

# Windsor Theatre Auditorium Ceiling Project



Updated 10/19/26

Three sections of the original plaster ceiling inside the Windsor Theatre auditorium fell on July 18 and sometime between the evening of July 26 and the morning of July 29. The falling plaster exposed the wood lath beneath the ceiling and prompted seating restrictions until repairs could be completed. No one was injured, although several seats were damaged.



Installation of the scaffolding began Tuesday, September 22 to provide access to the ceiling in preparation for removal of all existing plaster. Seats are covered in plastic to protect them during the ceiling reconstruction. Plastic has also been hung to provide a barrier to minimize dust from entering the lobby, hallway, and area under the balcony.

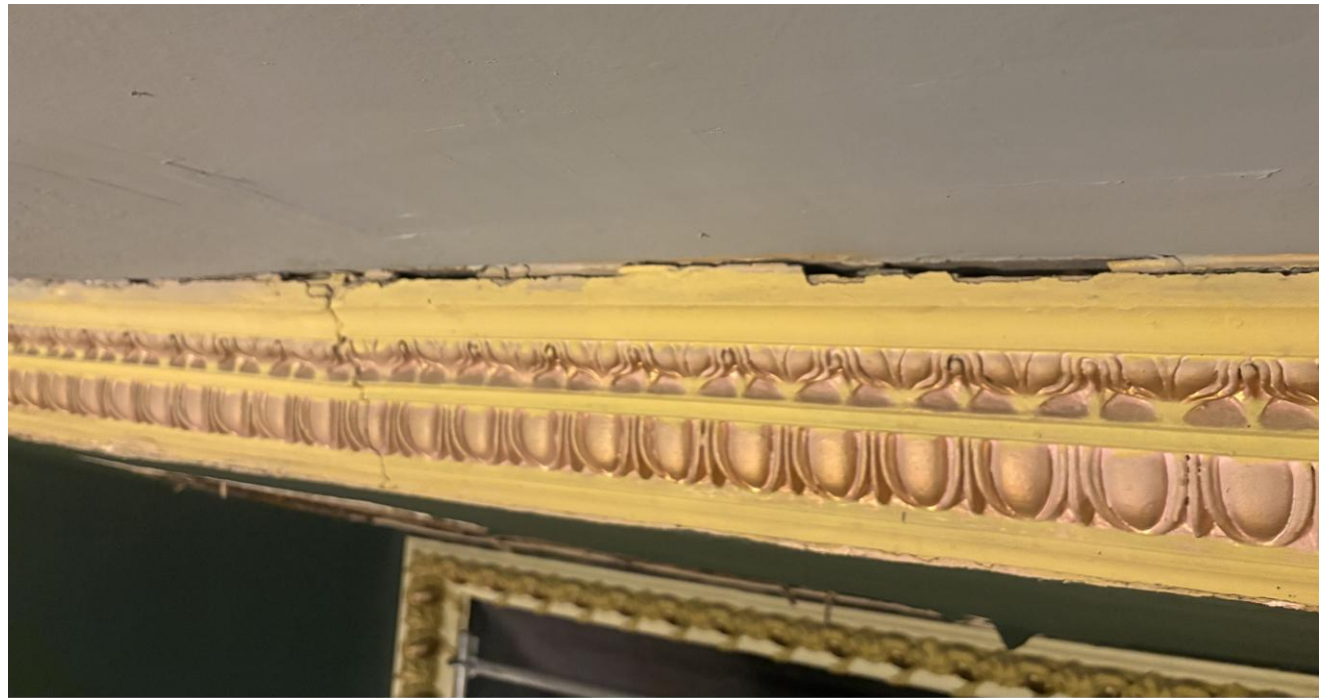




By the end of the day Friday, September 25, scaffolding topped with plywood flooring had been installed. The next step is to remove the ceiling fan lights.

Construction workers will begin removing the 114-year-old ceiling plaster on Monday, September 28.

Cracked crown molding at the junction of the auditorium ceiling and wall is shown, along with a close-up of a vertical crack. Some additional work will need to be done to secure the molding to the wall.



The space above the auditorium ceiling and below the roof contains the building's support structure. Large beams and rafters carry the heavy roof loads and transfer the weight to the ceiling joists. The original wood lath and plaster ceiling is attached to these joists. The white snowlike powder is insulation.





A construction worker looks above the ceiling after a small section of the existing plaster ceiling and lath was removed. The top of the scaffolding has been covered with sheets of plywood, creating a work platform for workers to begin demolition of the entire ceiling.

Pro Wall noticed after taking down the plaster that between each of the roof trusses there was significant sagging. After investigation, they noticed that the joists that were previously installed between the trusses were just free floating and not attached to anything. Pro Wall installed 2-by-6-by-10-foot boards laying them flat along the trusses to act as a stiff back to strengthen the joists between the roof trusses. They also installed 2-by-6 studs vertically in spots to help strengthen the trusses.





Plaster removal is a dirty, dusty job.



Plaster is down, to be soon out of the building.

All plaster is removed. Area is clean and ready for drywall installation.



Drywall is going up.



Old ventilation system opening.





A & M Electric was called in to remove old, obsolete electrical outlets and switches that were no longer in use.

Step 1, prep and pre-fill, and Step 2, application of the first coat (tape coat), have been completed as part of the Windsor Theatre auditorium ceiling drywall installation.



Vinyl expansion joints. are installed in sheetrock ceilings to relieve structural stress and prevent ugly cracks caused by thermal expansion, humidity changes, and building movement.

Close-up of the area where the new drywall meets the existing crown molding





Pro Wall Construction crew members Isaac Shelton, Loudon Franke, and Damien Doran apply the final “milk coat” to the Windsor Theatre auditorium ceiling in preparation for painting scheduled to begin Wednesday, October 21. Note the plaster repairs to the east auditorium wall beneath the crown molding.



Isaac Shelton works on  
repairs to the east  
interior wall of the  
Windsor Theatre  
auditorium as part of the  
ongoing renovation  
project





Spotlights and ceiling fans with lights were removed and stored under the balcony while the auditorium ceiling is replaced and painted. Special thanks to Michael Lage of LMD Services of Sheffield for removing the spotlights and A & M Electric of Hampton for removing the ceiling fans with lights



Plastic sheeting has been installed beneath the balcony to help keep dust from spreading into the lobby during removal of the auditorium's existing plaster ceiling.



A view of the movie screen through the scaffolding installed throughout the Windsor Theatre auditorium in preparation for ceiling repairs



Plywood flooring has been installed on top of the scaffolding, providing a platform for workers to stand on while reaching the Windsor Theatre auditorium ceiling.