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GIW Town Hall Looking Good

Volunteers Help With Much of the Renovation

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GILMANTON — The Iron Works Town Hall stands strong after all the years through good memories and good will from residents.

It's just that kind of good will that is giving the hall an extensive renovation with many of the costs coming from private donations.

The building stands at the roadside today, part history, part present, partly renovated, and Gilmananton through and through.

The ceiling of the downstairs hall has been retained and painted. New light fixtures have also been installed. The plaster on the walls has been restored and the floor has been refurbished — sanded and poly-urethaned, painter Glenn Burnham said.

Burnham, with his brother, Gary, and many volunteers have helped weatherized the windows, scraped and painted the interior and exterior of the building.

"This hall is really something," Burnham said, his pride in the

building's renovation evident. "It's fantastic."

While a good deal of the renovation and work on the hall comes from volunteers, the painting of the building was paid through town appropriations, said Judy Price, town executive assistant. Elaine Roberts has been active with the renovation of the Iron Works Town Hall, Price said.

"It's an effort of a lot of people," Roberts said. "What we're doing is

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Workers handle a ladder after completing work to the exterior of the Gilmananton Iron Works Town Hall. Much

of the work on the landmark was done by people who volunteered their labor.

(Citizen Photo/Dan Tuohy)

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basically cosmetics."

Donations have been raised over the past four years, she said. A festival at the Iron Works helped raise some funds is still going strong today, as some 15 to 20 people still work on a festival committee to renovate the Iron Works Town Hall, she said.

The tongue and groove boards on the walls of the stage, typical of the early 1900s, were cleaned up and

the stage was opened up for performances or shows, she said.

The stage curtains are getting cleaned and fire-proofed and as things progress chairs and tables will be purchased, Roberts said, so the Iron Works Town Hall can be used as a community hall.

"It's nice to have a place that's very respectable," Roberts said. "Sometimes if you keep the light burning you can get some things accomplished."

The town buildings committee is largely credited with the upkeep

of the town buildings receive, Price said. In addition, several residents have volunteered their time, money, and efforts.

The Iron Works has received a token of good will and appreciation from the Isaiah Robinson Fund, which will cover the expenses of installing street lights at the Gilmananton Iron Works.

The interest of the Isaiah Robinson Fund is spent each year by the Board of Selectmen for the improvement of the Gilmananton Iron Works.