Dallas County Courthouse

Adel, Iowa

ARCHITECTS – Keffer/Overton Architects, Des Moines, IA
CONTRACTOR – E & H Restoration, L.L.C., Davenport, IA
DISTRIBUTOR – Stetson Building Products, Inc., Rock Island, IL

PROJECT TASK
To repair a limestone facade containing extensive color variation.

PROJECT HISTORY
It’s hard to imagine that the stunning French chateau building that serves as the Dallas County Courthouse was designed by two men with almost no formal training. Willis T. Proudfoot and George W. Bird had one semester at the newly founded M.I.T. School of Architecture between them, a distinct advantage over most builders of the day. Their primary guide was their extensive library of architectural books and drawings. What they lacked in formal education, they more than made up for in business acumen. Proudfoot & Bird had a reputation for keeping projects on budget, and clients satisfied. When their firm was bankrupted by the Wichita building crash of the 1890s, they traveled in search of their fortune. Eventually, they settled in Iowa, where they built everything from funeral vaults to factories. The courthouse was constructed in 1902 in the French Renaissance style. The building features a 128 foot tower, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PROJECT SOLUTION
A stone repair mortar that could be color matched on site.

PRODUCTS
Matrix

Top three photographs were taken “before and during” and the bottom three were taken “after” the work was completed.

The firm of Keffer/Overton was commissioned to oversee both interior and exterior renovations. Exterior renovations presented a challenge. Natural Bedford Limestone features a variety of hues. Weathering caused the color variation to appear even more pronounced. Matrix repair mortar was chosen because it could be color matched on site, saving time and avoiding delays. E & H Restoration was able to tint Matrix in the field to blend with each patch area.