

Historic District of Milford, Connecticut

CASE STUDY: FEBRUARY 2024



Just outside the Historic District of Milford, Connecticut, founded in 1639, lies a colonial home which featured Western Red Cedar on its side walls for over 50 years. This home dates to 1646, on land acquired by Edmund Tapp, an English emigre, from the native Paugusset tribe. Tapp and his family laid strong roots with the other original founders of Milford. His daughter, Jane, eventually married their next-door neighbor, Robert Treat, who became the Governor of Connecticut and founder of Newark, New Jersey. Robert and Jane's great-grandson,

Robert Treat Paine, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

In the present day, the current homeowner, Danica, has lived in this charming neighbourhood for the past three years, enjoying the history behind her home as well as the nearby duck pond. Many of her neighbors have kept the historic integrity of their homes. As such, Danica knew she wanted to maintain tradition and craftsmanship with any repairs she did.

When Danica decided to replace her cedar sidewall, most of the initial contractors she spoke with had no idea how to install any kind of real cedar siding. Instead, they tried aggressively to persuade her to select synthetic shingles. Adamant to maintain the historic nature of her house, she struggled to find a craftsperson who understood the process of installing cedar shingles that were historically appropriate and naturally beautiful. An honest contractor, who admitted he didn't know how to do the job, referred her to the Shake and Shingle Bureau (CSSB). After speaking extensively with CSSB District Manager, Tony Hyatt, Danica learned more about cedar siding she ever thought she would; yet, this enabled her to make informed decisions that enhanced and added to the value of her home. Tony not only guided her regarding the type of cedar she currently had and what she was looking for, but his organization offered her a list of local CSSB Members, which is where Danica connected with Damien Teed, and his company, Streamline Roofing Services, LLC.

Danica felt comfortable working with Damien Teed, President of Streamline, who went through extensive training with the CSSB, and exhibited considerable knowledge of historic cedar renovation. His team had long experience working



with cedar, specifically Certigrade® shingles, and they had an extraordinary work ethic and attention to detail. The project was a 1300 square foot home which was completed in one week during September of 2023. Certigrade® Number 1 Grade Western Red Cedar Shingles 18”x 5/2¼” (Perfections), manufactured by Comox Valley Shake (2019) Ltd were used on this sidewall project.



Issues with this project were mostly minimal. The team at Streamline explained one challenge that arose was creating a flush surface on which to nail the new Certigrade® shingles. Recalling a procedure he learned as a teenager from an older contractor, Teed directed his Streamline team to counter the issue by cutting bevelled boards to make a level nailing base. This technique was once common, and those tapered strips of wood were referred to as “horse feathers” (a term which has largely fallen out of use). Once the team was started and, on a roll, they noticed the underlying siding, much of which

was over 200 years old, had a different reveal than contemporary coverings. Thus, each row had to get “cheated” (shorten exposure on shorter side) just a hair so the new lined up with the old, providing a seamless transition. Because the Streamline team was knowledgeable and expert, Danica felt that her project was completed in an efficient time within a reasonable budget. Even her neighbors commented on the craftsmanship and work ethic of the installing team, and the beauty of the final product.

Danica is extremely happy with her newly-sided house. With the help from the Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau, Streamline Roofing Services and Comox Valley, her historic home in Milford remains authentic to its heritage. She would like to thank especially Tony Hyatt of the Cedar Bureau for his patient explanations and excellent advice, and Damien Teed for his dedication to craftsmanship.



The Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau (CSSB) is a non-profit trade association founded in 1915 as the Shingle Branch of the West Coast Lumbermen’s Association. It represents cedar shake and shingle manufacturers and affiliate members, including wholesalers, distributors, brokers, retailers, installers and business associates. The organization is focused on promoting its members’ Certi-label® products around the world, but primarily in the United States and Canada.

