

Fullerton High School Auditorium Update

September 2021

Fullerton Heritage has been tracking the progress of the Fullerton High School Auditorium project. The addition to the east side of the building caused some interest when the large wood wall forms were erected. The forms were larger than the actual walls because the contractor uses them on many projects rather than constructing forms for each building, then discarding them. They have been removed, and the walls and the pre-formed window and door openings are now visible. The large forms were only used on the north/south walls. Forms for the smaller east/west connecting walls will be constructed and the concrete will be poured in the next phase.

Following shortly will be another highly visible component of the project – seismic strengthening of the clock tower. Seismic strengthening methods and materials have improved over the years, making it easier in many cases to do the work with much less visible impact on buildings. This is especially important in the cases of historic buildings like the Auditorium. The clock tower is poured concrete with no structural columns that meet current standards. The method of making the structure structurally sound is to wrap it with a material that has the appearance of a thin fabric but has the tensile strength of steel. The columns inside the Auditorium will also be treated this way.

In order for the material to be effective it must be applied to a bare, clean surface. In the case of the clock tower, the plaster over the concrete must be removed and the surface cleaned before application. The tower scaffold has been installed and plaster removal should begin next month. The most visible part of the project will be installation of the seismic material. It is black, so the public will likely want to know why the tower is being painted black. Once installed, the tower can be re-plastered and repainted. When completed it should look like nothing happened.

Additional status can be found in the Summer 2021 Newsletter which can be opened by clicking the link in the banner or under News/Newsletter Archives.



