

# WESTERN ROOFING

## INSULATION AND SIDING

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DAVID B. HAIGHT ALUMNI CENTER AT UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY.

## A New Look for an Old Style

### *Reroof on Historic Alumni House at the Utah State University*

by Heidi Ellsworth, HJE Marketing



Just over a century ago Cache Valley settlers had a dream - a lofty dream of bringing education to the rural masses, an almost unheard of idea at the time. With high hopes and scarce resources patched together from pioneer thrift, the Agricultural College of Utah opened its doors in 1890 to a handful of students," reads the introduction to the Utah State University website.

It was in 1890 when the school built what would become the David B. Haight Alumni Center, originally created for the president's residence. Today, it is the oldest state-built residence in Utah and is continually maintained and repaired as a treasured historical site.

According to the University director of Facility Design and Construction, Stanley Kane, the Alumni Center has only had two roofs; the original cedar shake roof, and a second cedar shake roof installed after a fire in December of 1983.

"It was after the fire in 1983 that the old house was officially turned over to the Alumni Association," noted Kane. "The house was remodeled to meet both the local building codes and the needs of the Alumni Association."

But of late, the alumni and facility management noted that the roof was worn. A dull gray and curling, the old shake roof was in need of replacement. "The shakes were very old and worn, not leaking but getting close," stated Darrell Hunting, project manager for the State of Utah Building division. "I handle the north part of the state so Utah State University falls under my area. We wanted to replace the roof but we were looking to change the materials."

The center had been recognized by the Gov-

ernor's Review Committee of the Utah Historic Sites Survey and added to the Utah State Register of Historic Sites in 1971. It was essential that the University keep the look of the shake. "We talked to EcoStar about their Seneca Cedar Shake Tiles and we were very interested," Hunting said. "We really liked the look of the tiles since they were an exact replica of cedar shakes."

"The fact that they work well with





solid decking and have the historic look of shake really helped us make our decision,” Hunting continued. “But the 50-year warranty sealed the deal. We wanted a roof that would last; one that we would not have to replace in 15 years. The other important factor was the historical nature of the building. We do not want to cause undo stress with continued reroofing.”

EcoStar premium steep slope-roofing products are well known for their 50-year warranty. They also offer Class 4 impact resistance and the availability of a high wind warranty.

With the product decided, the University put the job out to bid. Mt. Peak Roofing, owned by Zane Rust, won the bid for the Alumni Center. Mt. Peak Roofing offers both commercial and residential roofing services throughout Northern Utah and Southern Idaho.

“We like to use Mt. Peak Roofing,” stated Hunting. “We have used them before and they have always offered the highest quality craftsmanship and customer service. That was key for the Alumni Center.”

“We were very pleased with the approach that Mt. Peak took in cleaning up every day and keeping the facility picture perfect throughout the roofing process. We never had one complaint from Alumni, staff or visitors,” said Hunting. “They were also experienced in working with the



EcoStar tiles.”

“Seneca Cedar Shake Tiles were designed to meet the need for a safe, durable alternative to wood roofing while maintaining the look of traditional cedar shakes,” stated Desslie Andreason, western regional manager for EcoStar. “We use some of today’s strongest, most flexible recycled materials; rubber (EPDM) and plastic (TPO). It has allowed us to emulate the exact look of wood shakes, yet Seneca Shakes are durable and lightweight.”

Manufactured at random widths of 6”, 9” and 12” to create the tradi-

tional look of a wood shake roof, the shakes are also available in nine colors offering a unique architectural opportunity. In the case of the Alumni Center, Kane chose Cedar Brown. “We liked the natural wood look of the tiles,” Kane stated. “We are really pleased that the color will stay the same. We feel it looks sharp the way it is.”

The 14:12 pitched roofs on the center presented a challenge. “It was a steep roof but we were able to get the roof stocked and loaded working with Jon Burtagnolli of Roofers Supply. Once we were tied down we moved around the roof with ease,” Rust said. “We tore off the old roof and reinforced a number of areas on the roof with sheeting. We then dried it in and began roofing.”

“We like the Seneca Shakes,” continued Rust. “Installation is very comparable to traditional shakes. The tiles lay very flat and are easy to cut on the roof. We would blend the bundles and the different widths. It really looks authentic. I haven’t seen any other product with a better appearance of shake.”

“All the response has been positive,” concluded Hunting. “We really like the appearance. In fact, the average person would not know it is not traditional cedar shake. We will definitely use the product again on other buildings.”

