgan. He says all the detail was challenging. “The most challenging part of the job was the three portal windows and finials. The slate tower in the center was especially challenging because

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Carstarphen Residence

Location: 8th and A streets, SE
Roofing: Installed new Vermont slate, shop fabricated copper built-in gutter with three new ornamental copper dormers.

Under the Roof at Wagner

Lindsay Keiser

Job: Project Manager

Years at Wagner: 1.5

Favorite roofing job:

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue. It was inspiring to see the owners' involvement and dedication to preservation.

Lives in: Edgewater, Md.

Tools she can't live without:

Camera and computer

Life before Wagner: School of Architecture at Temple University

Most rewarding part of job:

Restoring historical landmarks. I've always been interested in historical preservation, and it's one of the main reasons I attended architecture school.

Favorite roof in Washington:

National Cathedral, because of the level of detail in the gothic architecture.

Pastimes: Hiking and camping in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains

Last vacation: Phoenix, for a good friend's New Year's Eve wedding

What she's reading: *The Women*, by T.C. Boyle, a novel about Frank Lloyd Wright



Craftsmen Use Age-old Techniques to Establish Perfection at Belgian Ambassador's Residence

Every metal worker knows that solder can be used to hide imperfections in precision cuts and fabrication. But every skilled metal worker knows how to do the job without hiding anything. Such was the task at the residence of the ambassador of Belgium at 2300 Foxhall Rd.

"Any time you can get away from showing a lot of solder, that's something I enjoy, because it really shows that you know what you're doing," says Wagner metal superintendent

Bill Robin. "The ambassador himself, I'm told, has an eye for detail. With a job like this, there was no hiding imperfections."

The renovation of the 5,000-square-foot, four-car garage and two apartments began in March and was completed in September. Whiting-Turner hired Wagner to replace the Buckingham slate roof, built-in copper gutters and batten seam copper roof. Wagner also replicated and installed 15 radiused copper dormers and fabricated the decorative window trim to match the existing trim.

The residence, designed by Horace Trumbauer (who also designed The Philadelphia Museum of Art), was commissioned in 1930 by Anna Dodge

Dillman as a wedding gift for her daughter. Her father was Horace E Dodge, the Detroit automobile mogul. The Belgian government acquired the property in 1946.

Robin says the dormers made the project especially interesting. "In order to replicate them, we had to make special steel dies for each individual piece." He says it was interesting to look at the old metal, to see how the original craftsmen did their work. "We have a larger choice of tools today but on this project, we did most of the work just as they would have—making our own dies, fabricating our own panels. The craftsmanship hasn't changed much." ●

Belgian Ambassador's Residence

Location: 2300 Foxhall Rd., NW
Roofing: Installed new Buckingham slate, built-in copper gutters and batten seam copper roof. Replicated and installed 15 copper dormers and window trim for Whiting Turner Construction Company.



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Letter From the President

Supporting the Community

At Wagner Roofing, we feel it's important to contribute both time and money to helping others in our community—no matter what the season. Last year Wagner



donated to several charitable organizations in the greater Washington area. We supported the National Rehabilitation Hospital, which specializes in spinal cord and brain injuries; Yellow Ribbon Fund, which supports returning veterans and their families; and we donated to the Shepherd Foundation so a local high school student can continue his or her Catholic education.

Each year, new and deserving causes come to our attention.

While working on the restoration of the Phillips Collection, we were able to see firsthand the importance of art in our community. Their innovative programs serve more than 90,000 students, teachers and families each year. We support these programs that engage, inspire and empower children because we strongly believe that art can change lives.

Last year we were also lucky enough to work with the Fallen Heroes Fund (yet another remarkable endeavor from the Fisher family) in building the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, a state-of-the-art facility for the treatment of war veterans who suffer from psychological trauma. All those working on the project—including employees of Turner Construction, Wagner Roofing and

those working for every other contractor—were endlessly dedicated to the project and to those the center is now helping.

Thanks to our philosophy toward community service and our employee commitment, Wagner Roofing is able not only to deliver quality craftsmanship in our work, but to attract good customers who are as devoted to preservation and giving as we are.

May you and your families have a wonderful 2011, and we look forward to working with you to preserve the roofs of Washington's favorite buildings and make our community a better place to live.

Chuck Wagner
President

Serving the Community

Wagner Roofing supported the following organizations in 2010:

DC Preservation League
Fallen Heroes Fund
National Building Museum
Partners in Health
Phillips Collection
Poor Robert's Charities
Shepherd Foundation
Smile Train
Tudor Place
Youth Leadership Foundation

Carstarphen Residence

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the slate had to be hand cut to match four different patterns." In addition, he says, the porthole dormers were elaborate and even the scaffolding was tricky at times. He says his carpenter—Oto Villavar—did an exceptional job.

Carstarphen was particularly happy with Randy Herald's copper work. "He replicated the finials in copper," she says. "They are about four feet tall and sit on top of the turrets. He did a beautiful job. That's my anniversary gift for the next 10 years."

She says it was important to her and her husband to be a good steward for their home and that she cherished having the opportunity to preserve a historic structure. "Our kids



Ornamental copper dormer replicated from original

love the house, and it will be here in this Capitol Hill neighborhood as long as the neighborhood is here. It's a nice family legacy." ●

Commentary from our Customers

Jeffrey Larry, Project Manager, President Lincoln's Cottage: "Thanks to you and the crew for another excellent job. The gutters and downspouts on the Cottage vestibule roof look excellent and all work and cleanup was completed quickly by the guys onsite—particularly Bill, who also kept me posted on progress."

Mrs. Ralph Davidson:

"I am blown away by the dedication and work ethic of your team. I admire and support the entire organization and I did not believe work ethic like this was around anymore."

McLean homeowner:

"So nice to work with intelligent, creative people with good solid common sense!"

In the Works

Davidson Residence

Address: Washington, DC

Roofing: Installing Vermont slate and copper roofs.



Institute of World Politics

Owner: The Bentley Group

Address: 1521 16th St., NW, Washington, DC

Roofing: Replacing the slate and copper roofs during this six-month project.



Norton Road Residence (New Construction)

Address: 10111 Norton Rd.,
Potomac, Md.

General Contractor: Gibson Builders

Roofing: Installing a Firestone
EcoWhite 60 mil EPDM mem-
brane and synthetic slate roofs.

In the Works

Other Wagner jobs in progress or recently completed.

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

Address: 512 College Ave., College Park, Md.

Roofing: Installing 12 new lead-coating copper dormers.

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church

Address: 201 Fourth St., SE, Washington, DC

Roofing: Replacing the 20-ounce flat seam
copper water table.

In the Works

United States Naval Academy, Mahan Hall

Address: 106 Maryland Ave., Annapolis, Md.

General Contractor: Allen and Shariff

Project Architect: Randy Ghertler, U.S. Naval Academy

Roofing: Replacing the slate roof and the existing membrane roof with copper.



The Phillips Collection

Address: 1600 21st St., NW, Washington, DC

General Contractor: Structural Preservation Systems Group

Roofing: Installing sea green Vermont slate and copper built-in gutter on mansard roof. Replacing copper dormer roof and side walls with pre-patina copper



Pineda Residence

Address: 3317 17th St., NW, Washington, DC

Roofing: Installing a new shop-fabricated 16-lead coated copper decorative ridge cap, built-in gutter, cornice and new slate roof.

Before



After



Howard University, Wheatley Hall

Address: 2455 Fourth St., NW, Washington, DC

Roofing: Installing new semi-weathering gray/green, unfading purple and non-fading green Vermont slate on a residence hall. Installing 20-ounce freedom gray copper on the 27 dormer roofs. The cupola will be restored by performing a lead abatement, replacing deteriorated wood and installing a new copper roof.

Back When...

Evergreen Chapel at Camp David

In 1991, the Evergreen Chapel was dedicated by President George H.W. Bush. It was built using funds raised by a nonprofit corporation formed by Kenneth Plummer, president of the National Lay Leaders Association of the United Methodist Church.

The Wagner Roofing website acknowledges the role that Evelyn Wagner Murray played in the construction of the Evergreen Chapel:

“Evelyn was instrumental in the fundraising for the beautiful non-denominational Chapel constructed at Camp David during the Reagan Administration. Evelyn delights in relating the history of the Chapel, discussing its design and recalling the marvelous dedication ceremony that she was able to participate in. She even owns some of the stained glass used in the Chapel.”

President Reagan made the first contribution of \$1,000 and selected the site location within Camp David. The rustic octagonal building made of wood and stained glass can seat up to 150 people.

The chapel bell is from the USS Endicott, a Navy destroyer launched around the same time that President Roosevelt established Camp David (which he originally named “Shangri-La”).

Evelyn Murray turned 90 on November 24th and is doing fine. ●



Who We
Are

**Chuck Wagner,
Sheila Wagner**
Owners

**Lindsay Keiser, Larry Myers,
John Ray**
Estimators/Project Managers

Tahnie Boggess
Accounting Manager

Sarah Reynolds
Accounts Receivable Manager

Mary Day
Service Manager

Bill Robin
Sheet Metal Superintendent

Kevin Morgan
Operations and Project
Management

Jasmine Kim
Administrative Assistant

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Between Washington & the Weather Since 1914

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