Windsor Theatre
Auditorium Ceiling Project

2026

Updated 10/26/26

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.

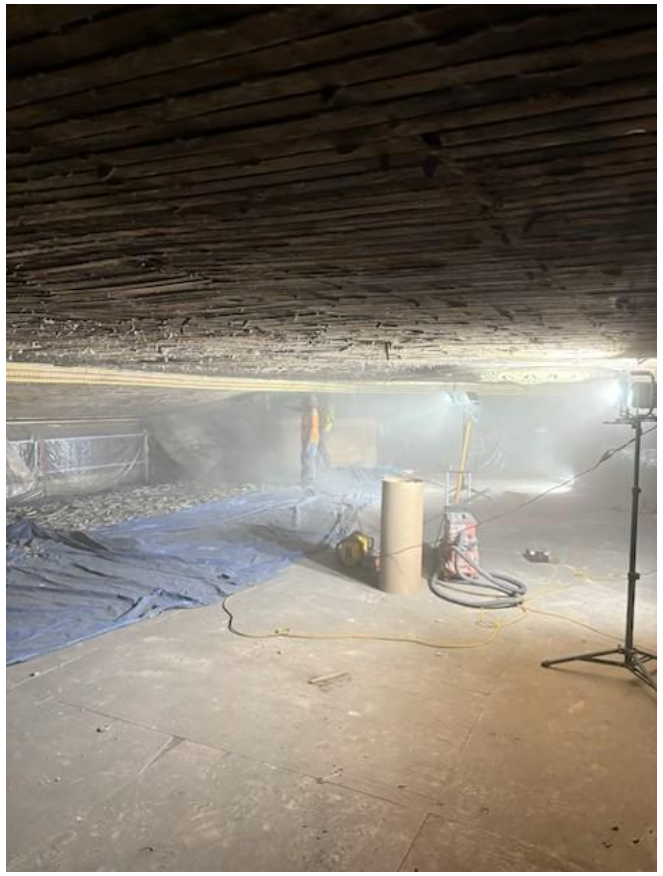
By the end of the day Friday, September 25, scaffolding topped with plywood flooring had been installed. The next step is to remove the ceiling fan lights. Construction workers will begin removing the 114-year-old ceiling plaster on Monday, September 28.

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.

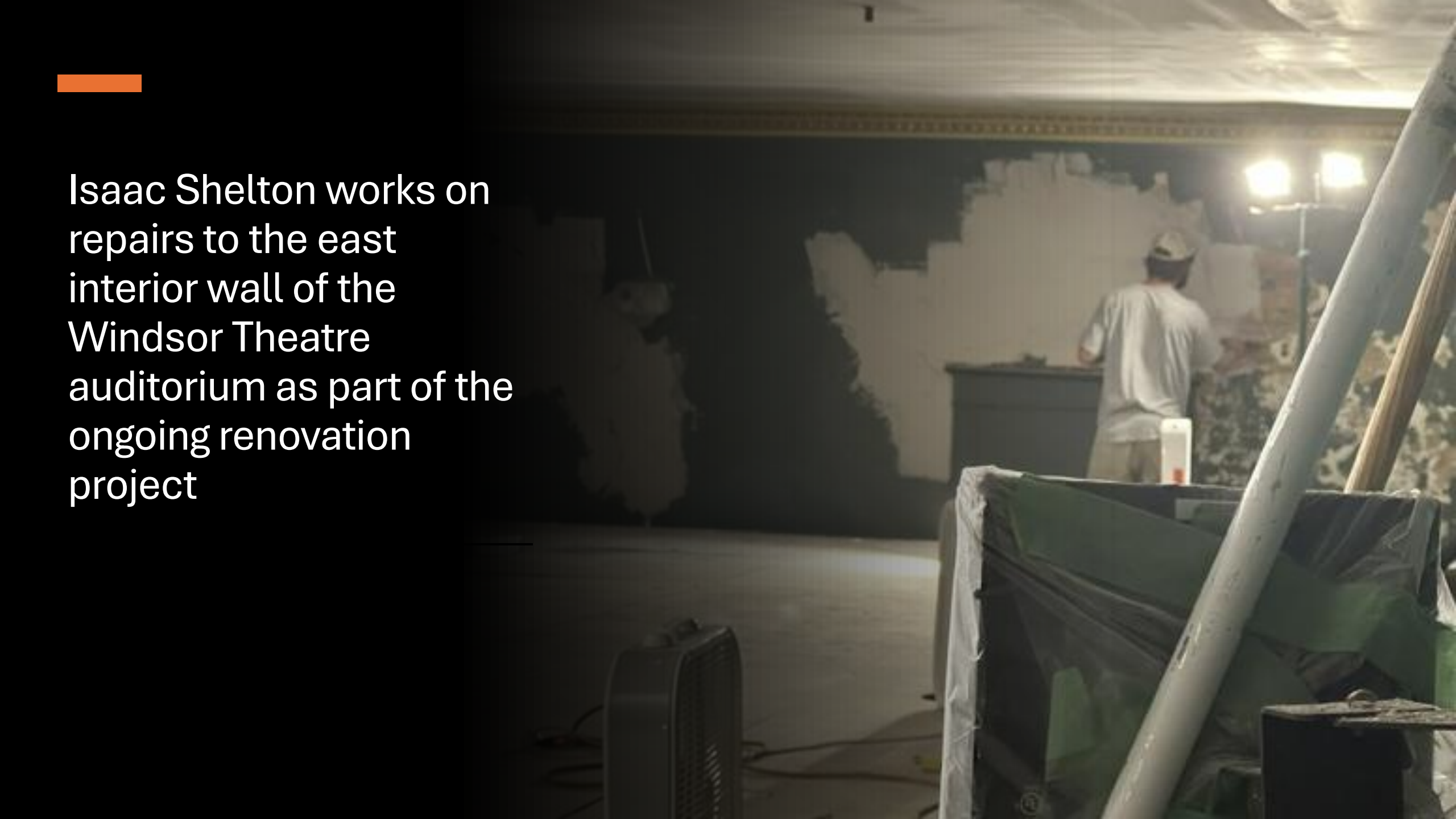
A & M Electric was called in to remove old, obsolete electrical outlets and switches that were no longer in use.

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, Louden 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.

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.

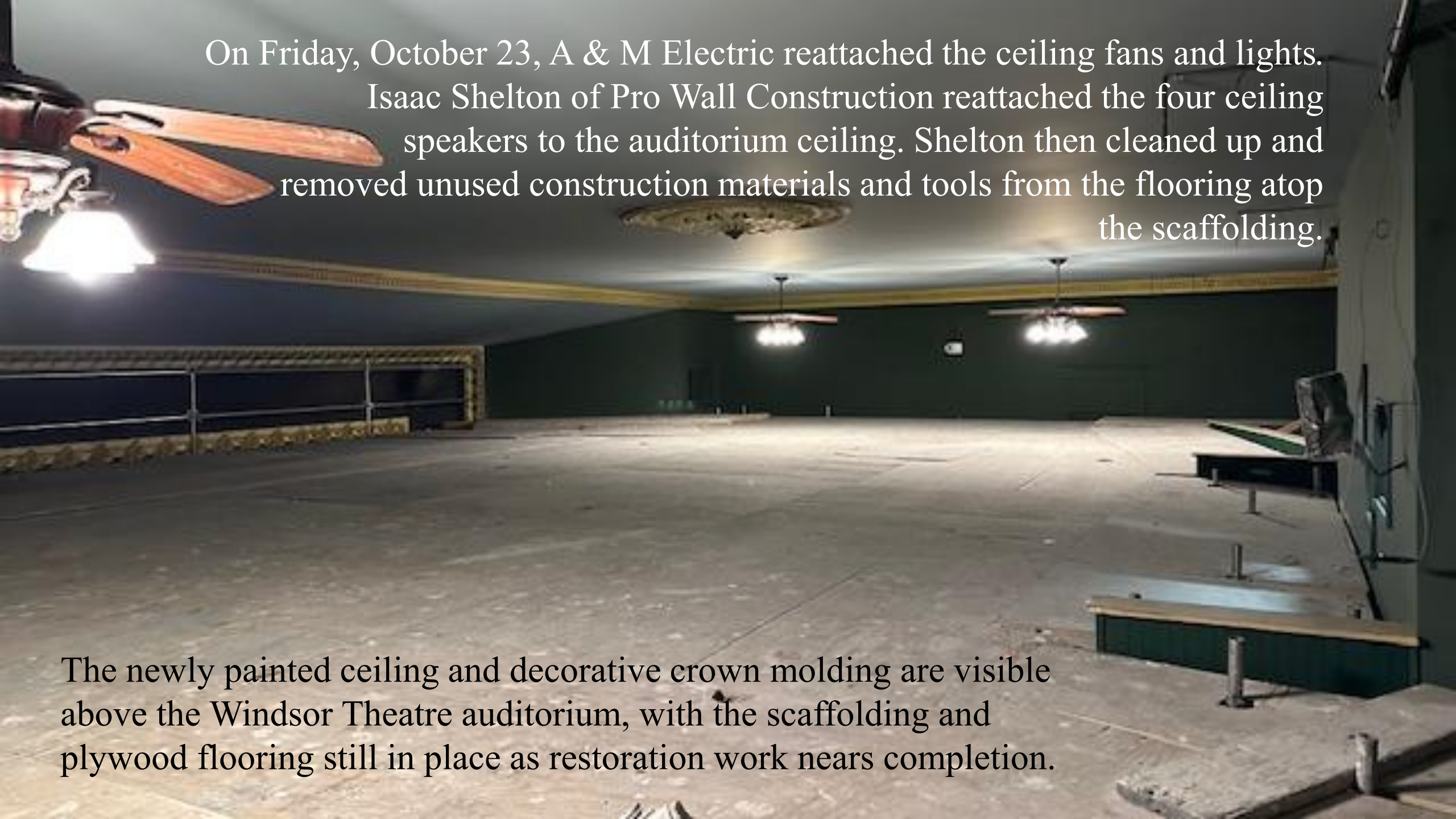
A view of the movie screen through the scaffolding installed throughout the Windsor Theatre auditorium in preparation for ceiling repairs

Painting of the Windsor Theatre auditorium ceiling, the crown molding that decorates the perimeter of the auditorium, and the replastered walls above the scaffolding were completed Thursday, October 22.

Painters from Jennings Painting of Clear Lake apply the final coat of paint to the Windsor Theatre's auditorium walls.

This decorative medallion is an original architectural feature that was preserved during the ceiling restoration. The medallion features raised floral and leaf pattern, pierced ornamental details and concentric borders. The photo also shows the smooth, painted ceiling and decorative crown molding along the bottom edge.

Close-up of the decorative crown molding along the Windsor Theatre auditorium ceiling, showing the top and bottom edges that were repainted as part of the ceiling restoration project.



On Friday, October 23, A & M Electric reattached the ceiling fans and lights. Isaac Shelton of Pro Wall Construction reattached the four ceiling speakers to the auditorium ceiling. Shelton then cleaned up and removed unused construction materials and tools from the flooring atop the scaffolding.

The newly painted ceiling and decorative crown molding are visible above the Windsor Theatre auditorium, with the scaffolding and plywood flooring still in place as restoration work nears completion.

Dismantling of the scaffolding began Monday, October 26, and may take several days to complete.

Painting of the remaining auditorium walls is expected to begin no later than Monday, November 2, but could start sooner depending on how quickly the scaffolding can be removed.

Sections of the walls in the two stairways leading to the balcony will be replastered as needed and painted. In addition, the hallway ceiling between the auditorium and lobby, which sustained water damage from a leaking kitchen sink in an apartment above, will be repaired and repainted.

All this work is expected to be completed by Wednesday, November 11.

Servpro is scheduled to begin cleaning the auditorium floors, carpet and seats Thursday, November 12, although that work could begin sooner. The cleaning is expected to take at least three days.

The estimated date for the first movie following completion of the auditorium project is Friday, November 20. That date is subject to change. Upcoming movie titles will be announced.

Rehearsal dates for the upcoming play *The Lantern*, which will be held at the Windsor Theatre, will also be determined and announced soon.