

THE JOURNEYMAN

ROOFER

& WATERPROOFING

THIRD QUARTER • 2019

BOSTON

LOCAL 33

REPLACES ROOF ON HARVARD'S
SANDERS THEATRE



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REPLACES ROOF ON
HARVARD'S HISTORIC
SANDERS THEATRE

The imposing High Victorian Gothic building known as Memorial Hall sits immediately north of Harvard Yard on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. Completed in 1878, it was originally built in honor of the sacrifices made by Harvard men in defense of the Union during the American Civil War.

This summer the talented members of Roofers Local 33, Boston, MA, working for signatory contractor Gilbert & Becker Co., Inc., replaced the roofing at the polygonal Sanders Theatre-end of the building. They removed the original 1870s slate, which then had to be matched to maintain the integrity of the design of the hall, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. The three colors of slate came from Quebec, Vermont and New York.



After roof removal, Local 33 roofers put on all the required underlayments, which included ice and water shields and asphalt paper. Reference points were placed on the roof so they could replicate the original design of the tiles.

The roofers were given 16 weeks over the summer for the project. Following an aggressive schedule that included lots of overtime and weekends, they completed it in just over 14 weeks. The timeframe and exacting standards were ambitious but achievable for the Local 33 crew. "I do a lot of slate roofs," said project Foreman Tony DeMelo, "but this one was

probably the most challenging yet." The crew consisted of John Cuccinotta, Sean Newhall, Rick Foster, Jerry Ledoux, Nate Cuevas, Dave Cuevas, Jose Rivera, David Tracy, Kenneth Williams, Mark Lerner, Jim Szikny.

After the scaffolding came down, it looked as if time had stood still for Sanders Theatre for nearly the last century and a half. Thanks to the talented workmanship of Local 33 Roofers, the slate roof is new and modern but looks just like it did in 1878. ■

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Photos by Perry and Radford Architects

