

# Restoring an architectural legacy



Work is underway to restore Sarasota County's Historic Courthouse, 2000 Main St., in downtown Sarasota.

**Historical significance:** In addition to housing the main office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller, the building's Spanish/Mediterranean Revival architecture attracts local history enthusiasts and is a popular wedding location.

Samuel Yellin, America's most renowned metal worker and wrought iron artist, created many of the building's decorative grills and railings that were shipped from his metal works shop in Philadelphia. The courthouse shares the distinction of featuring Yellin's metal works with Yale University, Columbia University, Harvard University, the Vanderbilt residence, the J.P. Morgan residence and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Completed in 1927 by Dwight Baum, the same architect who created Cà d'Zan, the courthouse was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

**Project history:** In 2007, Sarasota County began a project to repair and restore the building. So far, repairs have been made to the roof and courthouse tower.

**Current project status:** Work is now underway to restore the iron work, repaint the exterior and remove layers of exterior coatings that in some places have reached a thickness of nearly an inch.

## Public access

- The Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller's office is open normal business hours, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- The Law and Order Café is also open during restoration.
- No impacts are expected to surrounding roads, courthouse parking or entrances, but every effort will be made to alert the public should impacts occur.

**Project funding:** The entire restoration is being funded through revenues collected specifically for court facilities capital improvement.

**Completion date:** Spring 2018.