

Restoring Lucknow's Historic Timbers

Though the Castle's structural integrity is sound, water damage, pest infestation, and rot have taken their toll on the decorative half-timbering, rafter tails, and portico and pergola supports. Talented preservation carpenters work to save whatever they can of these original features, and find creative ways to join original portions of wood with new ones (rather than replacing them in entirety).



above | A pergola post gets a new section of white oak to replace a rotted area. The original is joined with the new and secured with a dowel, 2017.

below | New rafter tails installed using mortise and tenon joinery and secured with dowels, 2017.



Preservation carpenter Omar Claremont of Bedard Preservation & Restoration carves a tenon joint for a new rafter tail on the front of the Castle, 2017.

Did You Know?....

“In kind replacement” is a historic preservation best practice – it means that when the restoration team must replace building elements that have decayed beyond repair, they use the same type of material that was selected for the 1914 construction process. White oak timbers were used to frame the exterior of the Castle then, and this same type of wood is used in all restoration repairs today. Much of the exterior woodwork was originally decorated with a chiseled scalloping to mimic a medieval, hand hewn appearance – any wood that is replaced must be decorated in the same way. Carpenters and wood workers use special tools to recreate this effect.