



Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation

January Newsletter, 2021

Windows Or How We Came to See the Light

You may recall way back in November of last year, we mentioned in the newsletter that the SCCBF had purchased 17 new window units to be installed in the oldest, original section of the Historic Grammar School.



The windows to be replaced were old style, single pane, thin window glass set in wooden frames and sashes. They had suffered greatly from neglect over the years and were dilapidated to the point of literally falling apart at the touch.



Since they were not original, but had been rebuilt in the 1980's, the decision was made to replace rather than rebuild them again.

We were able to find what we wanted at Hall's Windows and

Doors in Rancho Cordova. The new windows are modern dual pane, argon gas filled, resistant to damaging ultra violet rays, and are mounted in wooden frames clad in aluminum on the exterior and factory painted on the interior. Each window will also raise and lower! The folks at Hall's were able to recommend windows that exactly mimic the look of the originals as seen in photographs.



Now all we had to do was install them!

For this most important and delicate process we called on local contractors Alan Clinton and Gaston Grau.



That decision was brought about by a recommendation from Rick Champlin, who had worked with Alan and Gaston on several occasions. The contractors were also interviewed by Tim Murphy and Rick McCombs, both of the SCCBF.

Work began in December on the lower floor of the original west facing "wing" and consumed about four long days re-awakening muscles long forgotten in all three of us who volunteered to help. We (Tim Murphy, Rick McCombs, and Rick Champlin) were responsible for removal of the rotten wood frames, sashes, and windows as well as cleanup and caulking. The contractors came behind us and custom fit each window in its empty brick hole. The intricacies of custom fitting a 21st century window into a 150 year old brick structure were daunting indeed. But Alan, Gaston, and the "helpers" devised a working system and the first floor mission was accomplished.



The second floor was a whole different animal. Because of the height involved - up to 25 feet - and angles, a lifting device was required.

The delivery of a 45 foot bucket lift had to be coordinated with the elementary school in consideration for the safety of the children during their outside activities. Gaston Grau was elected to drive the equipment and position it so that the second floor windows could be installed and caulked on the exterior safely and efficiently.



Once again, the contractors had to custom fit each window into the 150 year old brick walls. The 11 windows on the second floor presented their own set of challenges, such as tapering walls, crumbling mortar, and 2 windows of different sizes with arched tops instead of flat tops.



A spirit of camaraderie and a common sense of accomplishment overcame all obstacles and by the end of the first week in January, 2021, the project was finished!



The new windows are another major accomplishment in the

restoration of a much loved local landmark. It is anticipated that these widows will improve the monthly energy cost and make these rooms far more comfortable and quiet.

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