

# The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill

## Restoration Progress Report 93

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As we move into July out at the mill our major activity has been continuing the process of converting the mill's lighting to a modern LED system. So far the hindrance to the project has been the unpleasant Iowa summer heat. As I write this all of the third and second floors have the new lighting installed. We are about half way with the installation of the new lights on the first floor.

The new lights above the kids grinding table and over the back area of the country store have been installed. You can see quite a difference in the lighting in the store area. Next week depending on how many volunteers we have I hope that the rest of the first floor will be completed.

Where we are installing new fixtures we are mounting them in wood boxes like the old existing fixtures. Behind each LED fixture there is a white aluminum reflector. Eventually I hope we can place wood gratings on the boxes like we have on the old fixtures.

Converting the lighting to LED in the basement presents some challenges. Currently all of the lights are ordinary incandescent bulbs. We have enough LED kits that we can replace all of those bulbs seriously upgrading the lighting there. The new LED fixtures in the basement will also be mounted in wood boxes like we are using on the first floor.

Throughout the mill we have had 150 watt incandescent spot lights to light several exhibits. I have replaced all of these with new LED spot lights as part of the modernization program.

Other than working on lighting we continue to do minor repairs throughout the mill. For example the broken basement window has been repaired and damaged shutters have been fixed. The mini-mill in the kids area got some minor repairs and other machines were adjusted.

Down in the basement the 48" wood pulley that drives the corn mill needed repairs due to dry rot. To try to forestall future problems the pulley has been coated with wood preservative and painted. Next week it will get a second coat of paint and the rest of the pulleys in the basement will be inspected.



In June the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Board had their monthly meeting at the mill.



Dick Klauer is repairing the basement window that vandals had broken. He had to fabricate a new mullion for the window.

John Bixby and Hank Mann are painting two of the wood boxes that will hold new LED fixtures on the first floor.



Dick Stoltenburg is cleaning the 48" pulley that drives the corn mill to prepare it for being treated with wood preservative.



Hank Mann and Clarence Klauer are installing the new LED lighting in the kids area. Dick Klauer is assisting by keeping the kids out of the way.



John Bixby is installing a board that will hold the new LED fixture in the rear of the country store area. Two of us do the preparation work for the fixtures while the electricians follow behind to do the installation.

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