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## Shelter From the Storm

*Roofing the New Civic Center in Gig Harbor, Wash.*

*by Diane Gola, GAF Materials Corporation*

**N**estled at the south end of Puget Sound is the quiet waterfront village of Gig Harbor, Washington. The area was named in 1841 during the U.S. Exploring Expedition commanded by Captain Charles Wilkes. During a storm, several longboats and the captain's "gig" (which is a small boat), sought shelter in a small bay. Later, Captain Wilkes named the haven that sheltered them "Gig Harbor."

Over 100 years later, in 1946, the Town of Gig Harbor was incorporated and city officials were appointed.

Today Gig Harbor is home to about 6,700 residents, with an additional urban growth area of 22,000 residents also supported by Gig Harbor's municipal services. Up until recently, the existing Gig Harbor municipal offices were split into two separate buildings in the downtown area, which often made it inconvenient to conduct day-to-day operations.

In order to bring the whole munic-

ipal system together, a new complex was designed. It consisted of a main two-story building flanked by two smaller buildings on either side that would house the police department, city jail, municipal court, community development, public works, engineering, financial and administrative offices, conference rooms and community meeting areas.

Knowing that the roof on each of the new buildings would have to hold up to the severe weather of northwest Washington, the committee was particularly concerned about the materials and warranty provisions provided by the roofing manufacturer. They knew they wanted a high-end architectural shingle, but also wanted

to make sure they were getting solid warranty protection.

Dan Dusek, territory manager for GAF Materials Corporation, provided detailed information about GAF's Timberline® Ultra® architectural shingles. Dusek also provided information about GAF's Master Elite® Contractor certification program, as well as their Golden Pledge® limited warranty. The Golden Pledge limited warranty is only available through



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GAF master elite contractors, and provides special enhanced coverage against material defects on all GAF roof components for a full 12 years. According to project architect Ron Tjerandsen, of Burr, Lawrence, Rising, & Bates, Tacoma, Wash., "It was very helpful to have such a knowledgeable GAF rep as Dan Dusek, who came back to our office on a number of occasions to ensure we had all the data to work with, he reviewed and commented on the final drawings prior to issuance of bid."

The architects liked the idea of having certified contractors bidding on the job, and also having a single-source manufacturer for the entire roof system and warranty. The GAF Weather Stopper® 5-Part Roofing System included Leatherback® ASTM #30 felt on all roof exposures, Weather Watch® leak barrier on eaves, rakes, valleys, chimneys, skylights and vents, Cobra® Rigid Vent II™ ridge vent and Timber-tek® Ridge Cap shingles.

As part of the bidding process, Contractor's Roof Service, Inc., a GAF Master Elite Contractor located right in the town of Gig Harbor, provided a competitive bid that secured the job for them. Contractor's Roof Service, Inc., was started 12 years ago by brothers Jeff and Steve Rankin. The business has grown to over \$4 million in revenues in 2002. They have approximately 50 people working during peak seasons, with an administrative staff of nine running the office year round. The Rankin brothers' proudest accomplishment throughout the years is the company's safety record.



The construction schedule required timely coordination of each step of construction. With over 485 squares of GAF's Timberline Ultra shingles needed for the complete roof installation, it was imperative to make sure that all products were from the same color lot. Jeff Rankin credits Allied Building Products Corp. in Tacoma, Wash., for their help in this aspect of the project. Sales representative Dennis DeVaney and his team at Allied held the approximately 500 squares of roofing shingles in their distribution center specifically for the project and made 12 to 15 deliveries of the material as it was needed.

Since each of the three buildings was being built one at a time, it took approximately seven months to complete the roof installation part of the project, starting in February and lasting through June. With the severe weather that can develop in northwestern Washington, it was critical to get each building "dried in" quickly so other trades could proceed with their work.

Along with the contractor's stellar repu-

tation and long-standing experience, the GAF Golden Pledge Ltd. Warranty and the Weather Stopper 5-Part roofing system were major factors in securing this project for Contractor's Roof Service, Inc. Contractor's Roof Service, Inc. president, Jeff Rankin said, "We are extremely proud of our entire project team for their safe, efficient, quality work on this project. Combined with the expertise and professionalism of Allied Building Products, Corp. and GAF, we were able to deliver a finished roof system, on an important community landmark."

At one time, many years ago Gig Harbor was a huge salmon fishing hub. In keeping with the town's history, the Historical Society of Gig Harbor wanted to have the civic center architecture resemble the look of an old net shed. Using the Timberline Ultra shingles and their natural "shake" look was the perfect choice. Principal architect Tom Bates reflected, "It was a privilege to design this new facility for such a cooperative and imaginative client. City manager Mark Hoppen and the city council members assisted us in a design that is in keeping with the character of Gig Harbor."

And today, with its new municipal complex, Gig Harbor continues to provide the community shelter from the storm, just as it did for Captain Wilkes in 1841.

