



Gerald Hotel - Grand Dining Room

Fairfield, Maine

Paint Analysis

The Gerald Hotel was constructed in Fairfield, Maine in 1899-1900 and designed by noted Lewiston, Maine architect William R. Miller. The brick and terra cotta hotel was built by Amos F. Gerald, a businessman who had a profound impact on the commercial, industrial, recreational and transportation development in the State of Maine in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The elaborately finished dining room includes paneled wainscot, decorative plaster work and paintings by artist Harry C. Aiken of Boston, Massachusetts. Large French plate glass mirrors are positioned in the bays defined by plaster pilasters. The decorative plaster adorns all of the

walls, ceiling as well as the structural beams spanning the width of the room. The plaster was found to be in need of repair during a redevelopment project in 2013, which began the analysis of the paint layers to determine the appropriate finish for the room.

SCC collected samples from various locations in the room to determine the original paint scheme. Combined with on-site visual analysis, the cross-section microscopy was able to give great insight into the original paint scheme of the dining room. The restoration and painting was completed by Tony Castro & Company of New Gloucester.

