Steel beams have now been installed along the interior walls on the front and alley sides of the duplex – one beam on the front of each of 722 and 724 Main and five beams along the alley side. The first floor flooring was first removed to allow for new concrete footers. Then the beams were attached to the footers (shown on the left).

Bolts through the brick walls anchor the walls to the steel beams with star-shaped plates on the front and diamond-shaped plates on the side. (Stars on the front of 724 Main are pictured.)

On May 7, members of the local neighborhood group, the Victorian Old Town Association (VOTA) helped salvage reusable bricks from 724 Main (from a chimney that had been demolished by the prior owner), so there is a nice stack of replacements available if needed later.

Councilman Ben Seidler helped with the brick salvage and courtyard cleanup and is shown inside the backyard “root cellar” that was also cleared out that day.

The next step will be getting a “Certificate of Appropriateness” from the Wheeling Historic Landmarks Commission on June 2 so façade work can begin. Missing and broken brackets and windows will be replaced, and old (probably lead) paint will be safely removed in preparation for exterior painting.

Work is moving along nicely; additional funds will be needed complete Phase 1 of the project – building stabilization and façade work. We have applied for state grant funding to help with Phase II – interior floors.