

Bellevue Hall roof includes new technology, old style

New technology has allowed the state to replace the roof of Bellevue Hall, while saving 50 percent of its cost.

The state recently replaced the original copper roof of Bellevue Hall in Bellevue State Park. The new roof looks like the original copper, but is made of PVC, the same material used in plumbing, and dyed to look like a green copper patina.

According to Bellevue Facilities Manager Judi Jeffers, replacing the original copper roof would have cost about \$1 million. The new 9,000-square-foot PVC roof cost about \$500,000 to install. Bellevue Hall was closed for about a month for the renovation.

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Project designers and contractors (left to right) Matthew Chesser, Paul Nicholson, Joe Kline, Michael Fry, Denis O'Flynn O'Brien, Lee Firestone and Cara Blume stand in front of Bellevue Hall, which received a new roof with an old look.

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Jeffers said the old roof, installed in 1929, was worn out and that copper roofs cannot be repaired.

“This was a wonderful thing to happen,” Jeffers said. Work can now begin on renovations to interior rooms, she said.

Bellevue Hall was once the home of William S. du Pont, who transformed it into a replica of the James Madison’s home, Montpelier. The mansion, part of Bellevue State Park, and its estate gardens host weddings, meetings and special tours for the public. The park is on Philadelphia Pike in Brandywine.