NIMC Kyowakai Hall South Wall Project 2026

During the Spring of 2026 Public Works took on the project to replace the siding on the south side of the Kyowakai Hall. Original to the Center, the asphalt “siding” layer was in need of repair. UV exposure, rain and wind had left the material brittle and torn.



The material used is a rolled roofing base sheet that is normally found as part of a torch on roofing system for flat rooves. Identifying and acquiring the material was challenging but the staff at Silverton Building Supply were extremely helpful and were able to source the product.



Prior to any work, photos and measurements were taken to ensure that the various components could be recreated.







UV degradation was not limited to the wall covering material. Most of the wood used in the shutters and trim pieces around the doors and windows also was deteriorated.



Once the old material had been removed, several locations were found to be water damaged due to repairs made previously. The above image shows where the walkway had been diverting rainwater directly towards the building. The affected areas were carefully removed, boards were replaced, treated for future moisture prevention and finally a flashing was installed to divert water away from the building.



Both of the doorway roof structures were removed so that the new wall covering material could be installed in a way that offered the best protection to the plywood sheathing.

Starting from the bottom, each piece of the new siding material was nailed in place with a pneumatic nail gun to simplify and speed the process. Each additional layer then overlapped the one below to create a waterproof envelope.



Once the wall covering had all been hung, the entire perimeter of each sheet was hand nailed with Galvanized roofing nails to replicate the old method of attachment. Any non-period correct fasteners were either removed or hidden at this time.

The traditional Japanese wood burning technique known as Yakisugi was used to preserve the new wood used for the shutters and trim. The same method was used on Our process involved using a propane torch the burn the surfaces. The charring creates a carbon layer that naturally resists rot, UV rays and insects. The surface is then lightly scrubbed with a stiff bristle brush along the grain to remove any loose soot and ash. The final step was to apply linseed oil to all sides and the cut ends to further waterproof each piece. Wood salvaged from a local building was used in this project.



Cedar shakes for the shutters were replicated using this same process which maintains the aged aesthetic of the Center while providing many years of maintenance free functionality.



Any wood that was not replaced was lightly scrubbed and coated in linseed oil.

This project was extremely rewarding to Public Works staff. A high level of attention was placed on each step of this project and the finished product clearly displays this and will allow for many more years of service.

