Maine Department of the Secretary of State

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Renovating the Maine State Cultural Building
Maine State Archives

- Established in 1965
- Maine State Cultural Building opened in 1971
- Originally, the Maine State Archives wing of the Cultural Building held both Archival collections and Records Center storage
- Expanded to an off-site facility for the Records Center by the early 1980s
COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020
Renovation Plan formed after the move out

• State Building agency maintained control of the entire renovation project

• Began with a $15 million budget to do the minimum amount of work: abate asbestos and replace HAVC system

• Extensive problems were quickly discovered:
  • Structural issues
  • Leaks in electrical and mechanical rooms
  • All plumbing is damaged and replaced
  • All electrical is replaced due to updated codes
Main floor
2nd floor
Project end....

- Construction is due for completion in May 2024
- $1 million worth of shelving will be installed
- Then the Archives can begin to move back in
- Reopen to the public by January 2025
Lessons Learned

**Do:**
- Do utilize the moving process for collections management objectives
- Do consider accessibility of archival and records collections in the transition
- Do leverage the project to rethink organization of collections and workflow
- Ask for what you need!

**Don’t:**
- Don’t wait until disaster strikes to start your building project.
- Don’t skimp on the architectural and engineering plans for the renovation at the outset.
- Don’t make your planning group too narrow; involve all interested parties in the planning process.