

Restoration of Dartmouth's Baker Tower



Overview of the Restoration

Dartmouth's Baker Library Bell Tower will be fully restored June 20 – October 20.

Why now?

This will be the first restoration of the Tower since its construction in 1928. Structural concerns were first noticed during exterior painting, and a subsequent review confirmed deeper preservation work is necessary.

What is the project goal?

To structurally preserve the Baker Library Bell Tower and assure its life into the next century.

What work will be done?

- ❑ Replace copper roofing and flashing
- ❑ Install modern control system for the bells and clock
- ❑ Fabricate the clock's hands and numbers based on their original design
- ❑ Build and install replica of the weathervane based on original drawings found in Rauner Library
- ❑ Enhance and add energy-efficient exterior lighting to highlight architectural details
- ❑ Fully renovate the Tower Room with new flooring, enhanced lighting, and USB ports in all outlets

The Project Schedule

June 20	Site preparation begins; Tower Room closes
September 23	Tower Room reopens
October 20	Construction is complete
October 28	Scheduled tours of Baker Bell Tower begin again

Will the Library be Accessible During Renovations?

Absolutely! Come on in.

Visitors will be encouraged to enter Baker Library through its side entrances and through Berry Library's ADA accessible entrance. Visitors, including those mobility-impaired, who enter through the Baker's front entrance will be directed through a construction tunnel.

While the Tower Room will be closed June 20 – September 23, the rest of Baker's third floor will remain open. Visitors may be directed to use restrooms on the 1st floor.

Library visitors and those working in surrounding buildings should expect intermittent construction noise during the project's duration.



How Will the Library Look During Renovations?



Scaffolding will be erected on all sides of the Bell Tower to support the preservation work.

Interestingly, the scaffolding will be completely enshrouded from top to bottom with a scrim, a cloth that is designed to replicate the Tower.

The date of the Tower's unveiling will be posted on VOX Daily.

Interesting Facts About the Baker Library Tower



The Baker Library Bell Tower was constructed in 1928.

Baker Library and its tower were designed by Dartmouth campus architect Jens Frederick Larson to model Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Construction was funded by major gifts from Edwin Sanborn and George Fisher Baker, nephew of Fisher Ames Baker, Class of 1859.

Baker Library rises 200 feet to the top of its weathervane, making it the tallest occupied building on campus.

The clock face is a light lavender, not white as you might imagine.

How Will the Roof be Impacted?

The Library's copper roofing and flashing will be replaced, as will ornamental components of the roof's siding and trim.

Typical of new copper roofing, the bright tones of the new roof will change through a natural weathering process to a refined green patina.



Notice How the Copper Roof's Patina Will Change Over Time



0 - 4 months



1 - 4 years



Existing Condition &
30+ years

Interesting Facts About the Bells

The bells were first rung manually in 1928. A newly automated system, installed in 1929, was similar to a player piano where holes are punched into a roll of paper and the locations of the holes triggered the bell mechanism. In 1979, two students created a computerized bell system as the original paper rolls were starting to wear out.

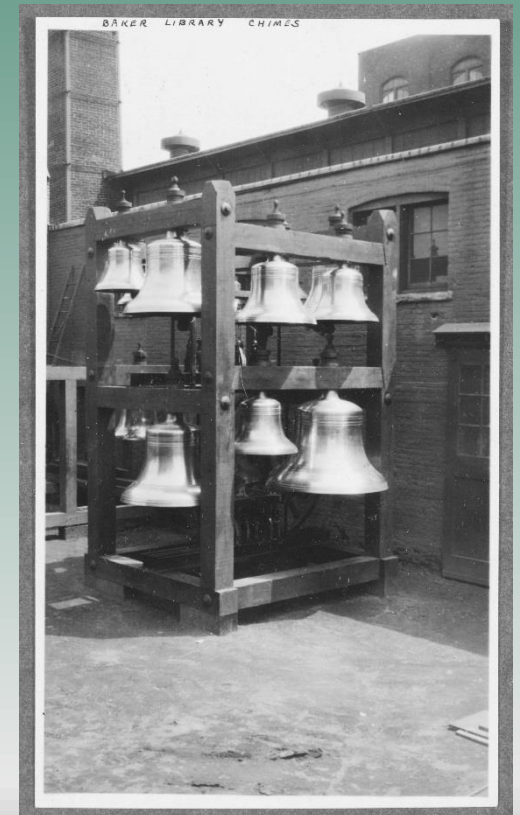
The original, paper-based music scrolls can be viewed during Tower Tours.

There are 16 bells, ranging in size from 200 to 5,300 pounds each.

Bells ring the time on the hour and half hour.

Songs are played three times a day - the Alma Mater at 6 p.m., and varying pieces during intervals between classes. Current favorites include "Hey Jude", "You are my Sunshine", "Hi Ho Hi Ho" and "Feeling Groovy".

Songs can be requested by emailing "Bells."



How Will the Bells and Clock be Impacted?

The bells are in great shape and do not need rework; they will remain in place during the Tower restoration.

A new digital control system will support both the bells and the clock, allowing for synchronized timing of the bells on the hour and half-hour.

New hands and numbers for the clock will be fabricated based on their original design.



Interesting Facts About the Weathervane

While Baker Tower was being built in 1928, President Hopkins held a contest to come up with a design for the weathervane. The prize was a Dunhill pipe, brought to Hanover from Montreal.

A trustee, the college librarian, and the research professor of physiological optics were the jury entrusted to decide on the best design.

Architect Stanley Orcutt's design, "Wheelock and an Indian under the Pine," was the winner and is the weathervane topping Baker Library today.

The copper weathervane is 8'9" long, 6'8" tall, weights 600 pounds, and stands 200 feet above campus.

How Will the Weathervane be Impacted?

Original drawings of the weathervane have been carefully stored in the Rauner Special Collections Library.

Using the original drawings, an exact replica of the weather vane will be crafted around the original steel frame.

The original weathervane will be stored for safekeeping.



Interesting Facts About the Tower Room

Also built in 1928, the Tower Room is on Baker Library third floor and is known as one of the most beautiful rooms on campus.

The Tower Room houses a terrific collection of classic novels, popular books and mysteries, as well as books on sports, art, travel, and humor.

The room's armchairs are one of the most popular places on campus to nap!



How Will the Tower Room be Impacted?



The Tower Room will be closed June 20-September 23 for renovation.

The room's new cork flooring will be brighter, and will darken over time from the sun's exposure.

Electrical upgrades will provide USB ports in every outlet.

Lighting will be improved and the room's walls and ceiling will be painted.

Have You Noticed Dartmouth's 'Green Lantern?'



Baker Tower is lit with green LED lights that shine on the glass windows in the bell tower room on occasions when Dartmouth alumni and trustees are most likely to return to campus.

Convocation (when held in the evening)

Dartmouth Night

Winter Carnival Weekend

Class Officers Weekend

Freshman Parents Night

Green Key Weekend

Reunions

Commencement

Club Officers Weekend

Alumni Council Weekend

With new lighting in place, Baker Tower can be lit a variety of colors.

Bell Tower Tours

Baker-Berry opens the Bell Tower eight times during the year to allow visitors an opportunity to enjoy a campus view from above the trees. The tower tour/climb is very popular, especially during First Year Family Weekend. Approximately 3,000 visitors experience the tour each year.



Tours of the Baker Library Bell Tower will begin again on October 28 for Homecoming weekend.

Please come see this newly restored Dartmouth icon!