

OUR HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – WHAT A BEAUTIFUL LADY!

by Barbara Deas

Another phase in the restoration of our beautiful courthouse is complete! The equipment is gone from the square and you can stand back and admire her beauty once again!

Clay County Communities Revitalization Association (CCCRA), in their ongoing mission to restore the historic courthouse as a centerpiece of the community, celebrates the completion of the exterior work that not only brought the beauty back to the community, but also was necessary before venturing into the interior work that is to follow.

The building was re-roofed in the 1980's and as time marches on, we realize that was actually 30 years ago! The re-roofing now was necessary to stop various leaks from doing further damage to the interior. In the process, several additional repairs were discovered and corrected. There was a hole in the front left valley above the doors on the square side of the building that required wood removal and replacement. There was also damage that required repair to the valley where the roofs meet on the other side of the doors. As the roof area is viewed, notice the new copper flashing around the chimneys. The contractors increased the width of the copper flashing in order to better avoid future leakage.

As the trim is closely examined, you will see the white acorns along the roofline are restored, with Lions Club members milling any replacement acorns that were needed. There was 9-inch molding left over from the last repairs (2001-2004) that was used in the soffit and fascia repair work. The contractor also used 5-inch custom molding in the gables and on the steeple. Some of the molding used in the steeple was also left over from the aforementioned restoration, but all was custom milled specifically for the steeple repairs.

Speaking of the steeple, you will notice there is now an array of color added to the focal point of the courthouse. Many only remember the steeple as being all white in color. Through research, the Courthouse Committee of CCCRA discovered that the steeple and trim were painted in a very attractive array of colors at the time the courthouse was first built and throughout the early 1900's. As part of the historic restoration, it was decided to use similar colors to those that were part of the original structure. Paint scrapings showed shades of battleship gray, olive green, a darker gray and oxblood. These scrapings were used to closely match the paint, allowing the steeple to be restored in a historical manner.

The restored paint scheme once again accents the features of the steeple and draws attention to it. The pilasters (vertical boards on either side of the vents) are painted gray. The vents are gray accented by a burgundy (oxblood), as are the medallions above the vents. The decorative vent in the brick underneath the steeple was also

painted to match this theme. While contractors worked on the large part of the project, Rob Tiger spent many days during the restoration meticulously hand-painting the beautiful medallions that have now been reinstalled onto the steeple.

During this process, the gazebo was also re-painted in the same off-white color that was used on the steeple, bringing both buildings together in the same color scheme.

CCCRA encourages you to visit the square and view the freshly restored look of the historic courthouse. We thank our contractors, Cox Roofing, Woodhaven Construction and Fresh Look Painting for their dedication in getting the work completed. We would also like to thank Rob Tiger for lending his talents and time to the project to restore the medallions so appropriately. In addition, thank you to Historic Hayesville, Inc. (HHI) for arranging for the Clay County Inmate crew to give the gazebo its fresh coat of paint.

This summer CCCRA will begin the interior work on the courthouse building, including electrical and plumbing work, and the addition of an elevator. We will then be ready to begin the more visible repair and finishing work in the various areas inside the building.

This restoration is possible due to the ongoing support and donations from residents, community members, Clay County organizations, as well as a generous commitment from former Hayesville resident Ron Beal. Thank you all for your continuing support of our fundraising efforts. Every dollar donated makes it possible for us to continue the restoration. Once completed, the courthouse will again be a destination in downtown Hayesville, with retail on the main floor, and a beautiful, historic event room upstairs, suitable for weddings, meetings, concerts, family reunions and many other gatherings.

In the meantime, many events continue on the square including the ever-popular CCCRA Friday Night Summer Concert Series and this year's CCCRA Solar Feast on the Square on August 19. You can reserve the square for your group or organization by picking up an application at Town Hall Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9 am - 1 pm. We look forward to seeing you on the square!