

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Unseen Spaces ? abandoned lodge hall

Written by David on January, 13 2013

The Strand Theatre was built in 1915-16. In order to build the theatre the decision was made to re-use the existing livery stable and have new construction for the auditorium.

Our stage is actually part of a building from the 19th century that was renovated as the stage. A fire wall was built to separate the Strand section of the building from the rest of the structure.

According to a newspaper article of the day, a 6 foot steel beam was installed as the builders removed the side wall of the stable to join the new auditorium of the Strand.

The third floor of the old structure housed a lodge hall. This was permanently sealed off and its only use was to house the cooling tower for the air conditioning system (yes, even in 1916) and a hole was cut in the floor for the fly loft.

When it was abandoned the windows were bricked from the outside and the access from the rest of the original building was bricked in as well. This building fronts Broadway Street and is now home to Adam's Paint and Wallpaper.

Earlier this year the Strand purchased a small portion of this building and we now call it the Strand Annex North. One of the major reasons we needed to acquire the new space was to gain easy access to the lodge hall that was abandoned long ago.

On December 27, 2012 Strand volunteers Bob Schlick and Jim Hawkins ventured through the doorway and stepped into the past..

As you will see by the pictures below, the space is incredible! The outside temperature was 20 degrees, but the lodge hall was a balmy 85! Since it is the highest point, all the heat has been rising for the past 96 years. This has kept this space bone dry. Dust falls, and since there was no activity, there was very little dust, as you would expect from a space not used in 96 years. It is incredibly clean considering the last time it had easy access was 1916.

The space will bring new uses and life to the Strand. Thank you to our entire community for helping make this possible. Soon the renovation work will start....we hope you will join us!

Images on this post:











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