



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Hamilton Grange National Memorial Restoration Update – July 12, 2011

The fine work of restoring the Grange to its former glory continues apace, and we're well on our way to a grand opening on September 17. See the pictures below for some of the recent work and meet just a few of the people who are lovingly and painstakingly working to ensure that the Grange meets the high standards of its original owner, Alexander Hamilton.



The first level of shutters can be seen on the eastern piazza (side porch) of the Grange. The rest of the functional shutters are scheduled to be installed in the coming weeks.



The historic front door of the Grange, complete with transom and sidelights was lovingly restored by the restoration contractor and has been re-installed at the Grange.



Sean O'Keefe, preservation craftsman with the National Park Service, scores a fresh layer of stucco on the ground floor of the Grange to create the illusion of stone blocks. This is the same technique that was used when the Grange was first constructed.



Greg Law, senior preservation specialist with the National Park Service, works on the re-constructed banister of the staircase at the Grange. While much of the staircase is original to the house, the stairs were reconfigured to a new shape following the Grange's first move in 1889 and pieces of it were altered to accommodate the new configuration and other pieces were lost. In restoring the staircase to its original shape, the restoration team was able to incorporate some of the original, but altered pieces back into the finished stairs. Two of those pieces are the balustrades marked by blue painter's tape.



Paul Atchison, preservation woodcrafter from the National Park Service's Northeast Regional Architectural Preservation Engineering and Maintenance office applies steam to a piece of trim destined for a curving

portion the Grange's main staircase. Steaming the piece in combination with other techniques allows it to bend to fit the place where it will go but still maintain its structure and strength.



After getting itself “ironed out,” a piece of trim (top) is test fitted into the well of the staircase at the Grange.



Naomi Kroll Hassebroek, architectural conservator with the National Park Service, gently sprays primer onto the cornice in the dining room of the Grange. Kroll Hassebroek's work began with her and a team of interns removing 200 years worth of paint from the cornices using modern stripping agents, steam and dental tools to reveal the intricate details of the plaster moldings. Once the final coat of paint goes on, the white cornice

moldings will stand out against the dining room's yellow walls as they did when Alexander Hamilton lived at the Grange.

To comment or ask a question, please return to the Hamilton Grange Web site and click on the e-mail link above the updates. To be removed from this update list, go to www.nps.gov/hagr, click on "e-mail us" and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line before submitting. Thank you.