Vurpillat's Opera House

2000 – 2020 Renovations by the Pulaski County Historical Society

- **2000**
 - Cornerstone Design is contracted to conduct architectural design
- **2001**
 - Historic Landmarks Foundation award for Statewide Revolving Loan
 - Historic Landmarks Foundation award for building study by Cornerstone Design
- **2001**
 - Efroymson Grant for repair of slate roof, metal cornice and dormers

2002

- Roof rehabilitation and structural stabilization, joint effort with Historic Landmarks Foundation
- Grant from Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology for roof replacement
- Contact made with Martin & Associates of Plymouth to supervise clean-up and roof replacement

- 2002, continued
 - Contract to Champion for clean-up
 - Award to Morris Roofing from Bourbon IN for roof replacement
- **2004**
 - Received grant for architect's study
- **2006**
 - Received Community Focus Fund Grant to renovate exterior of building

- 2007-08 Community Focus Fund Grant
 - Exterior renovations and some minor interior renovations
 to preserve the historic look of the building completed.
 - Masonry reconstruction
 - Installation of new windows on the third floor
 - New slate roof

- 2007-08 Community Focus Fund Grant, continued
 - Installation of four doors, two on the southwest corner and two on the south wall
 - Building receives a fresh coat of paint

- 2007-08 Community Focus Fund Grant, continued
 - The grant paying for exterior renovations was originally written for purposes of renovating the interior of the building
 - The hope was that the facility would become available for lease or purchase immediately, with an enhanced interior and an elevator

- 2007-08 Community Focus Fund Grant, continued
 - Because the State would allow only for exterior renovations, the Historical Society had to go to "Plan B" for interior renovations
 - Additional funds from the local Community Foundation allows for new flooring in the north storefront

- **2008-12**
 - Various interior renovations completed
 - New furnace and central air installed
 - Significant amounts of trash, old lumber and building materials removed from all floors of the building

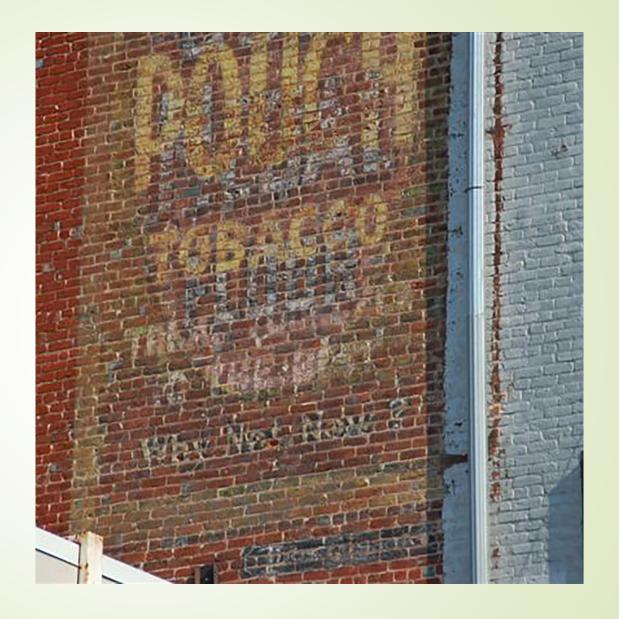
- 2014-15, PCHS blood, sweat & tears
 - Interior renovations to ground floor completed
 - South (main) part of building:
 - Ceiling and lathe
 - Furnace replaced
 - Electrical updated
 - Stairwell, stage header & mezzanine removed
 - Holes in ceiling repaired

- 2014-15, PCHS blood, sweat & tears, continued
 - South (main) part of building:
 - East and west walls cleaned of wallpaper and plaster, patched
 - Finish work (drywall, texturing)
 - Ceiling and walls insulated and painted
 - Duct work

- 2014-15, PCHS blood, sweat & tears, continued
 - Accessible bathroom for south (main)
 - Sidewalk patched and repaired
 - Electrical system updated

- 2018, PCHS blood, sweat & tears
 - North storefront receives renovations:
 - New HVAC
 - Electric updated, new conduit installed
 - New lighting installed
 - Ceiling painted

2000 – 2020 Renovations – we saved one thing...



Vurpillat's Hall

Photos From 2021

Photo from 2021: Stage



Photo from 2021: Stage, further back, now you can see entrances to dressing rooms



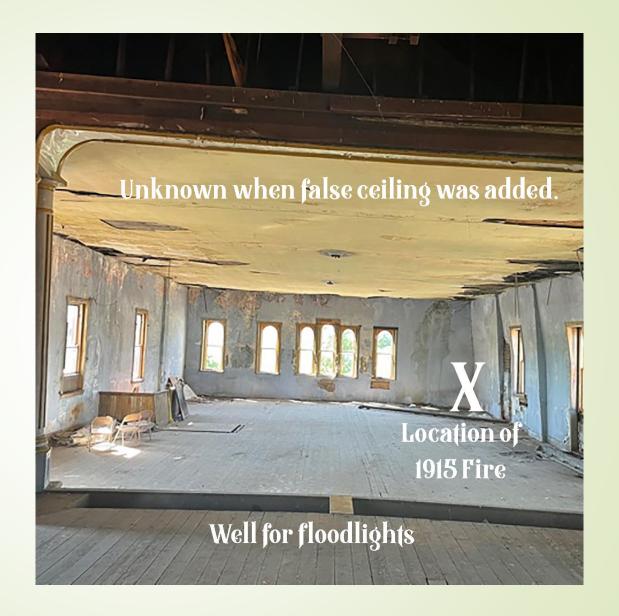
Photo from 2021: View from the stage to the back, windows overlook Courthouse square



Photo from 2021: Same view, from inside the stage



Photo from 2021: False ceiling added ??, location of the fire, well for the floodlights



Pulaski County Historical Society

- **2008**
 - Dance studio leases north storefront
- **2016-20**
 - Opera House Floral & Gifts leases main storefront
- **2016-18**
 - Vintage Soul, an antique shop, leases north storefront (owner moves to California)

- **2018-19**
 - Inksignia, a tattoo parlor, leases north storefront, but owners soon move to another location for more room
- **2**019-20
 - North storefront leased to INDOT and contractors working on US 35

- **2020**
 - Building sold to Mike & Jenny Kasten
 - They develop the first floor into event space called Celebration Station

Pulaski County Historical Society

2014 – 2015 Blood, Sweat & Tears

Dumpster every Saturday morning



Dumpster every Saturday afternoon



Repairs to the sidewalk and building foundation



Repairs to the sidewalk and building foundation



What a mess



It looked like every construction site



The stage header came down first



The header is down, the Mezzanine is still intact, as is the stairwell, to the right



Mezzanine gone; can see stairs going to 2nd floor



Stairwell and stairs



Stairs gone; frame still up



Stairwell finally gone



Mezzanine clear; adding heat and air to north storefront



Tearing ceiling down



Ceiling down on west side



Another view of ceiling down on west side



Framing the bathrooms and pass-through



Bathrooms and pass-through taking shape



Drywall added to the stage area



Floor issues



More floor issues



Even more floor issues



And still more floor issues



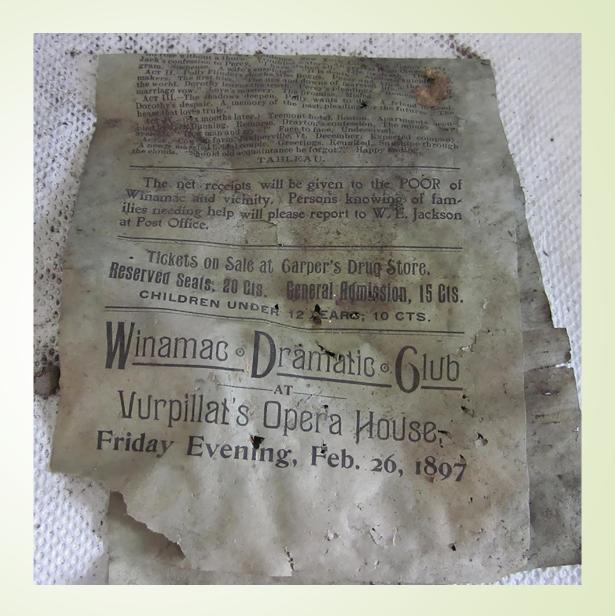
Cleaning plaster and layers of wallpaper from the east side (taking it off concrete – ick!)



One layer of wallpaper



We found things in the wall – this is dated 1897



East wall getting there



Nice



Preparing east wall for paint



West wall



Plaster and paper had to come down



West wall getting there



West wall almost done



Damage from the 1915 fire was still evident



Soot POURED out of this area



We rushed to get a garbage can under it



NAILS! WE HAD NAILS!



Oh, the NAILS!



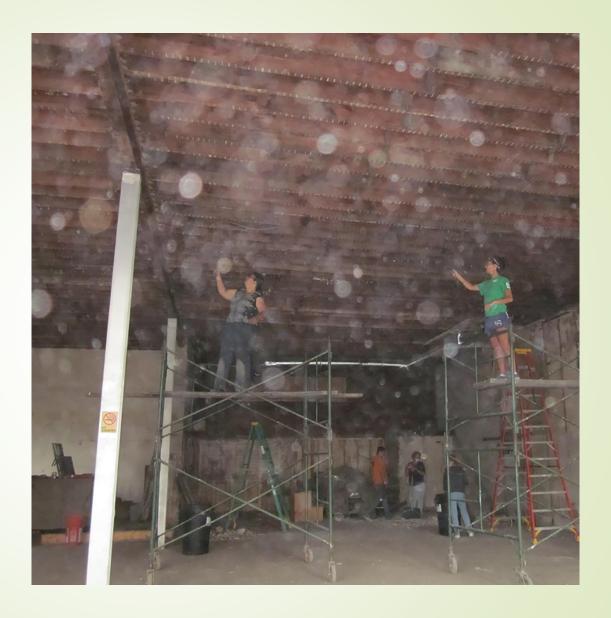
Looking at the photos several minutes after they were taken, I noticed a spot



The next photo had even more spots



And this one, even more. We determined they were ghosts, coming to supervise the work.



We insulated everything



We used spray foam both for insulation...



...and to keep the 2nd floor on the 2nd floor (the dirt and dust)



Painting the ceiling black



It wasn't quick or easy



Lights were added



Heat and air were added



We hosted one last Winter Wonderland, then finished the interior – and I couldn't find photos...



So, using photos from our first major tenant... you can see how we finished the interior



Little changed from PCHS efforts for our first long-term tenants





On To The Next Chapter

- The Historical Society welcomes Celebration Station
 - The newest event center in Winamac
 - Purchased by Jenny & Mike Kasten, proprietors of One Eyed Jacks