



STARVED ROCK STATE PARK, UTICA, ILLINOIS

## Reroofing An Illinois Legend: Certi-label™ Cedar Shakes

Case Study: June 2012

Starved Rock State Park sits at the end of a winding road in a lovely forested setting. Surrounded by deciduous trees that blanket fall landscapes with vibrant colors, it continues to delight visitors with a welcoming natural retreat.

The original hotel was built in 1890 by then-owner Ferdinand Walther. Walther was unable to turn it into a profitable hospitality business, and in 1911 he sold it to the Illinois State Parks Commission for the princely sum of \$146,000. Adding this property to the State Parks' property roster was a tremendous success; Starved Rock State Park currently boasts two million visitors per year and, in 2011, celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Starved Rock Lodge underwent a massive \$4 million renovation in 1986 which added

39 rooms, an indoor swimming pool, gift shops plus sundry other upgrades. A recent tourism survey voted the park one of the "Seven Wonders of Illinois," clearly demonstrating its importance to the State. Today Starved Rock State Park covers a massive 2,700 acres. Visitors can enjoy one or more of a multitude of activities including fishing, hiking, canoeing, bird watching (bald eagles!), restaurant dining and shopping.





## Remembering An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Legend

A large part of Starved Rock State Park's appeal is the centuries-old legend that permeates its history. The park is situated in an unusual area in Illinois; most people assume that this State has a rather flat topography. Visitors are surprised when they arrive and see how hilly and rocky the terrain really is. Most intriguing are the waterfalls and deep gorges that careen through the landscape. A famous Native American legend gave Starved Rock State Park its name. Back in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the legend tells of two warring tribes. To escape, one tribe clustered up top of a 125-foot sandstone rock where its members remained; however they never expected the rock to hold them hostage. After three weeks, with a vigilant, patient and well-armed enemy below, many tribe members perished from starvation... hence the name Starved Rock. Several statues on the grounds of Starved Rock Lodge pay homage to this history and include both stone and wood life-sized carvings.

## A Large Reroofing Project



*The roof prior to the new installation.*

100 years of history translates into a need for periodic renovations and upgrades. A professional roof evaluation was conducted by **Thomas W. Hutchinson**, AIA, FRCI, RRC, CSI, and concluded that the 18,145 ft<sup>2</sup> or 181 square cedar roof system needed to be replaced after 26 years of faithful service. **The Capital Development Board (CDB)** was responsible for selecting the architect and specifying the details of the new cedar roof project, within official parameters. Attention to historical accuracy was very important; archive photos were used to guide the material selection and design of this significant project.



*CSSB installation guide and member Certi-label™ product were used.*

In 2010, architectural design firms were invited to submit proposals. **Hutchinson Design Group, Ltd.** was the successful bidder in the bid solicitation process, with **Thomas W. Hutchinson**, AIA, FRCI, RRC, CSI, leading his team on this project. Team members providing valuable assistance included: **Esther Radivojevich**, **Scott Litewski** and **Stephen Kolton**.

**Hutchinson** and his colleagues prepared an extremely detailed set of plans that included **Western Wood Preservers Ltd.'s Certi-Last®** preservative treated **Certi-Sawn® 24" x 5/8"** tapered sawn shakes manufactured by **Premium Cedar Products, Ltd. of Mission, British Columbia**. **Hutchinson** stated that "Certi-label™ products provided the required level of comfort, security and confidence. It's money well spent." The **Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau ("CSSB")** new



*CSSB member product treatment label.*





*Loading material on to the roof deck.*

roof installation guide was a well used reference manual and provided important technical details.

### Precise Application

**Hutchinson Design Group, Ltd.** prepared twelve sheets of precise drawings. "There was no question it was going to be an historically accurate wood roof and the product had to be Certi-label™ brand," said **Hutchinson**. Additional specialized work included copper flashing on all areas needing replacement as well as careful design of the low slope meeting steep slope roofing juncture. True craftsmen's skill is required on this type of job site and **Hutchinson** even required detailed actual roof mock ups to ensure **Certi-Sawn®** product application was performed correctly.

Quality stainless steel nails (i.e. those that meet local building code and preservative treater requirements) were mandatory for the job, thus providing an additional level of security for a long lasting installation. **Brad Lafferty**, foreman for this project, did an exceptional job coordinating the crew and ensuring design specifications were implemented.

### The Warmth and Appeal of a Certi-label™ Roof

Visitors are enchanted by the warmth and genuine appeal of a **Certi-Sawn®** cedar shake roof. The appearance is a great fit with Starved Rock State Park's natural setting and **Hutchinson** stated "...we didn't consider anything else but quality Certi-label™ cedar shakes for this project."

### Weddings and Colors

Starved Rock Lodge hosts multiple wedding events each year, sometimes up to six per day. While this demonstrates a wonderfully organized operation, it did create some job site complications in terms of timing. This



reroofing project had to be finished by early September in order to ready the grounds for the beautiful fall colors backdrop. No bride would want construction equipment gracing her wedding photos – so the roofing

crew had to be organized, methodical and efficient. Park staff were exceptionally pleasant to work with, thus resulting in a true team effort.

In 1928 one could purchase a first class room at Starved Rock Lodge for three dollars per night. A train ticket from Chicago and back was about the same price. Times have changed. Today a hotel room and a train ticket for Starved Rock Lodge will cost you much more than six dollars... and the scenery alone is worth every penny.



*A large finished field section of the roof.*

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## PROJECT TEAMS

### Using Agency:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)  
DNR, Jim Elzinga  
Site Superintendent, Starved Rock, Tom Levy

### Capital Development Board (CDB)

Project Manager, John Price

### Architect: Hutchinson Design Group, Ltd.

Project Architect, Thomas W. Hutchinson, AIA, FRCI, RRC, CSI  
Project Team: Scott A. Litewski, Stephen P. Kolton & Esther H. Radivojevich

### Coordinating Contractor: Path Construction

Project Manager, Jim Adamik  
Superintendent, Mike Cash  
President, Rick Krause

### Roofing Contractor: H.C. Anderson Roofing

Superintendent, Curtis Anderson  
Foreman, Brad Lafferty

### Sheet Metal Contractor: Metal Formers, Inc.

Joe Braun, Owner  
Superintendent, R.J. Spears

### Masonry Contractor: Magnum Masonry

Superintendent, Steve Horejs



*The finished installation. Note copper flashing and completely rebuilt chimney.*



## References

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, "Starved Rock Lodge History"  
[www.enjoylasallecounty.com](http://www.enjoylasallecounty.com), "Starved Rock State Park Celebrating 100 Years"



### Written by:

Lynne Christensen is the CSSB's Director of Operations. She has worked for the CSSB since 1998 and is involved in a variety of departments with a focus on marketing. Christensen holds a Master of Business Administration degree as well as the Certified Association Executive credential. She resides in British Columbia.

### Photos provided by:

- Hutchinson Design Group, Ltd.
- [starvedrocklodge.com](http://starvedrocklodge.com)

Do you have a Certi-label™ project that qualifies for a case study article?

Email Lynne Christensen, Director of Operations, with more details. While we can't promise to profile every project brought to our attention... we do try our absolute best!