



Vurpillat's Opera House

2000 – 2020 Renovations by the Pulaski County Historical
Society




2000 – 2020 Renovations




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

- ▶ Efrogmson Grant for repair of slate roof, metal cornice and dormers



2000 – 2020 Renovations



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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

- 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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

- 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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

- ▶ 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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

- ▶ 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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

- ▶ 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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

- 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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

- 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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

- ▶ 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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

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



2000 – 2020 Renovations

- ▶ 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



Unknown when false ceiling was added.

X
Location of
1915 Fire

Well for floodlights



Pulaski County Historical Society

2000 – 2020 Tenants



2000 – 2020 Tenants

- 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)



2000 – 2020 Tenants

- 2018-19

- Inksignia, a tattoo parlor, leases north storefront, but owners soon move to another location for more room

- 2019-20

- North storefront leased to INDOT and contractors working on US 35



2000 – 2020 Tenants

- 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