

## William Johnson Award: Lucy the Elephant

Lucy the Elephant was built in 1881, after being thought up by James Vincent de Paul Lafferty, Jr. as a way to attract visitors and property buyers to his holdings. According to this national historic landmark's web site, [www.lucytheelephant.org](http://www.lucytheelephant.org), Lucy has since been sold, been used as a home, survived a hurricane, and relocated to avoid demolition. Lucy was granted National Historic Landmark status in 1976.

Richard Helfant, executive director of the landmark, stated in a local newspaper that Lucy had last been repainted in 2000, and the contractors had to use house paint because it was all the Save Lucy Committee could afford. This time, according



to Helfant, the coating manufacturer donated \$2,200 in materials used to paint Lucy.

The contractor prepared the area by covering the surrounding surfaces where work wouldn't be performed and placing plastic and tarps underneath the working area to contain paint chips. The areas to be painted were pressure washed using 600 psi or less to remove dirt, dust, and loose and peeling paint. Some surfaces were prepared to SSPC-SP 2, Hand Tool Cleaning, to remove loose rust and peeling paint.

Deteriorated and rotten wood mullions and wood frames were repaired with a flexible epoxy. Existing brittle and deteriorated glaze was removed from the window panes, and a window



*Photos courtesy of Richard Helfant, executive director of Lucy the Elephant*

glazing compound was applied around the perimeter of each individual window pane.

To avoid overspray, paint was applied by brush and roller. A spot prime coat was applied where necessary, followed by a rust-inhibitive epoxy primer to rusted metal surfaces. All of the gray surfaces of Lucy received two full finish coats of a 100% acrylic, rust preventative, high-performance, satin finish, elastomeric coating. The red, yellow, and brown colors on the carpet, saddle, eyes, trunk, and toes were coated in an acrylic latex, satin finish topcoat.

**Location:** Margate, NJ

**Structure Owner:** Save Lucy Committee, Inc.

**Contractor/Applicator:** Alpine Painting & Sandblasting Contractors

**Coating Material Supplier:** The Sherwin-Williams Company



*(l-r) Ed Bain, Project Manager, and Andrew Scaturro, Alpine Painting & Sandblasting; Steve Roetter, SSPC President; David Scaturro, Account Manager, Alpine Painting & Sandblasting; Doni Riddle, VP North American Sales, The Sherwin-Williams Company*  
*Photo courtesy of SSPC*