

127 year old graffiti uncovered at Palmer Opera House

CUBA—Graffiti dating back 127 years was recently uncovered by volunteers working to save the Palmer House building in downtown Cuba. The wall writing was revealed while debris was being removed from the building.

The graffiti mentions a performance held at the Palmer House during its early years. Written on an old plaster wall were the words, "Rial and Draper's Uncle Tom's Cabin, Sept. 24-25, 1879." Upon further investigation volunteers confirmed the information through an old Cuba Patriot newspaper article. The article indicated that it was the third annual tour of the Harriet Beecher Stow play by the combined companies of Rial and Draper.

The graffiti was an exciting find for the Cuba Friends of Architecture (CFA), a group that's working to secure grants and other funding to save the historic building on West Main St.

The building was built in approximately 1872. It housed businesses on the bottom floor with the Palmer Opera House located on the second floor. Many plays, concerts and minstrel shows were performed at the opera house. High school



graduations were held there through the 1930s and even high school basketball games were played there into the 1940s.

In 2001 the building's roof collapsed, leaving the structure severely damaged. CFA has since secured

enough funding to put a new roof on the building and is currently seeking grants and public donations to help them bring the building back to its glory.

Donations to the Cuba Friends of Architecture can be mailed to,

Cuba Friends of Architecture, P.O. Box 274, Cuba, N.Y., 14727. For more information contact Carol Donovan at 585-968-2812.

Cuba Friends of Architecture Inc., is a not for profit organization dedicated to restoring and preserving historic and architecturally significant buildings and structures in and around the Cuba area.