

Appendix J: Temporary Porch Stabilization Drawings and Mural Stabilization Treatment Notes

The following drawings, prepared by Tuan and Robinson Structural Engineers, and preliminary mural stabilization treatment notes prepared by James Bernstein and Anne Rosenthal relate to the temporary stabilization efforts carried out between April and June of 2002 to arrest the observable movement in the east wing wall of the porch on the south elevation. The temporary shoring and bracing of the porch roof and wing walls was designed to prevent lateral and gravitational movement of the porch structure. Preliminary treatment of the mural on the east wing wall was incorporated into this stabilization work to minimize the effects of the stabilization work on the important historic and artistic resource of the mural.

Preliminary Mural Stabilization Treatment Notations

- Examination and photodocumentation of mural and substrate construction and conditions.
- Removed minute samples of paint and plaster substrate for laboratory material analysis.
- Opened up and removed unsatisfactory old fill/ over-fill materials with surgical instruments.
- Carefully pared excess rough coat plaster from verso of painted plaster plates, to alleviate pressure at overlapping junctions and facilitate realignment towards original planarity.
- Removed selected overpaints covering the original paint layer to the extent safely possible with mixtures of aromatic and ketone solvents.
- Suction cleaned sand, concrete and brick debris from fissures and introduced localized foam wedges to help support tenuously held elements.
- Removed collapsing sections of wall brick from the front (Southern) exterior edge of the East wing wall and set aside in storage containers.
- Applied light fixative spray of dilute Acryloid B-72, 3% solids in aromatic solvents.
- Dry and wet cleaned surface. Gently dusted surface with soft fur brushes (avoiding areas of active cleavage); Removed mud daubs, insect nests and debris as safely possible with surgical instruments, followed by brushing and or daubing; performed light aqueous cleaning of the painting surface with swabs of calcified water, through Japanese tissue.
- Relaxed distorted paint cleavage using moisture, ethyl alcohol and warm air and tacking instruments. Locally introduced thermoplastic consolidant between upper plaster/paint layers and substrate (Lascaux 750 acrylic dispersion, in water and alcohol). The process of consolidation and relaxation was repeated as necessary until an adequate bond was achieved.
- Removed residual Lascaux 750 adhesive from paint edges/surface with rinses of acetone/toluene through Japanese tissue.
- Reattached large loose or dislodged plates of painted plaster along fissures and baseline (adjacent to beam removal work) by prewetting with water and ethyl alcohol, followed by adhering with Beva D8 polymer dispersion. Introduced pressure until adhesive set.
- Noted and alerted project members of the further evidence of the deterioration of the brick mortar interior along major fissures.
- Discussed with ARG project coordinator, architects, consulting engineer and masonry expert the potential avenues and risks of much needed structural and cosmetic conservation.