

South Facade Renovation Underway at Allegany Museum

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Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**



Above: Installation of new lettering and lighting on south side entrance of Allegany Museum.

Inset: Original copper light from Memorial Hospital.

Developing a museum is an open-ended project. The initial vision of a dedicated group comes to fruition while at the same time additional opportunities of growth and expansion develop. The establishment of Allegany Museum has been set, and has continued, with new and exciting pieces of area history for many years.

With the acquisition of the neo-classical revival Post Office building at 3 Pershing Street, Cumberland, Maryland, built in 1932, moving the museum to its second floor location was one of the first steps to take in what has become a tremendous undertaking.

Fueled by Capital Improvement Bond Bills, grants, donations and volunteer hours, the interior of the building has expanded the museum to now encompass both the 1st and 2nd floors. Many architectural details have been discovered and renovated to show the grandeur of the building, while displays highlight the area's history, industry, growth, transportation and more.

Exterior work on the building is currently underway with three phases of progression planned:



Phase 1 – Signage and Lighting

- “Allegany Museum” in all caps along the top of the building
- LED Lighting
- Installation of the letters and lighting

Phase 2 – New South Side Entrance

- Utilizing 1929 Indiana Sandstone entrance from Memorial Hospital
- Original Copper Light from Memorial Hospital
- 2 original free-standing lights from the Decatur Street Allegany Hospital/Sacred Heart Hospital

Phase 3 - Landscaping

- Revitalization of parking lot and curbing
- Standardization of signage
- Enlarging alley

While volunteering at the museum's welcoming desk, Rolfe Singerman was asked by Gary Bartik, the museum's president, if he would like to donate to Phase 1 of the south facade. Gary noted "as soon as some funding is available the lettering and night lighting can be installed." Light heartedly, Rolfe replied, "Let me know what a sign like that would cost." It was just a few days later that Gary advised Rolfe of the amounts needed for the lettering and lighting. Rolfe says, "I looked at the numbers, took a deep breath, and told Gary, 'Let's do it!'"

With Phase 1 now complete, a ride through Cumberland along I-68 presents an impressive sight. Rolfe feels strongly that people visiting Cumberland, or living nearby, should have a visual reminder, as they travel through town, of the exceptional nature of this quality museum's display of area history. Visiting the museum is a walk down memory lane



Artist rendition of completed south side entrance.

for some, and for those visiting it's a look at the many resources and contributions this area has held.

Opportunities to contribute to the progression of Allegheny Museum exist in many ways and may be discussed with museum staff or through their website.



3 Pershing Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
alleghenymuseum.org

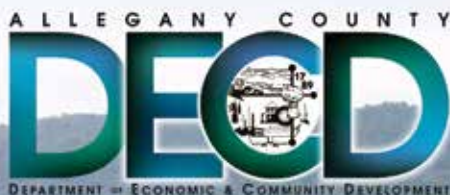
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