

PAINT ANALYSIS
of the
HENDEE HOTEL AND ROBERT HENRI MUSEUM

The Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery
Cozad, Nebraska

Prepared by Peter Osborne
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HISTORY OF THE STRUCTURE

Trying to reveal the Robert Henri Museum building's history is a complicated task because of the numerous renovations that have been completed during its existence. With each project, more and more of the original construction materials were replaced, and many of the current exterior features, aside from the brickwork, are not from the John and Theresa Cozad era (1878-1883).

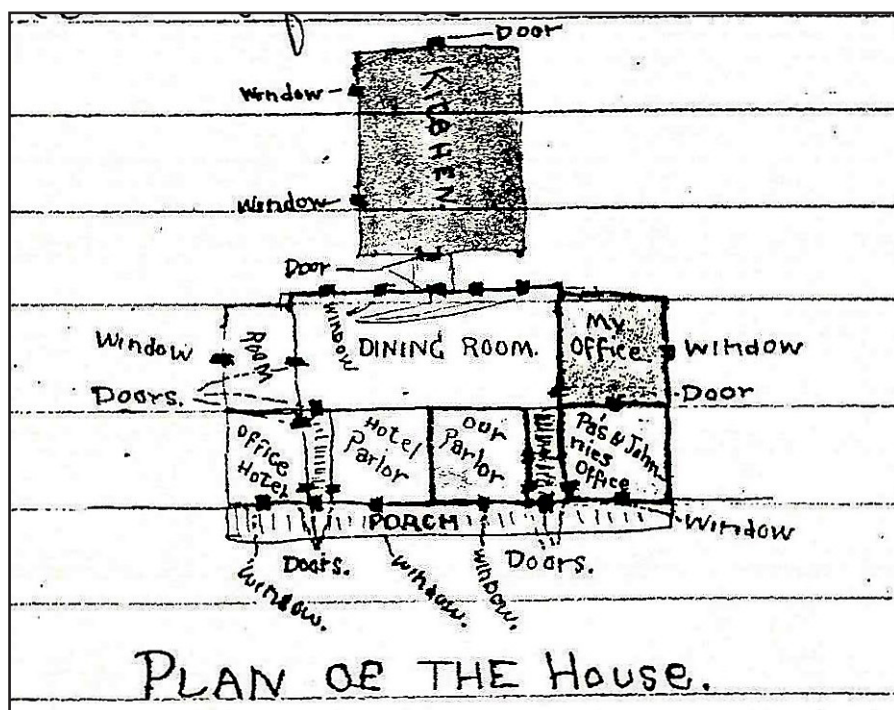
There are several significant dates in the building's history including its construction (1878-1879, Menke, 6), the first major renovation (1890s, *Cozad Tribune*), a second major renovation when the building was stuccoed (1910, Menke, 15), the building of a brick addition on the northern side of the building (1958), the renovations that were completed to convert the building into a museum (1980s) and more recently the rebuilding of the southwest corner of the building. Most of the exterior woodwork has been replaced including casings, sash, framing and doors. There are other projects that have been completed that have not been documented in the building's recorded history. It is clear that a more detailed historic structure report needs to be undertaken to understand and interpret the museum building's history.

OUTLINE OF PROJECT

On March 9, 2020 the museum's board of directors voted to repaint the exterior trim of the former Cozad hotel along with the extensions on the northern side of the building. On March 11-12, 2020, the museum's director conducted a series of tests to determine what paint colors had been used previously as a basis for a new paint color choice. Based

on the historical data that is currently available it was determined that the southern side of the museum building retained the most significant percentage of original (1878-1879) construction materials. Nine paint bullets were created on various features of the first floor on the southern side of the building along with one paint chip taken from a lintel on the far western window. It was determined that the dates of construction of the northern extensions on the building were built considerably later and no samples were taken from them. Also, it was determined that the eastern and western sides of the building had been altered over time (new windows and a door added) and so no samples were taken from those parts of the building.

This analysis of the paint was made to determine what colors had been used on the building since its construction, believed at the present time to have been in 1878-79. Most of the renovation work completed before the 1980s, when the building was converted into a museum, is undocumented. An occasional article in a newspaper reveals when a new owner or manager undertook new work to update the facilities along with Betty Menke's *The Rebirth of the Cozad Revelation*, the only detailed history of the building that has been found to date.



*Photograph courtesy of the Robert Henri Museum
Robert Henri's floor plan of the family residence, 1880*



*Photographs courtesy Robert Henri Museum
Upper photograph - c 1890-1900
Lower photograph - 1916*



FINDINGS

The paint bullets and sample are identified by the following numbers:

- PB1 – Front entry, right side of door frame
- PB2 – Front entry, top of door frame
- PB3 - Front porch post
- PB4 - Ornamental bracket
- PB5 – Fascia board of porch roof
- PB6 – Front entry, Cozad private entrance, right side of door frame
- PB7 – Front door, Cozad private entrance
- PB8 – Fascia board, second floor, northeast corner – (Repaired and replaced)
- PB9 – Fascia board, second floor, northeast corner – (Repaired and replaced)
- PC1 – Lintel over southwestern window

PB1 – This bullet was created on the inside of the exterior frame of the main front entry on the southern side of the building. This is probably an original frame (1878-79) and doorway. Five layers of paint were found in this bullet:

Oil-based coating put on the wood when original construction was completed

Buff/ivory

Green/Gray

Ochre/Maroon

Light gray

White

PB2 – This bullet was created on the top of the door frame of the main front entry on southern side of the building. Most of the colors found in this bullet match the PB1 but several do not. They may have been trim colors to highlight the main features. Five layers of paint were found in this bullet:

Oil-based coating put on the wood when original construction was completed

Dark beige/light brown (?) or Green/Gray

Ochre/Maroon

Light gray

Green/Gray

Cream

White

PB8 – This bullet was created on the door of the front entry on the western end of the southern side of the building. Only two layers of paint were clearly seen. This indicates that the door was added after the original building was built. Two layers of paint were found in this bullet:

Light gray
White

PB3 – This bullet was created on the porch post in front of the main entry. Only one layer of paint was found and that is because the posts were changed during the renovation work in the 1980s. Prior to that the posts were two 2x4's nailed together and stuccoed. One layer of paint was found in this bullet:

Light gray (?)
White

PB4 - This bullet was created on the ornamental bracketing in front of the main entry. It was presumed that the bracketing was not original but based on the colors found, they must either be original or were added very early in the building's history. Six layers of paint were found in this bullet:

Oil-based coating put on the wood when original construction was completed
Buff/ivory (?)
Green/Gray
Light gray
Ochre/Maroon
Cream
White

PB5 – This bullet was created on the fascia board near the ornamental bracketing. Six layers of paint were found in this bullet:

Oil-based coating put on the wood when original construction was completed
Buff/ivory ?
Green/Gray
Light gray
Cream
White

PB6 - This bullet was created on the inside of the exterior frame of the Cozad's family front entry on the eastern end of the building. This is probably an original frame (1878-79) and doorway and its colors match the original main entrance doorway. Seven layers of paint were found in this sample:

Oil-based coating put on the wood when original construction was completed

Ivory (?)

Dark Green/Gray

Buff/ivory

Green/Gray

Ochre/Maroon

Light gray

White

PB7 – This bullet was created on the door of the the Cozad family front entry on the eastern end of the southern side of the building. Only two layers of paint were clearly seen but a small section of maroon may also be visible and found in this sample. This indicates that the door was added after the original building was built. Two layers of paint were found in this bullet:

Light gray

White

PB8 – This bullet was created on the main entry door. Two layers of paint were found in this bullet:

Light gray

White

PB9 & PB10 – Both of these bullets were taken from the fascia board on the second floor, northeast corner – (Repaired and replaced). One layer of paint was found in this bullet:

White

PC1 = These chips were taken from the lintel over southwestern window on the first floor. They provide a reverse look at the paint scheme. One layer of paint were found in this chip:

Oil-based coating put on the wood when original construction was completed
Ivory/Buff

PB1



PB2



PB3



PB4



PB5



PB6



PB7



PB8



PB9 & 10





Paint bullet photographs courtesy Peter Osborne