

Case Study: Jefferson City's Old City Hall Restoration

From Vacancy to Vitality: Forte's Role in Restoring Jefferson City's Old City Hall

FORTE
OPENING SOLUTIONS



Door Solutions in Hospitality

INDUSTRY

Hospitality

LOCATION

Jefferson City, TN

PROJECT PARTNER

Wm S Trimble

wmstrimble.com

About Old City Hall, LLC

Old City Hall (OCH), LLC is the ownership and development entity behind the restoration of Jefferson City's Old City Hall. The organization is leading the adaptive reuse of the historic building with a focus on preserving its architectural character while upgrading the facility to meet modern safety, performance, and accessibility standards. Through collaboration with local partners and preservation stakeholders, OCH, LLC is helping ensure the former city hall continues to serve the community in a meaningful and sustainable way.



Project Background

For more than 50 years, Jefferson City's Old City Hall sat vacant. In 2022, Old City Hall LLC — led by Larry and Jeanne Musick, along with Teresa and Michael Collins — purchased the property with a vision to restore it into a community hub featuring boutique lodging, a museum, retail, and a restaurant.

The Challenge

Preserving 19th-Century Structure While Meeting Modern Fire and Life Safety Codes

As part of the restoration, our team was tasked with updating the building's interior doors to meet modern fire and life-safety codes while preserving the architectural character of the 19th-century structure. Meeting these current code requirements became a key challenge when local inspectors mandated 90-minute fire-rated doors for guest suites and firewall separations. Initially scoped as a single door, the project expanded into a comprehensive package of custom doors, shaped by compliance demands, non-standard dimensions, and strict historic preservation requirements.

The Solution

Historic Jefferson City Hall Restoration Achieved with Forte's Custom Fire-Rated Door Solutions

Forte Opening Solutions engaged early in both the design and supply phases, providing technical guidance, supply chain coordination, and quality assurance to ensure the successful restoration of Jefferson City Hall.

Custom fire-rated doors with applied moulding—manufactured at Forte's Jefferson City plant—were engineered to meet a 90-minute fire rating while balancing code compliance, cost efficiency, and architectural integrity. Each door was constructed to align with the building's historic aesthetic, with rigorous inspections conducted at every stage to ensure it met or exceeded fire-rating, quality, and performance standards.

Forte worked closely with distributor Wm S Trimble, based in Knoxville, Tennessee, who performed detailed takeoffs to confirm exact measurements of existing frames—critical to achieving precise fits and smooth installation in the retrofit environment. Together, they coordinated procurement and delivery schedules to align with the project's construction timeline, ensuring timely delivery without disruption.

"We recommended Forte's fire-rated doors with applied moulding because they balanced fire-safety requirements with historic character, while also supporting local business."

– David Jordan, Director of Technical Sales Support



Forte has been an excellent partner... they have gone beyond anyone's expectations, and I would highly recommend them.

Larry Musick
Owner,
Old City Hall, LLC

The Result

A Seamless Restoration That Preserved Historic Character and Met Modern Code

The installed doors fit seamlessly into the restored spaces, enhanced the building's historic character, and passed inspection with ease. Guests praised the look and functionality, while inspectors confirmed full compliance with fire and life-safety codes.

The Old City Hall project demonstrates how Forte, in partnership with Wm S Trimble, integrated technical expertise, precise coordination, innovative product solutions, and local manufacturing to preserve community heritage while meeting today's stringent performance and code standards.

The Project Team

Collaboration That Delivered Precision, Preservation, and Performance

[Wm. S. Trimble Company](#) provides commercial door, overhead door, and security solutions for a wide range of building types and project needs. Founded in 1936, Trimble has earned a reputation for dependable service, technical expertise, and strong manufacturer partnerships. With multiple locations across Tennessee and Virginia, our team supports contractors, building owners, and facilities with reliable products, installation, and ongoing support.

[Forte Opening Solutions](#) delivers a full range of commercial door systems and components designed to meet performance needs and design priorities across education, healthcare, hospitality, and office spaces. Previously known as Masonite Architectural, Forte Opening Solutions is backed by a legacy of trusted brands, including Marshfield DoorSystems, Algoma Hardwoods, Mohawk Doors, Baillargeon, and Harring. Forte is committed to making every door, every interaction, and every opening unforgettable.