

Caroline County Historical Society:

REMOVAL OF HISTORIC ITEMS PRIOR TO THE DEMOLITION OF *PLAIN DEALING* (C. 1792) IN DENTON, CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

September 21, 2016

GENERAL

The following is an overview of the historic items that should be removed prior to the demolition of the historic brick structure known as *Plain Dealing* owned by the Donahue family on Fifth Avenue in Denton. Please note that the removal and preservation process for this project should also encompass documentation including scale drawings of the central stairhall; the treatment of the historic items for mold; the placement of the items in a large movable storage container; and, the transport of the container to a designated location in Caroline County.

DOCUMENTATION

Scope of work. The documentation that should be undertaken for this project includes the following.

1. Complete scaled interior floor plans of the structure.
2. Complete the scaled concept drawing, previously started, of the east façade of the building, as well as a scaled drawing of the north façade showing how the facades appeared when constructed as part of an alms house circa 1792.
3. Complete scaled drawings of the center stairhall on the first floor sufficient for the reconstruction of the salvaged components as a museum exhibit.

WOODWORK REMOVAL

Scope of work. This portion of the salvage work is discussed below.

1. **Remove all of the woodwork from the center stairhall on the first floor of the original almshouse. This woodwork includes the following.**
 - a. The original exposed-beam ceiling including both the ceiling boards and ceiling joists. These items are beneath the lathe and plaster of the current ceiling.

- b. The original flooring. This original flooring is below the current floor boards.
 - c. The baseboards.
 - d. All of the original doors (two) and door jambs (five).
 - e. All parts of the stairway up to the level of the attic.
2. **Remove selected woodwork from other parts of the dwelling.** This woodwork, which should be easily removed, includes the following examples.
- a. The chimney breast and mantel from the south bedroom chamber of the second floor.
 - b. The mantel from the south parlor on the first floor.
 - c. Selected floorboards, particularly from the attic.

BRICK REMOVAL

Scope of work. Remove and clean approximately 2,000 bricks.

The Society intends to install the woodwork in an exhibit that would also show that the alms house was erected of brick. As with a current museum exhibit, a small portion of an exterior wall of brick would be erected for inclusion in the exhibit.

Two thousand bricks from an exterior wall are appropriate. The bricks selected should be whole original alms house bricks (e.g., not from the rebuilt east façade), thoroughly cleaned and transported to a designated site in Caroline County.

TREATMENT FOR MOLD

Scope of Work. The interior of the dwelling is covered with mold and this must be addressed prior to the removal of the woodwork from the site and its storage.

First, the mold should be tested to gauge its danger to human beings in its present state. Specifically, is this some type of mold extremely dangerous to humans and not subject to eradication?

Second, the woodwork should be thoroughly cleaned in a manner that completely kills the mold. This work should be completed prior to its removal from the site and storage.

TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

Scope of work. All of the materials will be removed from the site and transported to a designated site in Caroline County.

While on the current site, the materials would be placed in a container. As with a previous project of the Society, it is the intention of the Society to either rent or purchase a used commercial truck trailer or a shipping container for this purpose.

PROJECTED COSTS

Projections pending. The Society is presently developing cost projections for the above activities. The projections should be available early in the week of September 26th.

Further information. For further information, the Society can be contacted in the following manner.

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