Whitmore Hall
South Facade Restoration

Historic Restoration Internship – Summer 2016
Sitka Fine Arts Camp – Sheldon Jackson Campus, Sitka, Alaska

Report by Gabrielle Clarke and Caitlin Purdome
Photography by Meghan Royster and Gabrielle Clarke
Field notes by Gabrielle Clarke; Editor Larry Jackson
Foreword

In 2011, the non-profit Sitka Fine Arts Camp (SFAC) was gifted 20 buildings on the Sheldon Jackson Campus in Sitka, Alaska. The campus was in great disrepair having been boarded up for four years, but as a National Historic Landmark the campus was well worth revitalizing and preserving. The Sitka community began a tremendous volunteer effort to assess the campus, repair buildings, and reopen the Sitka Fine Arts Camp in its former home. In 2012, as a part of this effort, Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, a Sitkan, recruited fellow Yale students (under the rubric “Bulldogs on Baranof”) to spend one month on campus to assist with rehabilitation. The program known as the Historic Restoration Internship is in its fifth summer. Including this summer’s interns more than 90 undergraduate and recent graduates from numerous colleges throughout the US have volunteered for the program. Interns provided their own travel expenses to get to Sitka.

The interns have focused their efforts on rehabilitation/restoration of the central half-quadrangle of five buildings built in 1910-1911. This summer, the interns rehabilitated the south-facing façade of Whitmore Hall. Sixteen interns arrived in Sitka on July 11 and departed on August 8. In the interim, they worked on campus four days per week and explored Sitka and Baranof Island on long weekends.

This report describes the work conducted on the Sheldon Jackson Campus by the SFAC—Historic Restoration Internship Program during the summer, 2016. The Historic Restoration Team of 16 intern volunteers worked under the supervision of Pete Weiland—the general contractor, Randy Bartholomew—the volunteer woodshop foreman, and myself as the volunteer crew leader. The work was supported by the SFAC who provided intern housing and board and by a 60-40 matching grant available through the City and Borough of Sitka as a Certified Local Government via the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of History and Archaeology. Rebecca Poulson was the grant developer and manager.

On behalf of the Sitka Fine Arts Camp, we thank this year’s interns for their dedication and hard work in helping to restore the Sheldon Jackson Campus and bring new life to these aging buildings.

Larry Jackson
2016 SITKA FINE ARTS CAMP HISTORIC RESTORATION INTERNS

Amanda Carson
Cristina Ceballos
Minah Choi
Gabrielle Clarke
Henry Colt
Susannah Krapf

David Langdon
Grace Lindsey
Sonia Neidorf
James Pardo
Paul Phillips

Caitlin Purdome
Avery Rasmussen
Meghan Royster
Eve Sneider
Emily Snow
Sheldon Jackson Campus

View of quadrangle with Whitmore Hall to right of center. Picture taken in 1911
http://vilda.alaska.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/cdmg21/id/16131/rec/1

Site Plan, Sheldon Jackson Campus
Whitmore Hall Highlighted in Blue

1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Sitka
Whitmore Hall
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, Alaska

Whitmore Hall ~2004
(HABS, 2004)

Whitmore Hall original plans: Ludlow & Peabody, 1910 (HABS, 2004)
Original architectural sketch with all pieces that were replaced with new material highlighted in red and windows labeled.
Under window decorative panel had been shingled over in the past. Restoration efforts included unveiling the panel, manufacturing new panel trim, replacing left & right window casings to extend from the header to the bellyband and replacing window header drip edge & associated molding.
On Monday 16 interns arrived in Sitka, Alaska to work on the south façade of Whitmore Hall. Tuesday morning, we convened to begin work. Roger Schmidt, the Sitka Fine Arts Camp executive director, spoke about the history of the Sheldon Jackson Campus and the Historic Restoration Internship. We were then led through a communications exercise, safety demonstrations, and personal protective equipment (PPE) by Larry Jackson, crew leader. This was followed by Pete Weiland, the project contractor, describing the work to be done over our 4 weeks. We then proceeded to take off as many shingles on the south façade as was possible to reach from the ground. We also removed the old underlayment and waterproofing, old nails that were sticking out, and the handicap ramp that led to the front porch. Overall a very productive first day.

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

- Went over safety & protective equipment
- Removed old shingles and tar paper
- Removed nails from wall
- Removed ramp leading to porch
- Cleaned up debris

Interns removing old cedar shingles and nails.

Interns removing the ramp that was on the left side of the porch.

The south-facing façade of Whitmore Hall before construction began.
Day 2 started with removing wood that covered panels that have been hidden for decades under the first-floor windows. We then went over scaffolding safety and erected scaffolding along the south façade. There was a total of two levels so we could reach the top floor of the building.

Original under-window decorative panels were boarded & shingled over hiding the panels. [Window F]

Panel that was hidden under Window F that is missing an interior casing board, 2 types of molding and a lower drip edge.
Today started with putting the last few railings on the scaffolding and installing kickers to stop debris and tools from falling off the scaffolding. We also put a plastic sheet over the scaffolding to protect us from the ever-present rain here in Sitka. We removed the remaining old cedar shingles and all the casings from the first-floor windows. We also got a visit from some Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) consultants who were visiting another project on the island.

A window sashweight & rope that was hidden beneath the window casing.

The original under-window panel for Window G was missing entirely. A new panel was constructed from fir framing and an inset panel of fir tongue & groove pieces.
DAY 4
Whitmore Hall South Façade Restoration
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, Alaska

Today we added some extra safety measures that were suggested to us by the OSHA consultants, including: mud sills, mid-rails, and doors for the ends of the scaffolding. We attached Vycor flashing tape around the edges of the windows to prevent water from getting in and attached 15 lbs felt waterproofing/underlayment to the building. We also installed the new casings to the first-floor windows.

Monday, July 18, 2016
Added additional scaffold elements
Installed Vycor window flashing
Covered wall with 15-lb felt underlayment
Installed window casings
Installed Window G panel

The new under-window panel & full-length side window casings were installed. Felt underlayment & Vycor flashing was added around the window under the new materials.

Interns installing a section of 15-lb. felt

Interns installed Vycor flashing & underlayment felt around Window A.
DAY 5
Whitmore Hall South Façade Restoration
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, Alaska

Today we installed a new drip-cap above the belly band to replacing rotten sections. The drip edge was cut at a 20°. A section of the belly band fascia board was also replaced due to rot. A corner section of wall sheathing was missing and replaced. We then started putting on new cedar shingles. The first row was cut to an angle of 19° so water would move away from the building and not go under the bottom shingle. The bottom layer of shingles was doubled. New rows of shingles were aligned using a ledger board and had about a 6” reveal.

Tuesday, July 19, 2016
Added new bellyband drip edge & some belly band fascia
Installed remaining 1st window floor casings
Patched wall sheathing
Began shingling

Larry & Pete fitting the new drip cap under the window casing

#2 cedar shingles being installed

Missing corner wall sheathing & rotten bellyband material
Today we continued to put on new shingles and Vycored remaining sections of the windows. A few interns in the shop fabricated new headers for all the first-floor windows and installed them. An intern also did a field drawing and measurements of the porch of North Pacific Hall to see how to replace sections of the porch on Whitmore Hall.

Interns began shingling from the 2nd-stage scaffold level.

A new header installed over a 1st-floor window.

Field drawings of North Pacific Hall porch detail by Gabrielle Clark (not to scale)
Today we finished installing the 15 lbs. Felt waterproofing and continued installing headers and singles. A few interns also fabricated cove molding for underneath the drip-cap in the shop. We also removed a non-original modern door that was located on the left side of the porch. We are unsure as to why this door was installed in the first place.
DAY 8
Whitmore Hall South Façade Restoration
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, Alaska

Today we finished shingling the main part of the façade. We also re-shingled, with old shingles, the porch wall where the door was removed. A section of scaffolding was erected on the west end of the building to make shingling the corner easier.

Shingled main entrance porch west wall where a modern door was removed. Reused original shingles removed from other sections of the building.

Monday, July 25, 2016
Continued shingling south façade
Shingled porch wall where door was removed
Erected scaffolding on west end of building
Repaired under-window panels with plastic wood

Short section of scaffolding was erected on SW corner of building to aid reshingling of the corner and proper shingle alignment on west wall.
Today we shingled above the porch and the corners of the building where the shingles had to be weaved to fit together and align with shingles on the end walls. We attached the cove molding below the drip edge on the belly band. We started caulking along the seams of the casings to prevent water from getting behind the casings.

Paul, Henry, & Amanda installing shingles above the main entrance porch.

Gabrielle sanding restored under-window panels.
Today we continued to shingle the porch and corners of the building. We then started scraping the white upper board and batten section of the 2nd floor. Two types of new molding were fabricated and installed as interior trim components of the under-window panels. The main porch columns and railings were inspected. Various pieces needed repair. However, we stabilized the existing upper trim by renailing, but postponed replacement of components until a later time.
Today we continued to scrap and shingle—never ending tasks. We fabricated and installed new casings for some of the top floor windows. Finished installing panel trim. Panels, casings, and belly band were patched and sanded as needed with plastic wood to hide the nail holes.
**DAY 12**

Whitmore Hall South Façade Restoration  
Sheldon Jackson Campus | Sitka, Alaska

Today we continued to caulk seams to prevent water damage and repaired bottom sections of the columns. We also started painting the shingles a light brown, called Sheldon Jackson Brown, and the trim a darker brown. We also erected a partial 3rd scaffold stage to reach the ½ story of the jerkinhead gable above the porch.

**Monday, August 1, 2016**

- **Caulked seems throughout**  
- **Continued repair of column bases**  
- **Fabricated & installed replacement corbel pieces**  
- **Painted shingles**  
- **Erected a 3rd partial scaffold stage**

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Painting begins on the 3rd level

Painting set up on ground level

Repaired rotting corbel by replacing end piece
Today we continued to caulk and paint—both time consuming tasks. We also removed the scaffolding on the west end of the building because the corner shingling was completed.

**Two-tone brown painting scheme:**
- Light brown on shingles & center of window panels
- Dark brown on all casings, trim, & porch elements (newly repaired & faded belly band yet to be painted the dark brown)
Today was the last full day of work. We caulked and painted the last few areas and removed the plastic from the scaffolding. We also started to clean up the debris from the ground.

Touch up work on the 3rd level
Today was the last day of work. We did touch ups with the paint and cleaned up all the debris from our work. We reinstalled the gutters which were removed so we could work. We then disassembled the scaffolding carefully and put away all the tools we used. It was a wonderful last day of work. And we stopped to look and be proud of all the hard work put in to restoring this historic building.