NORTH PACIFIC HALL
SOUTH FACADE RESTORATION
HISTORIC RESTORATION TEAM | Summer 2015
Sitka Fine Arts Camp | Sheldon Jackson Campus, Sitka, Alaska

Photography: Ethan Boote, Ellie Handler, Vivian Huang, Evie Soileau
Documentation Editor: Evie Soileau
Special thanks to Larry, Pete, Randy, and all other supporting community members
Historic Restoration Interns
July-August 2015

The 2015 Historic Restoration Team, including Randy Bartholomew, Larry Jackson, and Pete Weiland.
North Pacific Hall
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, AK

Original North Pacific Hall first floor plan by Ludlow and Peabody Architects, NYC 1910

Site Plan, Sheldon Jackson Campus, Sitka, AK
Original North Pacific Hall south facade elevation drawings by Ludlow and Peabody Architects, NYC 1910

HABS elevation by Jeremy Butler-Pinkham, 2004

On the left is the original first floor window design with casings extending to belly beam and panel below the sill. In red are the restored components.

Restoring North Pacific Hall's south facade to its original design by Ludlow and Peabody Architects:
After arriving from points southeast the day prior, the twenty-five-person historic restoration team on Tuesday began their work on the façade of North Pacific Hall. Following a primer on the history of the SJ campus from Roger Schmidt of the Sitka Fine Arts Camp and necessary safety demonstrations and personal protective equipment (PPE) discussion from crew leader Larry Jackson, Pete Weiland, construction foreman, briefed interns on the job ahead. Before work began in earnest, interns participated in a trust and communication team-building exercise on the SJ quad and toured the shop facility where fabrication would take place for use on the restored façade.

Work started at the building’s foundation with the removal of the “belly band” – horizontal cladding – and its adjacent strips of molding and drip-cap. Following this removal, interns removed the cedar shingles below each first-floor window (labeled A – J, left to right, in chalk) to expose previously covered decorative paneling.
Work began on Wednesday with the careful removal of the paneling below each ground level window, with care to protect the tongue-and-groove pattern of the boards’ edges for proper fit. Sheldon Jackson College stencils and handwritten equations were discovered on some of this wood. With the paneling removed, sheets of Vycor waterproofing was applied to the wood underneath.

Given the clear and dry weather, a chop shop was erected outside with a chop saw and table saw and fabrication began on replacements for the horizontal cladding and drip-cap for above the foundation.

Vertical casings from either side of the ground-level windows were removed (these were not original but replacements themselves) to allow for replacement as well as examination and repair of the sash counterweight mechanisms in each window frame. Two sections of scaffolding were erected to a height of one level to assist in this task.
Day 03 Thursday, July 16, 2015
North Pacific Hall Front Facade Restoration
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, AK

SHINGLE REMOVAL
PANEL WATERPROOFING
WINDOW SASH WEIGHT REPAIR
BELLY BAND FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION

SIDING REMOVED AT FIRST LEVEL, WATERPROOFING TAR PAPER BEING STAPLED ON

WATERPROOFING INSTALLED AT FIRST LEVEL

BELLY BAND INSTALLATION

CHRIS POLANSKY’S NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Work continued on Thursday to repair the window sash weights. The last of the vertical casings were removed, and replacements were fabricated to newly-taken measurements – the lengths are not uniform for each window, or even each side of each window. More shingles were removed from the building – some bore the stencil HAWLEY MILL CO. – PERFECTION – MILTOWN, WASHINGTON. Cursory internet investigation yields no record of this mill beyond 1921. As interns began to remove shingles beyond ground level, a ladder safety demonstration was given by Larry Jackson.
SHINGLE REMOVAL
PANEL WATERPROOFING
WINDOW SASH WEIGHT REPAIR
BELLY BAND FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION

Day 03 Thursday continued
North Pacific Hall Front Facade Restoration
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, AK

SHINGLE REMOVAL: SOME ORIGINAL CEDAR SHINGLES HAVE BEEN STAMPED WITH THE NAME OF THE MILL, HAWLEY MILL CO. - PERFECTION - MILLTOWN, WASHINGTON

WINDOW SASH WEIGHT REPAIR: SASH WEIGHTS AND CASINGS REMOVED

WATERPROOFING: RACHEL JONES AND ANNA PINOWAR APPLY TAR PAPER AND VYCOR TO THE PANEL AREA BENEATH THE WINDOW

WATERPROOFING: VYCOR WATERPROOFING BENEATH CASINGS

HRT MEMBERS ETIENNE DESBOIS, SAMIR WADHWANI, AND MIKE MCDONNELL WORK WITH LARRY JACKSON AND PETE WEILAND TO INSTALL WINDOW CASINGS.
The majority of work on the team’s first working Monday was focused on erecting a multi-level scaffolding across the entire south façade of North Pacific Hall. With up to twenty-eight individuals on the worksite at any time, it was necessary to be meticulous in construction to ensure safe conditions. Each scaffolding frame was first joined by two braces running parallel to the façade. Next, adjustable feet were put where needed to achieve a uniformly level platform surface. Two levels of two-by-twelve and two-by-six boards were laid horizontally to serve as standing surfaces on the first level of scaffolding at a height of about six feet; guardrails were installed and kickboards were nailed in to provide fall protection, both for interns working on the scaffolding and their equipment. A ladder was secured to the east end of the scaffolding to provide access, to avoid the necessity of climbing the scaffolding frame itself, which tends to be slippery and treacherous.
Work on Tuesday concerned the reassembly of the tongue-and-groove paneling for below each window, followed by its reinstallation atop the Vycor sheeting. Shingles were removed up to about the level of the header of each first floor window, and tar paper was applied over the exposed original wood. Some of the new casings were fastened with finishing nails.
The last of the casings and panels were replaced, and then the team divided into small groups of three to each begin applying shingles in earnest. First, original shingles were nailed, backwards, along the drip-cap. Atop this layer, new red cedar shingles, beveled to eighteen degrees to fit the angle of the drip cap, were affixed. Using a story-pole and a straight length of board, layers of new shingles were nailed in across the entire façade of North Pacific Hall with a reveal of exactly six inches. Pete Weiland demonstrated the proper practice for the façade’s corners - using a jigsaw, shingles are to be cut to match the adjacent corner’s shingle. For the following level of shingle, the overlap should come from the alternate side of the building; the effect is of alternating each level, with the south façade’s shingle on top on one layer, the west/east façade’s shingle on top for the next layer, and so on.
Day 07 Thursday, July 23, 2015
North Pacific Hall Front Facade Restoration
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, AK

1ST FL WINDOW CASING INSTALLATION
SHINGLE INSTALLATION
CORNER CONSTRUCTION

CASINGS INSTALLED

CORNER WEAVING

SHINGLE INSTALLATION
Day 08 Monday, July 27, 2015
North Pacific Hall Front Facade Restoration
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, AK

SHINGLE INSTALLATION REACHES TO TOP OF SECOND STORY WINDOW SILLS

PAINTING BEGINS ON THE PANELS

WINDOW HEADERS ARE REFABRICATED AND NAILED INTO PLACE

PAINTING SHINGLES

SHINGLE INSTALLATION
CORNER CONSTRUCTION
PAINTING BEGINS
REPLACING AND INSTALLING HEAD PIECES & COVER OVER WINDOWS
Day 09 Tuesday, July 28, 2015
North Pacific Hall Front Facade Restoration
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, AK

SECOND LAYER SCAFFOLDING ERECTION
PAINTING
CORNER CONSTRUCTION
UPPER LEVEL SHINGLE REMOVAL

SHINGLE REMOVAL ABOVE PORCH
SHIMS AND SHORTENED SHINGLES
SECOND STORY
WINDOWS, LABELLED,
PRE SHINGLE REMOVAL
North Pacific Hall Front Facade Restoration
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, AK

Day 10 Wednesday, July 29, 2015

LABELLED SECOND STORY WINDOWS
REMOVED WINDOW TRIM BELOW SILL ON 2ND STORY
SHINGLES REMOVED BELOW SILL
WATERPROOFING

REPLACING WOOD TRIM

ROT DAMAGE ON WOOD TRIM

SHINGLES CUT TO FIT AROUND 2ST STORY WINDOW AND DRIP CAP. WATERPROOF TAR PAPER BELOW.

STRING GUIDE LINES ABOVE THE WINDOW SILL UNIFY THE SHINGLE LINES ACROSS THE ENTIRE FACADE

SECOND STORY WINDOWS, SHINGLES REMOVED AND TAR PAPER STAPLED ON
Chris Polansky’s Notes from the Shop

The third week of work saw the shop with a heavy workload, as multiple types of trim, coving, and molding were required to be fabricated in the style of the original 1911 construction. Led by Randy Bartholomew and Heidi Peterson, the jobs, though not without their frustrations, were seen through expertly. Some molding simply required the routering of dowels; trim, on the other hand, required router, table saw, chop saw, wood glue, and nails. Trickiest of all was the window coving, which saw the shop team wrestling with table saw blade height, expanded wood and misaligned jigs. Eventually, though, the shop was able to produce the required pieces, with some to spare. See their work in the small details of the new façade.
Day 12 Monday, August 3, 2015
North Pacific Hall Front Facade Restoration
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2ND FL CASING REMOVAL & WATERPROOFING
PAINTING
SHINGLE INSTALLATION
PANEL & BELLY BEAM TRIM INSTALLATION

DAMAGED CASINGS REMOVED TO REVEAL 6X1 BOARDS, 61" LENGTH, WHICH WERE THEN LABELLED

6X1S REMOVED TO WATERPROOF AROUND WINDOWS

WATERPROOFING INSTALLED, 6X1S REINSTALLED WITH GALVANIZED NAILS, TURNED AROUND TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE EXPOSURE

CASINGS FABRICATED AND INSTALLED ABOVE THE SILL WITH GALVANIZED FINISH NAILS

BELLY BEAM AND SILL PLATE TRIM DETAILS

Painting begins on the panels

Chris Polansky’s Notes from the Field
Shingling was completed to the top of the shingled façade of North Pacific today. Following their fabrication in the shop, the decorative panels were shot on with a nail gun below each first floor window. The casings on the second story windows were removed and either refabricated or reattached. A first coat of body paint was slowly but steadily applied from the bottom up to the newly attached shingles.
Day 13 Tuesday, August 4, 2015
North Pacific Hall Front Façade Restoration
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ANDY WILSON WORKS ON SHINGLE INSTALLATION NEAR THE CORNERS
ORIGINAL BLOCKS WERE TRIMMED TO MATCH THE DIMENSIONS OF THE CASINGS ABOVE
A NEWLY FABRICATED PIECE OF TRIM MEETS AN ORIGINAL THAT DID NOT REQUIRE REPLACEMENT
HEIDI PETERSON, TRIM EXTRAORDINAIRE
2ND FLOOR CASINGS, BLOCKS, TRIM INSTALLED
SHINGLING PANEL & BELLY BEAM TRIM INSTALLATION PAINTING
SECOND STORY WINDOWS, SHINGLES FULLY INTACT TO SILL
CAULKING SMOOTH OUT ORIGINAL CASINGS THAT DID NOT REQUIRE REPLACEMENT
BELLOW-SILL BLOCKS TRIMMED TO MATCH CASINGS WIDTH
NEWLY FABRICATED CASINGS

Chris Polansky’s Notes from the Field

Today was the first genuinely hot day faced by the HRT. Under the tarping atop the scaffolding, installed to protect the team and the façade from the ever-present Sitka rain, temperatures climbed higher and higher on a sunny day with a temperature in the 70s. With the addition of Tyvek suits, at least one intern became dizzy and unsteady on the scaffolding; we were given a presentation on the signs and symptoms of heat stroke and stress in order to continue work safely.

Work itself concerned painting the newly applied window trim in black and epoxying cracks and holes.
Day 14 Wednesday, August 5, 2015
North Pacific Hall Front Facade Restoration
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EPOXY IS APPLIED TO ROT-DAMAGED ORIGINAL WOOD PIECES

SHINGLING COMPLETION, ESPECIALLY CORNERS

CAULKING AND FINISHING

PAINTING, ESPECIALLY DETAILS/TRIM

CLEAN UP

(DAY 13) A NEWLY FABRICATED PIECE OF TRIM MEETS AN ORIGINAL THAT DID NOT REQUIRE REPLACEMENT

FRESHLY PAINTED, WITH NEWLY FABRICATED BLOCKS BENEATH, THE OLD AND NEW TRIM ARE SEAMLESSLY CONSTRUCTED TOGETHER

EPOXY IS APPLIED TO ROT-DAMAGED ORIGINAL WOOD PIECES

NEWLY FABRICATED TRIM

SECOND STORY WINDOWS, PAINTED AND COMPLETE

Chris Polansky’s Notes from the Field

On the last full day of work – the last day will necessarily be largely devoted to clean-up and disassembly – the team attacked the last of the required jobs. Casings, sills, and trim were sanded, caulked, and epoxied; first layers of body paint were applied where needed and a second layer was applied where possible. The teams on the building’s corners continued bringing the shingles up to the top; cornering is a meticulous job made harder by the lack of scaffolding on North Pacific’s east and west façades.
Day 15 Thursday, August 6, 2015

North Pacific Hall Front Facade Restoration
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PAINTING
CLEAN UP
SCAFFOLDING DECONSTRUCTION

NEWLY FABRICATED BLOCKS BENEATH CASINGS

NEW SHINGLES MEET PORCH MOLDING

BEFORE
AFTER

Below-window panels are uncovered by more recent shingles and restored. All 1st story casings are replaced.

Missing blocks below 2nd story window casings are fabricated.

New shingles on south facade are weaved with originals on east & west corners.

THE ORIGINAL EAST AND WEST CORNER BLOCKS HAVE CIRCULAR CUT OUTS FOR WATER DRAINAGE PIPES WHICH NO LONGER EXIST. THE BLOCKS, HOWEVER, REMAIN.