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Off With the Belvedere, Let the Restoration Begin!

Liberty Hall in Machiasport, built in six months in 1873, began a five year restoration period on Monday with the removal of the Belvedere.

Coordinated by the Steeple People, professionals who specialize in such demanding work, the board of directors of the Friends of Liberty Hall congregated to witness the historic moment.

Liberty Hall is one of Maine's most significant historical and architectural monuments. It was built overlooking the site of the first American sea victory of the Revolutionary War. It is an outstanding example of 19th century Italianate architecture. It is a graceful reminder of a time when most events in a community took place in the town hall.

Designed by Machias architect Andrew Gibson, Liberty Hall was built in six months at a cost of \$8,000. Gibson built it in his thirties and died in his forties.

The windows are the old leaded ones, magnificent in their own right. At one time there were screens in front of them to protect them from basketballs.

The building is chock full of memories and of the fine craftsmanship of yesteryear. The hope is to restore as many of the original artifacts as possible and to replace those that need replacing with exact replicas. The plan once the building is restored is to return it to its former use – as a town center.