



Project Profile

Client:
Hotel duPont

Design Professional:
GWWO Architects

Location:
Wilmington, DE

Delivery Method:
Construction Management

Key Challenges:

- To install a code compliant sprinkler system in the foyer, Gold Ballroom and du Barry room of the Hotel duPont.
- To complete construction within a stringent time frame in order to accommodate hotel events.-

Hotel duPont

Bancroft worked closely with the Hotel duPont in order to designate a time period when the hotel would be able to close these areas for three weeks (the amount of time that Bancroft allotted for project completion). There were two major challenges involved with this project. The first was schedule, which was crucial due to the fact that these rooms were booked for events immediately prior to and following construction and installation. The second challenge revolved around aesthetics and historical integrity. The system would have to be installed so that it would not be detectable to the casual observer and construction had to be completed without disturbing the hotel's irreplaceable original architectural elements and finishes.

Bancroft involved the primary subcontractors at an early stage in order to anticipate any constructability issues or other problems that might have delayed the project's progress. The team decided to feed piping into the ballroom through the second floor administration offices to avoid any disturbance to the original suspended plaster ceiling. With the use of false valances, the team was able to incorporate the sprinkler system piping seamlessly into the ballroom's ceiling. Once construction began, two ten-hour shifts were run daily, including weekends, which allowed some flexibility within the schedule should unexpected conditions arise during construction. Bancroft completed the project 11 days ahead of schedule, and logged 3,500 man hours without any safety incidents.