



*(Left to right) The Blum House, a basic white wood box, looks deceptively simple. The restoration work to the Blum House involved several layers of delicate restoration work; 1. Wood rot and repair to various elements (eaves, shutters, window sashes), 2. Exterior scrapping, priming, and painting, 3. And patching several roof leaks. The final result (photograph below) brings the house and attached print shop back to a crisp white painted finish with operable shutters.*

Hello Friends,

With this tenth update for the 2021 Fresh Coat Initiative: Post Pandemic Spruce Up, we have completed our repair and repainting of the historic Blum House. Donated to Old Salem in 1985, this important building on Main Street was historically utilized as the first bank in the town of Salem and one of the first printing presses in the state of North Carolina. Today, the Blum House is home to the Joinery and Woodcrafts shop where visitors can experience hands-on, traditional woodworking. So far, the Fresh Coat Initiative has completed 45 distinct projects located in 16 historic district locations and the Blum House is a wonderful addition to these important preservation projects on Main Street.

Many thanks,

Frank Vagnone

President & CEO Old Salem Museums & Gardens and The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts





*(Left to right) The exterior condition of the Blum House had significantly deteriorated. Because of its massing, a lift was needed to prepare and repair building fabric on the upper levels of the house. The first step in preparing the home for repairs was to delicately wash the house and chimney. Care was taken to follow preservation best practices to avoid infiltrating wood siding or introducing moisture to the historic bricks which could cause spalling.*



*(Left to right) The preparation process for the exterior repainting of the Blum House was involved. First, careful placement of plastic tarps around the building allowed us to capture debris. Next, the thorough, careful cleaning of the entire exterior revealed areas where wood repair was needed. After the necessary wood repair, our wonderful painters carefully scrapped and primed the exterior and applied several coats of fresh paint.*



*(Left to right) Before any repainting could occur, we had to assess the restoration needs of various building parts. Shown above is the condition of one of the basement windows that needed extensive repair and restoration. The restoration of the wood sash was primarily completed by joiner **Ben Masterson** with the logistical assistance of **Erik Skarzynski**, Director of Facilities.*



*(Left to right) After removing the shutters, careful evaluation of the condition suggested repairs that were needed. The shutter repairs were primarily completed by joiner Ben Masterson with the logistical assistance of Erik Skarzynski, Director of Facilities, and Tony Bragg, Facilities Associate.*

