



May 2009



April 2014

Work on the school house has begun



As it stands at the end of May 2014

In January, after more than a year negotiating with the architect and reviewing bids from several contractors, the Society finally signed a contract with Gulf CoastWoodworks for one hundred and two thousand dollars for restoring the exterior of the Schoolhouse. Prior to January, and because we did not have enough funds to fully restore the Schoolhouse, the Board of Director decided to divide the restoration into two phases.

Sometime after the Schoolhouse was closed in 1927, it was turned into a residence. The ceiling was lowered and a second floor bedroom was added. Removing the bedroom leaves space for a storage attic. The photo (*02 New Rafters*) above shows the new higher rafters and two old rafters. The 1908 hurricane did a lot of structural damage to the School. The School had a noticeable forward lean. We were able to correct the lean using “come a longs” straps—see strap at top of front corner.



#1 - Vinyl siding removed

Phase one called for the complete restoration of the 1904 Schoolhouse's exterior. The restoration of the inside will be done under Phase Two when funds become available.

Prior to signing the contract, volunteers removed the vinyl siding and drywall that we believe was installed sometime in the 1990s. Removing the drywall showed that the main entrance was most likely on the side of the building. We are not 100 percent sure, but we believe the rear room, added in 1911, was originally a small porch. After the hurricane of 1908 it was made a classroom. (*#1 Vinyl siding removed*)

We had hoped to save the original 1904 siding, but not enough of it was in good shape. The metal roof would be replaced along with the windows, doors and front porch. The second floor and staircase which was built sometime after the Schoolhouse was closed in 1927, would have to be removed and the ceiling raised to its original height.

Raising the ceiling meant removing the current rafters and installing new rafters to their original 1904 position.



#2 New Rafters

After removing the siding we found that the original wall studs were slightly warped. They were replaced with pressure treated studs. Plywood sheeting was installed to give strength to the structure. (*#3 Plywood sheeting*)



#3 Plywood sheeting

The original siding was nailed to the studs, no sheeting of any type was used in 1904. In this photo (*#3a Plywood*) you can see Danny nailing the plywood sheeting to the pressure treated studs.



#3a Plywood

You notice the framing for the windows are in place and you get a better look at the height of the new rafters in the below photo. (*#5 Rafters*)



#5 Rafters and new siding



#6 No porch and new siding

In the photo above (*#6 No porch and new siding*) you see the porch was removed and the contractor is beginning to install new siding on the porch and along the side. You can also get a look at the original siding over the porch. In this photo you see the siding has been nailed up. (*#6 siding*) The painter primed the siding before the contractor nailed the siding. Notice the old metal roof is still attached. The metal roof was not original, sometime after 1904 the cedar shake shingle was covered with metal. In this photo (*#7 Cedar shakes*) you can see the original cedar shakes.



#7 Cedar shakes



This photo is of the three man crew: Grif Collins, Danny Rollison and his son Danny.

These photos show the roofers removing the old metal roof and installing the new metal. As mentioned before you can see the cedar shakes. The roofers said the old shakes were in good condition. When they started the removal of the old metal the men did not wear any safety ropes. Later they donned safety equipment. These photos show the painter applying a finish coat of paint to the siding. You notice that the windows are covered with protective blue paper. The paper will be removed after the windows are painted. The last photo shows the completed porch and exterior of the Schoolhouse.

