
Hamilton Grange National Memorial Restoration Update – August 4, 2009

Restoration Team “Opens” the Front Door

Between July 29 and 31, the clapboard covering what had been the original front entrance of Hamilton Grange National Memorial was removed. The historic sheathing boards and wall framing underlying the clapboard were removed in the following days. Additionally, the original door frame and components were transported from the storage facility where they had been since being removed from the Grange to the site on Aug. 3.

This was done to allow the National Park Service team overseeing the restoration of the Grange and the contractor to do a “dry fitting” of the door frame.

On Aug. 4, the NPS team was on site to review the dry fitting and the condition of the wall opening and decide the best method for reinstalling the entire door where it was when Hamilton lived there. Once that methodology has been determined, any missing components will be replaced and the frame re-installed, followed by the door. Then, any needed siding will be returned to the front of the Grange and that side of the house will be prepared for painting.

According to the contractor, the remaining clapboard that was removed from the site of the original front entrance will eventually be used to cover the place where the “Convent Avenue” entrance was cut following the Grange’s first move at the end of the 19th Century.

In addition, the front porch is taking shape, with heavy timbers in place to support the structure until the columns are fitted. Work on the piazzas continues, and the eastern piazza now has its roof in place. In the rear of the Grange, investigative work has located where the back porch and its roof were attached to the home.

Inside, the NPS team is gently exploring under the top plaster coat, looking for evidence of sconces, chandeliers or other lighting systems as well as cleats that would have anchored shelves in various locations. Investigations have also revealed how the fireplaces were altered over time to suit the needs of the inhabitants.

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 UNSUBCRIBE in the subject line before submitting. Thank you.