

Case Study

PPG helps to restore iconic Washington, D.C., structure



Applicator

Stuart Dean Company

Architect

MV+A Architects

Contractor

John Moriarty & Associates

Coating Technology

Air-dry powder

PPG Products

PPG CORAFLO[®] ADS intermix coatings

Segments

Coil / Extrusion

Project overview

In the 1950s and 60s-era fast-food landscape dominated by McDonald's[®] and Burger King[®] restaurants, a third hamburger chain was also thriving in the Washington, D.C., and Maryland metropolitan areas—the Little Tavern.

According to local lore, the restaurant, known for its distinctive green-gabled roof and bite-sized cheeseburgers, was a favorite Georgetown stop for President John Kennedy in his early days in Washington.

While the last Little Tavern closed in 2008, one former site located at 530 Morse Street NE in Washington, D.C., has been restored to its original glory. Now included on the “Historic Preservation” list, the building most recently served as a Subway[®] restaurant.

Through the process of erecting a new 300-unit high-end apartment complex as part of a larger urban renewal initiative at the location, the owner was required to restore the Little Tavern to its original condition.

The Stuart Dean Company, a national provider of architectural restoration services, was chosen for the project.

“The small outlet structure was temporarily moved in order to build the apartment building and then replaced in its original location and incorporated into the first-floor retail space of the new condos,” said Joe Gargiulo, regional senior vice president, Stuart Dean Company.

As part of Little Tavern's unique brand, the façade featured a white porcelain steel skin, green porcelain steel roof shingles and brown clapboard trim. However, the original 1963 structure's exterior steel panels were deteriorated, rusted, dented and perforated in many areas. Plus, the previous sandwich shop tenant had painted the exterior beige and the porcelain steel was damaged beyond repair.

Restoring an architectural icon

With a successful partnership that dates back over 30 years, Stuart Dean turned to PPG for the restoration project. Known for its ability to help with touchups and restorations, Stuart Dean specified a custom-blended, high-gloss PPG *Coraflo* ADS field-applied coating to help revive the iconic shop.



The original Little Tavern restaurant in March 1963. Photo courtesy of John Baeder.

The low-maintenance and long-lasting air-dry system finish is resistant to chalking, fading, marring and abrasion. *Coraflo* ADS is also optimized for restoration of weathered architectural metals, meeting FGIA/AAMA 2605 standards for weatherability and chemical resistance with low volatile organic compound (VOC) content—making it an ideal solution for the project.



“To match the texture and sheen of the original surface, this particular coating was recommended for its durability and UV rating to withstand the building’s sun exposure,” says Gargiulo. “All non-original coatings were removed, and the penetrations, dents and rust were repaired. Missing clapboards, shingles and damaged gutters were refabricated and prepped, primed and painted in their original color with PPG *Corafon* ADS coatings.”

Corafon ADS coating should be applied by applicators experienced with two-coat fluoropolymers. Gargiulo noted the importance of PPG’s training and expertise, as the coatings had to be applied properly under the acceptable conditions, and the subsurface prepped and thinned correctly.

Stuart Dean also benefitted from PPG’s additional guidance in suggesting the proper etching procedure to ensure good adhesion of the new *Corafon* ADS coating on the original panels. As part of PPG’s commitment to the project, a perfect color match was guaranteed.



The fully restored building from December 2022.

To learn more about PPG *Corafon* ADS coatings and the entire range of PPG architectural coatings, visit ppgindustrialcoatings.com or call 1-800-258-6398.

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