

# The Daily Record

Wooster, OH

## Wayne County Courthouse revealed Scaffolding comes down as project nears end

By BOBBY WARREN Staff Writer Published: January 8, 2016 4:00 AM

WOOSTER -- As the scaffolding surrounding the Wayne County Courthouse came down, and the black fabric with it, the public can now see what only workers, artisans and relatively few others did during the project.

What are people seeing? From the ground level, primarily a two-toned courthouse with some new metalwork and sculptures (Lady Liberty and Lady Justice are back from being repaired). A newly constructed eagle is coming later.

One of the concerns of Commissioners Jim Carmichael, Ann Obrecht and Scott Wiggam was once the fabric around the courthouse came down, people would not really be able to see the work that was done.



Over the years, water caused a lot of damage to wood and brick. This was not evident until the metalwork was removed. The stone sculptures, like the Atlases, had become dirty over the years, and were washed.

Some of the sandstone was dressed back to repair imperfections, and other parts of the stone were cut away with new pieces attached using the dutchman process. Joints and cracks were filled. A lot of the ornamental metal pieces, metalwork and brackets were rusted.

When David Broehl of the Wayne County Historical Society toured the project in April, he said, "It's such an enormous difference to be right in front of it and not on the ground looking up. It gives you a sense of what needs to be done and what might not to be done as quickly."

At first blush, it might seem like the different colored sandstone is a mistake, but a lot of thought went into the decision about which stone to use. Commissioner Ann Obrecht said she hopes people understand the plan was not to use stone that would match today, rather stone that would match the existing color in five-10 years after it had weathered.

Commissioner Scott Wiggam, who led small groups of elected officials and other community leaders on tours during the project, said the time for the stones to more closely match could be shorter, as some of the sandstone has already started to change color.

With the project essentially done -- they are still awaiting the arrival of the eagle sculpture, which will be installed with the use of a crane, the commissioners are now planning when to have a dedication ceremony.

Commissioner Jim Carmichael said he would like to have it when the sidewalk was finished this spring.

However, county Administrator Patrick Herron said with Wooster officials planning a new streetscape downtown, the project no longer calls for the pavers to be installed.

"I would like to see something when the eagle goes up," Carmichael said.

No date has been set on a dedication for the courthouse yet.

On another note, the commissioners know a time capsule was placed in the courthouse when it was built. Obrecht said the exact location is unknown.

It was hoped during the construction project the time capsule would be located and opened. Then, the commissioners were going to put another time capsule in.

Unfortunately, the capsule was never discovered. While the commissioners have an idea of where it is, a lot of stonework would have to be destroyed to find it, something they did not want to do.

Reporter Bobby Warren can be reached at 330-287-1639 or [bwarren@the-daily-record.com](mailto:bwarren@the-daily-record.com). He is [@BobbyWarrenTDR](https://twitter.com/BobbyWarrenTDR) on Twitter.