

**MEMORANDUM**

October 21, 2009

**TO:** Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director

**FROM:** Sam U'Ren, Preservation Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** Preservation Status Report

The Preservation Department has been continually challenged to provide alternative cost effective project solutions, proactive planning and scheduling, and maintaining a balance between providing a positive visitors' experience, and maintaining the historic integrity of the site. Since the Board's last update the following preservation projects were successfully completed.

**Recent Projects Completed**

The Mission Arcade Lighting Project

Due to available funding, the Mission was able to afford the installation of new low profile and energy efficient fixtures to replace the existing assortment of lighting fixtures and extension cords situated along the West Wing, Serra Chapel, and South Wing arcades. The result for the Mission is a consistent, attractive illuminated arcade. (Attachment 1).

Gold Rush Exhibit Installation in the West Wing

In preparation for hosting the Mission's first CERA exhibit Gold Fever; the Preservation Department played a key role in organizing all essential departments, resources, and implementing a comprehensive project schedule. Preservation Department highlights included the removal of previous exhibits, removal of old security equipment, implementation of electrical upgrades, and reconditioning of tile floor. (Attachment 2).

Rectory Garden Project – Building Permit Close-Out

The Preservation Department has been active in pursuing a closure to the building permit for the Rectory Garden Project. The primary focus for the Department has been the approval of construction related documents, permitting, and inspections with the City of San Juan Capistrano. To date the Mission has been successful in obtaining approval of construction documents, and has been issued a building permit. Final Inspections are to follow.

**Future Projects:**

The following projects are planned for the coming months.

West Wing Museum Upgrade Project

To ensure the longevity of the artifacts currently on display and to qualify for possible future high quality traveling exhibits, it was discovered that the West Wing Museum lacked vital security, environmental controls, and fire and life safety systems. A comprehensive upgrade of these building systems is now being proposed in order to effectively adapt the West Wing Museum to current museum standards. To date, initial estimates have been solicited for the preparation of the necessary construction related documents.

Restroom Preservation Project

The primary focus of the Restroom Preservation Project is to preserve the rapidly deteriorating exposed adobe walls and the decorative brick cap of the corner adobe building located on Ortega Highway and El Camino. Work is to begin October 2009.

Master Preservation Schedule and Annual Building Survey

Further development of a preservation oriented building survey is in the process of being developed to help identify potential preservation problems, and aid in prioritization of scheduling projects. The data collected will aid in the creation of a Preservation Department Master Schedule and monitor through documentation the effectiveness of past conservation treatments.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam U'Ren  
Preservation Project Manager

Attachments:

1. Mission Arcade Lighting Project
2. Gold Rush Exhibit installation in the West Wing