



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Channel Islands National Park
1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, California 93001-4354

November 1, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Eagle Restoration recently completed extensive seismic retrofit work and plaster repairs on the Smugglers Ranch House on Santa Cruz Island, which is part of Channel Islands National Park. The Smugglers ranch house is a two-story stone and adobe structure dating to 1887, and is a contributing resource within a National Register-eligible historic district. The seismic retrofit design was quite complex and the rehabilitation followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The construction documents called for matching the composition and texture of the historic plaster finishes and protection of significant elements, such as a sundial etched into the front wall and stone quoins on the corners of the building.

Eagle Restoration did a thorough and meticulous job installing the seismic strengthening components, identifying construction issues that were not visible to the architect prior to construction, and proposing solutions to address these issues. The seismic components were well concealed and those that are visible are finished to match the existing materials, so as to minimize their visual impact.

The existing plaster work on the building posed numerous problems, as it had been patched and repaired over the years using different materials and textures. The contractors did a superb job of matching the historic plaster finishes. The most difficult and unusual aspect of the plaster work was reconstructing a three-foot-high textured plaster apron across the front of the building. This apron was finished in a specialized coarse "harling" texture that required two hand-thrown coats. The contractor researched this finish, acquired the appropriate sand mixtures, and made several test panels prior to applying the harling finish on the building. The final product far surpassed our expectations and matches well with the historic photographs of the building.

We highly recommend Eagle Restoration. Due to their extensive experience with historic masonry buildings they are able to approach a project with the appropriate sensitivity and propose solutions to situations as they arise during construction. They demonstrate attention to detail and pride in their work.

Sincerely,

Ann E. Huston
Contracting Officer's Representative

