



## Karen Bode Baxter

Preservation Consultant

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James G. Staat Tuckpointing and Waterproofing, Inc.  
1671 S. Old Highway 141, Suite B  
Fenton, MO 63026

RE: Recommendation of Your Company's Services for the Robert A. Young Building Project

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as my enthusiastic recommendation of the masonry restoration services of James G. Staat Tuckpointing and Waterproofing, Inc., the leading firm that I recommend to my clients.

Without equivocation, I can say that I have always found working with Staat Tuckpointing to be a pleasure because their workmanship exceeds what I have found to be the caliber provided by other firms, both large and small, that work on historic rehabilitation projects in the St. Louis area and even throughout this region.

They have a great deal of skill at assessing masonry conditions and the causes of deterioration and damage. Not only the owners, but the crew leaders, all seem to have a detailed understanding of mortar composition, the chemical and biological agents that affect the mortar and masonry, and the appropriate preservation procedures for brick, stone and terra cotta.

They take great pride in each one of their projects, large or small, and I have never seen them take shortcuts as so many other firms do regularly. Their appreciation and knowledge of historic buildings and their desire to help preserve these buildings for future generations are not a marketing strategy for Staat—it is obvious every time I talk with one of them that they truly believe in their commitment to preserving historic buildings.

I have monitored numerous projects with Staat Tuckpointing, including house renovations and large commercial buildings, beginning with the SJI Inc. project at 2300 Locust in 1999-2000. Other local projects have included the commercial block at 6138-46 Delmar, the Board of Education Building (Roberts Lofts) at 901-911 Locust, the commercial building at 904 S. 4<sup>th</sup>, and the loft at 1511 Washington. I have also had the opportunity to closely inspect their work at other major projects, including the highly significant Old St. Louis Post Office and Customhouse.

As an architectural historian and preservation professional with nearly 30 years of experience, I have worked on more than 300 historic rehabilitations that have had to each meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* in Missouri, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Nebraska. I have had to work with numerous masonry firms on a wide variety of projects that have ranged from a small \$40,000 residential project to a \$40 million renovation of a major factory complex in St. Louis. On most of these projects I have been responsible for monitoring the quality of the masonry work and I have kept my eye on other work throughout the St. Louis area as well. I have seen work that has spanned from the worst imaginable to the best, and Staat Tuckpointing is the best.

Sincerely,

Karen Bode Baxter  
Preservation Specialist

