Ogle County Long Range Planning- Courthouse Renovation Committee Meeting

Jan. 15, 2009 – Tentative Minutes

First Floor Meeting Room, Courthouse

1. Chairman Stahl calls the meeting to order at 9:00 am
Members Present: Chm. Stahl, Nye, Hopkins,Gronewold, Rice, Messer, Barnes, DeArvil, Kenney, Sheriff Beitel, Jim McBride, Larry Callant, Dr. Champley, John Coffman, Don Conn, Becky Huntley, and Andrea Caputo, Holabird and Root

2. Andrea Caputo takes the members on a "walk thru" of the building

3. A motion is made to approve the minutes of Dec. 10, 2008, by Nye, Second by Gronewold. Motion carried.

4. Courthouse Renovation Project

- Time line: Use the time line as presented last month, no changes

- Update on lease agreement: We will get with parties and make sure everything is OK

- Bids for Moving: The Sheriff will put together a "Request for Proposal". The Sheriff will do a walk thru with prospective bidders/movers.

- Final Office layout: Front mail room will have a postage machine in it for the entire building to use to process their own departments mail. Discussion is held in regards to all Department Heads signing off on the final plans.
  Nye moves that approval of the final office layouts will be approved after all Department Heads have signed off on their respective office plans. Messer seconds. Motion carries.

- Paint Specialist: He has been on the property. Stenciling was from the 1910-1920 era. The original stenciling is under the present stenciling. The stenciling underneath is more elaborate than the present. He has made plans with the Sheriff to look at the stenciling again. We are going to wait and see what the original looks like. The lighting will be worked in with the stenciling on the ceiling. HVAC will come down thru the ceiling, not to disturb the stenciling on the ceiling.
  Andrea Caputo shows carpet samples for the County Board Room.

- The test well will be dug on Monday, Jan. 19, for the Geo-Thermal field.

5. New Business

A question was brought to the committee about the doors to rooms. All the doors are to code.

Barnes questions e-mail about geo-thermal. He says it does not answer question about hitting rock. Sheriff responds that they will drill through rock to 300ft., no matter. The gasoline costs will not affect the bid, the company will save on fuel, but now they will be working in below zero weather. They originally bid in the summer. Verzig is the only bid that met the technical requirements.

Andrea Caputo inquires if defribulators will be on all 3 floors. The Sheriff says "yes".

Nye moves to reappoint Gronewold as Vice-Chairman of the committee. Rice seconds. Motion carries.

6. 2009 Committee Meeting Dates:

The committee agrees to meeting on the Tuesday before the Ogle County Board meeting at 9:00 am in the first floor conference room of the Ogle County Courthouse.

7. Public Comment-None

8. The next meeting will be Feb. 10, 2009 at 9:00 am at the Ogle County Courthouse.

9. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Huntley

Ogle County Courthouse / Courtroom Finishes - Preliminary Findings

Executive Summary

This study was initiated by Holabird and Root Architects to examine the original decorative painting in the courtroom at the Ogle County Courthouse in Oregon, IL. The goal of this study is to determine if the current decoration found behind the dropped ceilings is original and explore the best approach for preserving or restoring the decoration. This information is cursory and based on an initial site visit in December 2008 by Anthony Kartsonas of Historic Surfaces. More examinations are required to provide more complete information which will be carried out in January 2009.

Existing Conditions

Behind the dropped ceiling in the third floor, multiple stencils can be seen on the ceiling and upper walls. This decoration was covered up during a later renovation which actually has served to protect these painted surfaces. The stencils are placed to create an implied paneled ceiling surrounded by beams. These are Victorian style stylized motifs of organic and geometric elements that were available in stencil catalogs after 1900. Most of the stencils are a dark red on a tan base, the other stencils are a medium green on a light green base. The overall condition of this painted decoration is fair, however there are multiple intrusions through the paint and plaster from the HVAC system and suspension hangers of the dropped ceiling. These intrusions and losses vary in size and are mostly in the plainly painted areas but some are found in the stenciling. The paint surface is also heavily soiled but is mostly stable. Even with the intrusions and soiling, the decoration can be cleaned and conserved but the best approach has yet to be determined. All the decoration may be saved or only remnants will be saved together with some replication. Additional examinations will help to determine this.

During this examination, remnants or ghosts of earlier stenciling and decoration could be seen through the current stenciled decoration. This obviously means that the current stenciling is not the original. The style of the current stenciling was commonly used in the 1910's and 1920's. From first glance, it appears that the earlier stenciling may be more elaborate than the current scheme. Multiple lines and dashes can be seen transferring through the paint. In Room 306, a very thin exposure of the original/earlier stencil can be seen. This stencil appears to have at least three colors. It is recommended that additional examinations be carried out to uncover and expose the extent of the earlier stencil designs. It may help in determining the direction and final appearance of the restoration.

As mentioned, additional examinations will be carried out in January to document the current stenciling and expose the earlier scheme. The exposures of the earlier stenciling may not reveal the entire design but will expose enough to understand the extent of decoration. Once the examinations and microscopy is completed, a brief report will be supplied outlining the findings. At this time, recommendations for restoration and conservation will be provided together with budget pricing to restore the finishes.