

Pelham ~ Windham News

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Historical Society Building Being Restored



courtesy photo

Restoration specialist John Killam of Westford, MA, one of a number of restoration specialists working on the restoration of the Pelham Historical Society Building

submitted by William Hayes

A comprehensive exterior restoration of the Pelham Historical Society Building is currently underway. This is the first comprehensive exterior restoration undertaken since the building was completed in 1896. Interior restoration of the first floor was completed last year.

The Historical Society Building, originally known as the Pelham Public Library and Memorial Building, was designed by the famed award-winning MIT architect Frederick W. Stickney, of the Pelham Stickneys, to serve both as a library and memorial to all Pelham veterans who served in the last French and Indian War 1754-1763, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Later, plaques were added for World War I and World War II veterans, filling all of the available wall space. The plaques were carved in marble and inlaid with gold paint.

Last fall, all roof flashing and all broken and missing slate roofing tiles were replaced. Additional work will involve the removal of all of the pitted, triple-track, aluminum-colored storm windows

and the installation of anodized white aluminum, single-pane glass, top-hinged, bottom-opening storm windows that will be virtually invisible to the eye, except when in the open position. The new storm windows will meet all historic preservation standards.

Window trim, window sash, roof dormers, the frieze, and all other exterior painted areas will be stripped back to the original material. Cracks, dents, and rot will be repaired. New primer and paint will be applied. The exterior air conditioners will be removed and the heating oil filler and vent pipes will be removed from the highly visible left side of the building to the backside of the building.

The rotted basement windows will be replaced with a non-rotting composite material, and will be virtually indistinguishable from the original 1896 windows.

The exterior alarm horns and strobe lights will be less visible when inactive, but louder and more visible when activated. The entire alarm system will be upgraded.

Upon completion of the work, the *continued to page 7- Building Being Restored*

HAYES-GENOTER HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

Building Being Restored - continued from front page

building will be inspected by the New Hampshire Historical Commission and if the work passes muster, the building will be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is already on the State Register.

All work is being done under the supervision of Pelham Building Inspector Roland Soucy, who has restored many historic buildings.

Contoocook preservation historian Sarah Dangelas Hofe, who grew up in Pelham and worked part-time in the building as a library assistant during her high school years, is preparing the complex research and other

paperwork required for listing on the National Register.

Judge J. Albert Lynch, a founding member of the Pelham Historical Society, has assumed all of the significant costs associated with obtaining the National Registration. He held Court in the Memorial Room for many years.

If all goes well, an Open House will be held on Old Home Day in September.

For more information regarding the origins and history of this building, Google the online award-winning Hayes-Genoter History and Genealogy Library.

Pelham Historical Society, Pelham, New Hampshire
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