

Beaver Station undergoing \$1.1M in preservation, renovations

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BEAVER -- Beaver Station is undergoing \$1.1 million in construction contracts, the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation recently announced. The work covers renovation of the iconic 1897 Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad station in the borough into the signature Beaver Station Cultural & Events Center.

The renovations have already encouraged people to try to book events there, but the timing is too uncertain at this point, Beaver Station Steering Committee Chairman David O'Leary said. The lower floor could be ready for occupancy in January, and the main 1897 event room could be finished by midsummer, O'Leary said.

The work involves preservation of original stained-glass windows and redstone archways, terrazzo tile floors, woodwork and brass fixtures.

The construction is being managed by L.C. Renninger Group Inc. of Beaver, and Pfaffmann and Associates of Pittsburgh is providing architectural services. Preliminary work began about a week ago, O'Leary said. Aliquippa-based Advanced Plumbing and Mechanical Inc. is working on heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing, R.E. Yates Electric Inc. of the Bessemer area is doing electrical work, and Arcon Contracting Inc. of New Kensington is doing interior and exterior finishing work. Payment basically occurs as various stages of the construction are completed, O'Leary said.

Some 200 private and public donors have contributed more than \$1.8 million to support the project, which includes state grants. Additional donations are being sought to complete other projects, such as paving and landscaping.

The location will ultimately be home to the Beaver County Genealogy & History Center, Beaver Area Heritage Museum's Collection & Research Center and a branch of Sewickley's Sweetwater Center for the Arts. Multipurpose and event space will be available for weddings, parties, art classes and displays, musical performances, corporate and cultural events, and other indoor and outdoor gatherings.