



Figure 1: Google street view.

Faber House

635 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC

EXTERIOR FINISHES ANALYSIS

Frances Henderson Ford/FORD RESTORED/August 2018

Introduction

This report presents the results of microscopic analysis of samples taken from the exterior of Faber House, 635 East Bay Street, Charleston, S.C. This limited finishes study was conducted on exterior facades by means of cross-sectional analysis; historic research into the possible paint campaigns over time was not part of this study. Frances Henderson Ford, of *FORD RESTORED* carried out this project August 3-15, 2018 for Bill Beauchene of Atrium Builders.

Methodology

In order to analyze the exterior finishes at Faber House, representative samples were taken from siding and trim pieces supplied by Atrium Construction.

Samples were removed with a #15 surgical scalpel by conservator Frances Ford in the Conservation Lab at 701 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC. These samples were examined, first as raw samples and second, cast in polyester resin (Bioplastic) cubes. The cubes were cut into cross-section using a Buehler Isomet and polished on a Buehler Ecomet, mounted on to marked slides and examined in reflective light with a Nikon Eclipse 80i, at magnifications of 4-40X.

All samples were examined and information recorded. Cross sections can reveal the sequence of finish layers over time, thickness, dirt layers, texture and composition. Samples were viewed in reflected visible light. Those samples with the clearest chronology of finishes from a particular location were then chosen for photomicroscopy. Samples were photographed in reflected visible light using CRAIC Imaging software for photo management. Photomicrographs should not be used to match color since they are altered by printing, scanning, computer settings etc.

Sample notes



Figure 2: Siding boards with sample location dots.

Element	Sample #	Analysis notes
Siding		
No photo	FHS-1	Modern paint/primer/repair/debris from paint prep
No photo	FHS-2	Fractured sample/modern paint/repair/primer/substrate slivers show gray
No photo	FHS-3	Modern layers/substrate separated

4x/10x	FHS-4	Good example of paint prep/modern layers/ early gray soaked into wood substrate
4x	FHS-5	++ Primer layers/paint/gray on substrate
4x	FHS-6	4 campaigns of primer and pink paint/gray on substrate
No photo	FHS-7	4 campaigns of primer and pink paint/substrate fractured/gray on substrate
4x/10x	FHS-8	Pink campaigns/earlier cream/gray first
4x/10x	FHS-9	2 pieces/light color primer on wood substrate/4 campaigns of primer and pink paint.
4x/10x	FHS-10	2 pieces/light color primer on wood substrate/4 campaigns of primer and pink paint.



Figure 3: Trim piece with sample location dots.

Element	Sample #	Analysis notes
Trim		
4x	FHT-1	4 campaigns of paint and primer/same as current color
4x	FHT-2	4 campaigns of paint and primer/same as current color
No photo	FHT-3	Same as 2 but jumbled
No Photo	FHT-4	3 pieces

4x	FHT-5	Off white and substrate
4x/10x	FHT-6	2 pieces/off white on substrate/paint
No photo	FHT-7	Fractured/3 pieces
4x	FHT-8	Full cross section
No photo	FHT-9	2 pieces/paint campaigns/jumbled
4x	FHT-10	Paint campaigns and substrate

Results of paint analysis

Siding:

Samples were taken from the two pieces of siding provided. Cross sectional analysis found 4 modern campaigns of pink paint and primer on all intact samples. A closer look at the wood substrate found remnants of a light gray.

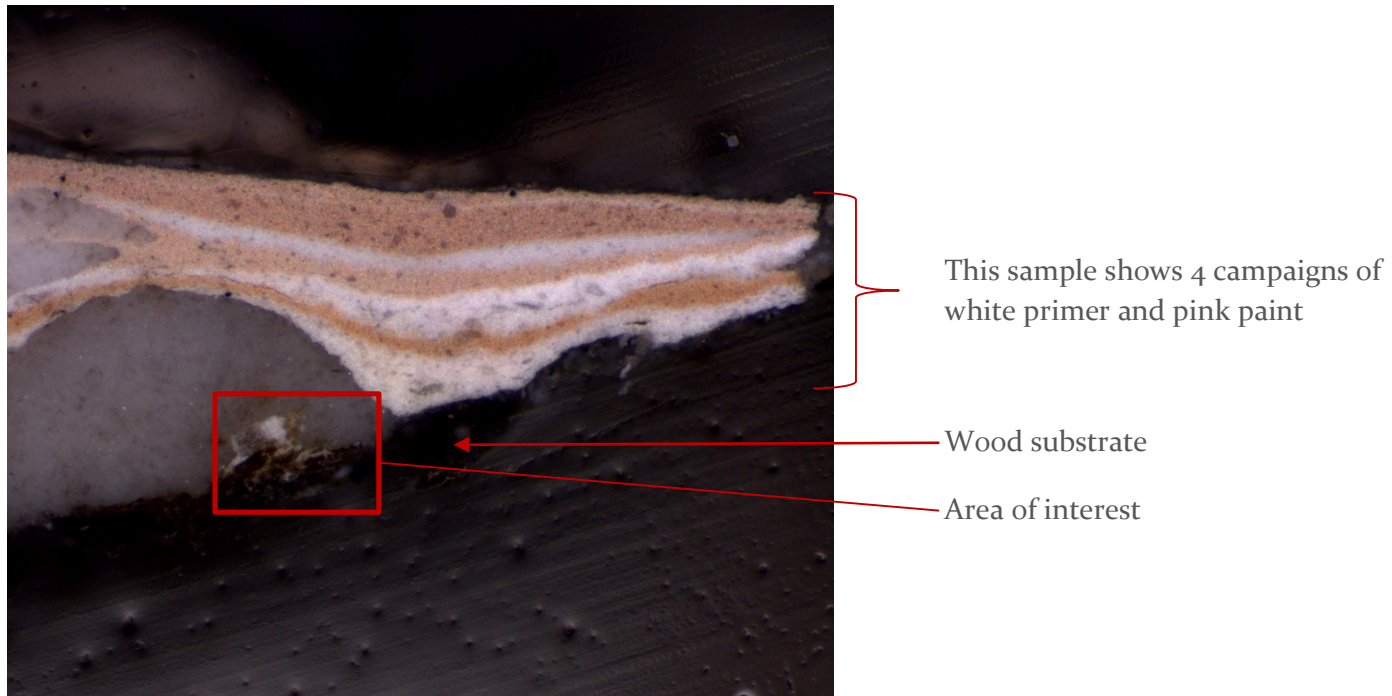
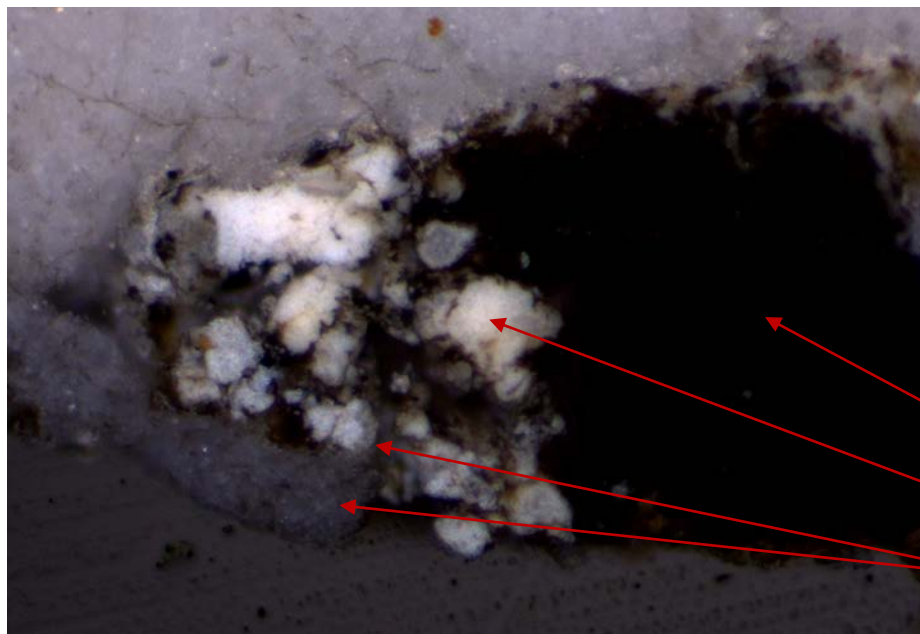


Figure 4: FHS 9 @ 4x



This area of interest shows wood substrate, an off white to cream primer and early gray paint. Although a little jumbled due to age of the paint layer (exposed to the elements for an extended time and degraded) and probable paint prep for the next finishes campaign, gray is clearly the first color of the siding.

Wood substrate

Primer

Paint

Figure 5: area of interest @ 10xt.

Munsell 10R 8/2

Benjamin Moore BM 2109-60 Portland Grey

Trim

Samples were taken from the one pieces of trim provided. Cross sectional analysis shows that the color has been consistent since this piece was installed (it is not historic).

Cross sections show four lighter primer and creamier top coat campaigns.

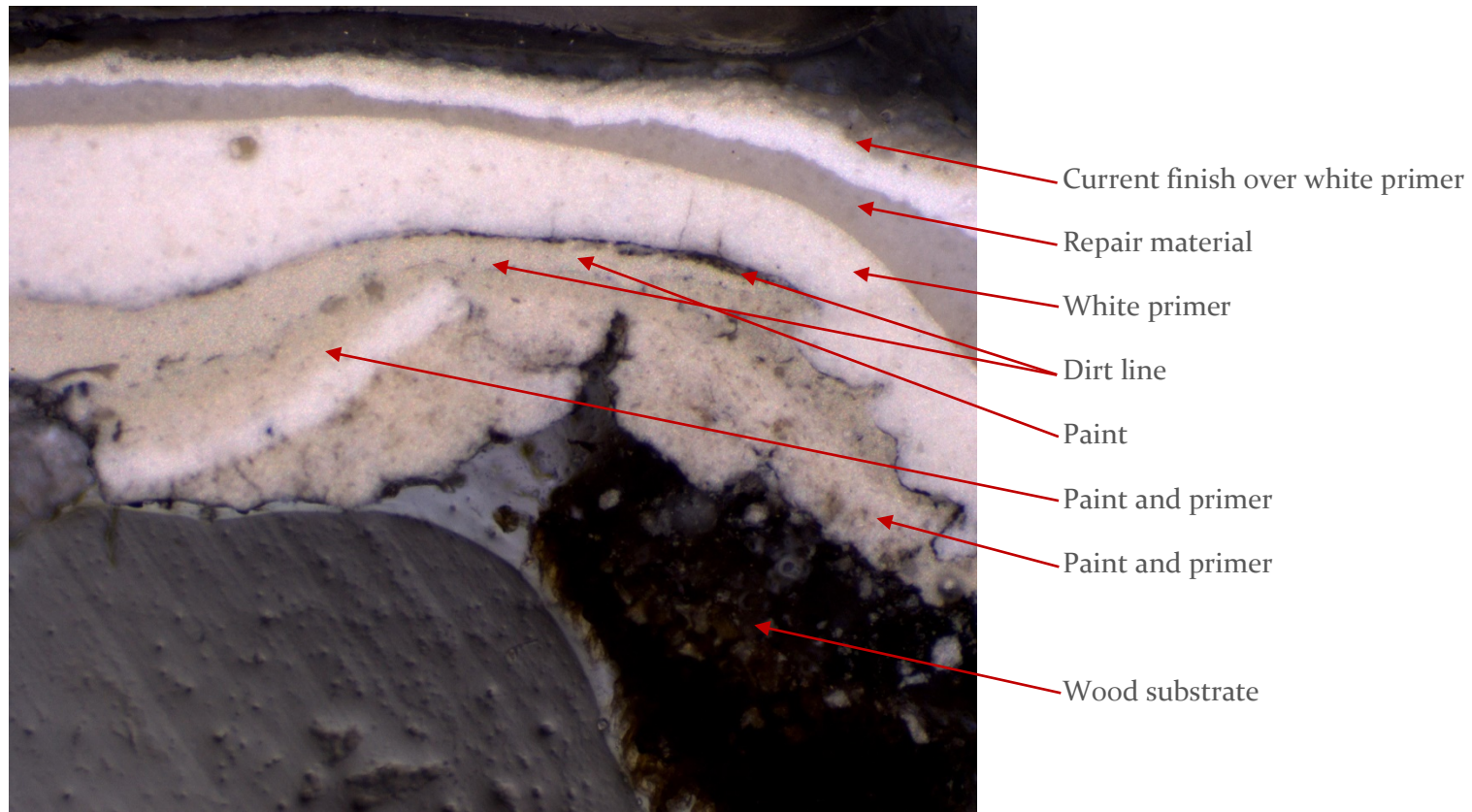


Figure 6: FHT 2a

Recommendations

The trim piece that was provided revealed that since its installation the color has remained virtually the same. You can be fairly certain that the intent was always to replicate the off white. Any choice in this color family would be appropriate, I matched it to BM 2148-60, Timid White.



The siding pieces also revealed a fairly consistent use of pink paint over white primer for the last four paint campaigns. Although samples did show some effects of time and sanding for paint prep substrate retained what looks like a cream primer with gray paint. For this study gray would be the most historic finish for the wood siding at Faber House. I matched it to BM 2109-60, Portland Gray. A lighter or darker hue would be acceptable as different cross sections found the gray light-dark.

