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Historic Preservations to Re-create Independence Hall Tower Walls on Independence Square

Philadelphia – Ever wonder what Independence Hall Tower looks like from the inside-out? Visitors to Independence National Historical Park this September will see how Independence Hall is put together as carpenters create mockups of the tower’s wood cladding on Independence Square, just south of Independence Hall.

“This is a great opportunity for visitors to the park to see what Independence Hall Tower looks like up-close, and an equally important opportunity for us to teach visitors about historic preservation,” said Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod.

Independence Hall tower is sheathed in 2 ¾” thick wood siding, doveled together with overlapping iron rods bolted top to bottom. Over the years, driving rain has penetrated through the siding’s wood joints, causing the rods to corrode. Repairs on the tower will remove the wood siding, repairing or replacing the damaged areas, and reinstalling them back into the tower.

After studying the mockups to help determine the treatments for siding repairs, the park will seek bids on the work. The 14 month project is expected to begin in mid-2010.

Although the tower will be encased in scaffolding during the project, the Friends of Independence, a non-profit partner of Independence NHP, will raise funds to cover the scaffolding with a decorative scrim that will reproduce an image of Independence Hall Tower.

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