



## FMW Renovation Update

August 12, 2018

Every valley shall be exalted,  
 and every mountain and hill made low;  
 the crooked straight  
 and the rough places plain.

— Isaiah 40:4

**Monday** ☀️

Continued digging and grading, including tunneling under the shoring to connect the Costa Rican drain and our new upper level drains with a line that will run out to the DC sewer along Decatur Place.



Discussion of grass. We don't want to try to grow our new lawn on the kind of impervious clay we have uncovered. How deep do we need to replace it and with what?

Some scheduling concerns around things (installation of new manholes and major storm drain line and elevator tower) that block the construction entrance. When can that happen?

**Tuesday** 🌤️

We get our monthly schedule update. We see that the completion date has slipped by three weeks to March 7<sup>th</sup>. This is partly because of our record-setting wet summer and partly from continued revelation of the complexity of the project.



Six more truckloads of back yard are carted away. More crushed stone arrives.

The remainder of the kitchen alcove is demolished, and a temporary sump is created.



**Wednesday** 🌤️



The new manholes arrive on site. Here they are, for anyone who wonders what a hole looks like when it's not at home.

We don't need them right away and we're so short of closet space.

More digging and drainage work.

New drains include The Drain to Nowhere.

This drain will not actually connect to anything. It is a new sanitary drain line which is being installed because we may one day need it in connection with renovations to the Meeting House kitchen or ground floor bathrooms.

The existing drains from those spaces run under the Meeting House and would be very difficult to replace or repair, so we are providing this alternate. The existing bathroom drains are too large for the small water flow provided by modern toilets and often get blocked, so we may need to abandon them at some point.

A much bigger new storm drain will be installed just west of this one to handle the outflow from the garden, which would otherwise become a lake when we block the last opening with the new Lobby. That's what two of the manholes are for.

**Thursday** 🌤️

Completion of the Drain to Nowhere. More digging.

Cleanup of the Quaker House north wall in preparation for parging (cover with cement), waterproofing, installation of a foundation drain, and backfilling.

Continued demolition of the ground floor of the Quaker House to Carriage House connector.





There go the walls between the hall, the bathroom and the kitchenette.

Also, part of the ceiling. Tomorrow, the floor.

**Friday** ☀️

Sure enough, the floor is gone, along with the rest of the ceiling.



Up above, the decking is torn off, along with underlying roof membrane, so a protective tarp is added to keep the rain out.

This makes the space look even more like a future room.



Unfortunately, that makes the air conditioning outdoor unit an indoor unit. It has been perched on a little platform here, to keep it out of the way, but it's looking for another home.

### **Looking Ahead**

The excavators are getting close to rough final grade and the size of the new lower courtyard is becoming more visible.

The kitchen doors are now at ground level, rather than down in a pit as they used to be. The Assembly Room door is beginning to rise above ground level.





It looks like the same sea of mud, but it keeps changing and lowering.

The next step will be to complete the underground work (drainage, waterproofing) north of Quaker House and build up that area to its new, higher level. Then we can move forward to construct the new storage room and retaining walls, starting with pouring the foundations.



At the same time, work will soon begin on the east garden side. (We keep saying that. We're bound to be right some time.)

Work inside the Quaker House/Carriage House connector will soon switch from demolition to construction.