

Seminole Nation Historical Society

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Wewoka, Oklahoma

# **Interior Improvements and Facility Upgrades to the Seminole Nation Museum**

*Report to the Board of Directors  
August 23, 2011*

## Section 1. Gift Shop

The first space to be renovated was the Museum's Gift Shop. Like the other rooms to be renovated, the gift shop suffered from insufficient and inefficient lighting, damaged and buckled flooring, cracked and improperly repaired plaster and an unsightly drop-ceiling. Also, due to its small size (less than 500 sq. ft.), it was cramped and cluttered looking. It was not an effective use of space and merchandise could not be displayed in an attractive and inviting manner.



[Left] In its original state, the gift shop was unattractive and overcrowded, making it difficult for shoppers to discern what merchandise was available.

[Below] Once cleared of its clutter, a framework of 2x4s straightened and plumbed the walls in preparation for the slatwall system. A framework for the tray ceiling was also set in place.



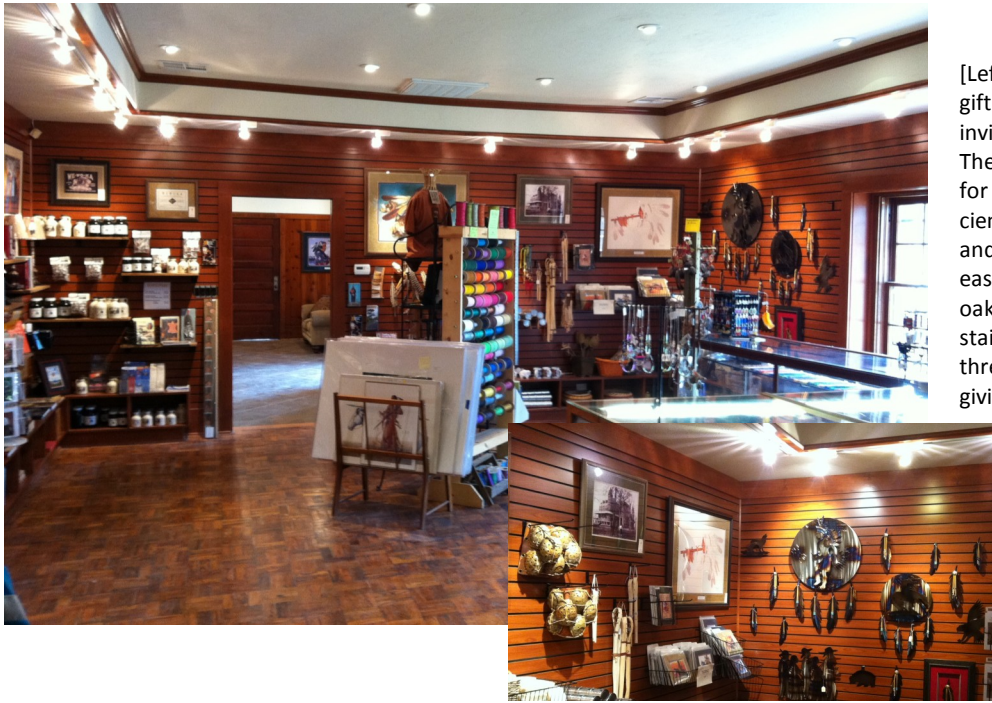
[Above Left] Major cracks, caused by water infiltration and foundation movement, were filled and stabilized. The old wiring and outlets, which were installed in the 1930s did not contain grounded plugs [Above Right]. All wiring and plugs were replaced.



[Above] Aaron Johnson of Thomas Construction works to skim-coat the new drywall tray ceiling. The raised field of the ceiling will contain 16 low-voltage halogen lights, while the lower deck will contain low-voltage track lighting surrounding the room.



[Left] The new slatwall system as it is put in place. Custom trim work highlights the new tray ceiling.



[Left and Inset] The finished gift shop is a brighter, more inviting and effective space. The slatwall system allows for more attractive and efficient use of display space and can be reconfigured easily. The original parquet oak flooring was sanded, stained and sealed with three coats of polyurethane giving a tough and long-lasting finish. Sales in the shop have increased 15-20 percent thanks to the flexibility of the new layout.

## Section 2. Entry



[Left] Although perfectly serviceable, the entryway was dimly lit, had no focal point and did not have a grand and welcoming enough appearance for visitors. The tile ceiling was extensively damaged from numerous roof leaks. Also, the tile floor was releasing from its substrate and cracking, presenting a trip hazard.



[Above] The entry space was stripped, leaving only the fireplace and the original pine wall paneling. Elevating the height of the ceiling made the fireplace more imposing. [Far Left] The cracks in this plaster were caused by an improperly shunted leak over the front porch. The leak was repaired in 2010, but damage was extensive. [Near Left] Staff scrubbed decades worth of grime and dirt off of the fireplace and sealed the stonework with three coats of matte sealer, revealing the vibrant colors of the sandstone.





[Left] The completed entry, with restored fireplace, elevated ceilings, and new lighting. The crown molding mimics the trim on the mantel.

[Below] The new porcelain tile floor was set on an angle with a border to give a more sophisticated appearance. The darker colors ground the room and better complement the stonework in the fireplace.



### Section 3. Office



[Left] The original office space, which also serves as a public research area and meeting space, was cramped, cluttered and inefficient. Lighting was poor and works-space was limited.

[Below] After restoration, the space features workstations for the public and staff, new electrical wiring, 20 recessed, dimable light fixtures, more free space for meetings and events, and a much more professional appearance.



[Left] The office also highlights the new energy-efficient wood windows crafted by Wewoka Window Works. Donated and installed by Dennis Myers, the windows replicate the originals in place throughout the three rooms. In addition to the windows, low-voltage lighting and new blown attic insulation have dramatically increased our energy efficiency.