

Capitol Exterior Deck Replacement

Update 4/9/18

The State Preservation Board (SPB) is currently replacing exterior decks at the Texas Capitol. These include the east and west exterior pedestrian entrance decks and the elevated decks at the north porch on the second and fourth floors. These decks serve as walking surfaces, but are also effectively roofs over the spaces below. Their waterproofing systems need replacement, 25 years after their installation in the comprehensive Capitol Restoration of the early 1990s. Water carrying damaging salts has been infiltrating through the decks into the structures below. As a result, SPB has observed rusting of important wrought iron structural elements, failure of mortar and plaster in the brick ceiling vaults and erosion of the original historic limestone walls below.

To replace the decks, existing tile is being removed. The tile at the east and west decks was a reproduction tile fabricated in 1993. Tile at the north deck included some original tiles that were loose in 1993 and were reinstalled in a modern setting bed. These tiles are being salvaged where possible, and new reproduction tile will be installed in the same colors and patterns.

Below the tile, SPB is examining the condition of the structural slabs. They will be patched or replaced as necessary to ensure a structurally sound deck to receive the new waterproofing and tile.

Beams below the east and west decks are being exposed and coated to prevent further rusting from any moisture in these exterior environments. The masonry vaults are being repointed and plaster is being applied. The result will be an aesthetically clean appearance and, more important, a well-preserved historic structure.



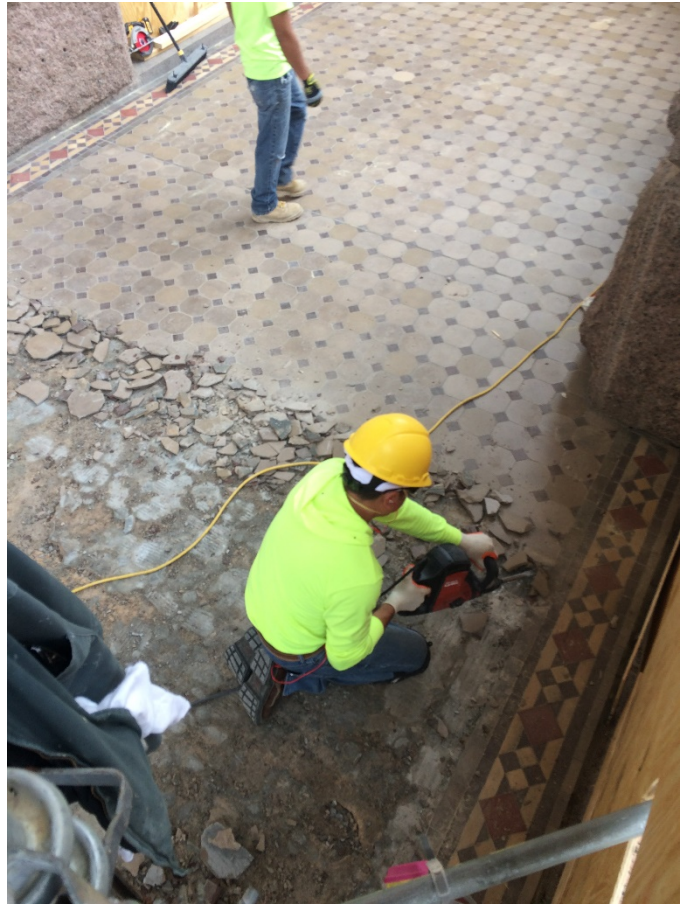
IMG_8766 west deck demol to 1993 waterproofing



IMG_8892 workers removing top step to allow waterproofing to shed water



IMG_8991 vaults below shored and beam exposed for inspection and coating



IMG_9177 removal of tile at north deck level 2



IMG_9201 removal of setting bed below tile at north deck level 2