



FMW Renovation Update

January 13, 2019

The grand object of Masonry is to promote
the happiness of the human race.

— George Washington

Monday 🌞

The masons quickly assemble the 1st story of the
elevator tower, complete with door opening.



The carpenters add a few significant sticks to the second floor of the corridor.



They complete the crown moulding around the ceiling bays in the Assembly Room.



The demolition crew makes holes in the Meeting wall to put lintels in.



The waterproofers add a layer of protection board to the Storage Room roof.



This protects the waterproofing layer below from damage as later material is added.

Tuesday 🌤️

The masons raise the elevator tower about halfway up the upper door opening.



“Structure 2B” is a concrete manhole, required by DC Water, that has been cluttering up the front of the Meeting House for several months.



The site utilities crew finally picks it up and tucks it safely under the planting bed along Florida Avenue.



The waterproofers deliver a load of insulation panels for the Storage Room roof.



The construction crew makes great progress on the Assembly Room wall patching.



Wednesday 🌤️

The masons can't do any more on the tower until the elevator inserts arrive. The inserts get built into the tower to anchor the elevator.

Out along Florida Avenue the utilities crew is very busy connecting the new manhole to the DC sewer system.



Apologies to the Garden Committee, as it looks like some very nice topsoil got scraped away and also the plants that were growing in it.



The waterproofers add a layer of insulation to the patio/Storage Room roof, while a pair of carpenters very carefully lay out window frames with laser measuring tools.



In the Assembly Room, more carpenters replace damaged and decaying trim and baseboards, while another construction worker drywalls the supporting column.



The iron workers deliver the steel lintels for installation in the Meeting House wall.



Thursday ☀️

The window framing creeps onto the Lobby.



But the framing can't continue until the steel is in place.

And the steel can't be placed until the needle beam scaffolding is removed.

And the needle beam scaffolding can't be removed until the lintels are installed.

And the lintels can't be installed unless masons show up to do that. Maybe tomorrow.

If you have ever made an appointment with the cable guy, you will understand why it's not always a good idea to ask our site superintendent how his day went.

On the east side, the utilities crew finishes connecting the new manhole to the DC sewer with a really big pipe and tries to pack all the dirt back in the hole.



The next step is to move inside the garden, dig a large hole, and connect it under the wall to the manhole.

The Schindler elevator installation superintendent comes to discuss the coming work.

Inside the Assembly Room, subtle improvements, as the trimming, patching, and sanding continue.

Friday ☀️

The masons return to the remains of the office and spend the day chipping away at the outside wall and deafening the staff.



By the end of the day, the first lintel is in place and partly bricked in.



Our superintendent was hoping for two lintels, but the Parlor will have to wait until Monday.

It turns out that the interior of our walls is constructed of thin, hollow terra cotta tiles filled with mortar, and it's not easy to take them apart in such a way that they can support the ends of a lintel.

The utilities crew clean up the street and make some attempt to disguise their work but are not entirely successful.



Carpenters replace the plywood gable, which had begun to suffer from the many wet months since it was installed.



An electrician continues to rearrange circuits for the new hallway.

Work on the elevator shaft is delayed because of low temperatures.

Looking Ahead

The lintels will be completed.

Then the needle beams will be withdrawn.

Sort of like taking out the stitches after surgery, but more painful.

Work on the elevator tower will continue.

Patching and sanding completed, paint will be added to the Assembly Room.

Excavation in the East Garden will begin.

Steel and then wood will be added to the Lobby structure.

The front steps and wheelchair ramp will be poured.

The cast stone garden steps will finally arrive.