

Legion Hall Restoration
Update #5

We have some VERY GOOD NEWS in our effort to save and restore Crockett's Memorial Hall (Legion Hall)! Strength tests on the bricks and mortar of the exterior walls have revealed sufficient integrity for us to use an advanced technology in the seismic retrofit of our building, called fiber reinforced polymer strengthening (FRP). Our engineer, Holmes Culley, says it is "highly likely" that FRP technology can be used, and they are proceeding with the conceptual design on that basis. We eagerly await a presentation of the conceptual design to the District Board of the Crockett Community Services District before the year is out.

The District Board recognizes the need to minimize the visual intrusion that seismic retrofit will have on our historic building. The traditional approach to seismic retrofit has been to build a whole new structural system inside brick buildings to absorb the shock of an earthquake. There would be nowhere to hide such heavy concrete walls inside Memorial Hall, and its small floor area would be further reduced. FRP technology is considered essential if we are to rescue Memorial Hall without detracting terribly from its architectural merit. In this approach, the brick walls are strengthened using surface-applied polymer coatings reinforced with glass fibers or carbon fibers. The historic mouldings and plaster can then be reinstalled over the polymer coatings to recreate the original interior appearance!

Unfortunately, we've been told that the brick walls are too tall for their thickness, under the current building code, making it necessary to introduce a number of steel members to stiffen the walls. We are waiting to hear more about the size, number and location of the steel members before working out how to hide them from view. Let's hope for the best!

Some of you receiving these updates on Crockett's Memorial Hall (commonly known as the American Legion Hall) are veterans of military service. We are working to identify all living veterans of Crockett, Port Costa and Tormey so that we can include them all on our email list as we move this project along. We have identified just 25 so far, and you could help us to expand our list. Please reply to this email with the names of local veterans that you know of, with email addresses if you have them, so that none will be left out of our effort to keep our community informed. Thanks for your help, and thanks for your interest, too!

Previous updates on our Memorial Hall project can be found on our website:
www.town.crockett.ca.us

Happy Veterans Day (Nov. 11) everyone! Come out to see the John Swett High School Marching Band leading a Veterans Day "March of Honor" down Pomona St. from Memorial Hall to the Downtown Plaza. The event starts at 10 AM and concludes with a performance of the John Swett and Carquinez Middle School bands at the plaza.

Kent Peterson
Crockett CSD
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