

*(Left to right) The decay of historic material is a constant concern for preservationists. Things that seem minor, such as weathering on the exposed western-facing exterior door at the Fourth House, can result in hidden dramatic effects from water infiltration. Shown in these photographs is the repair and repainting of the reproduction door. One of the projects facilitated by our joiner **Ben Masterson**.*

Hello Friends,

With this ninth update for the **2021 Fresh Coat Initiative: Post Pandemic Spruce Up**, we are showing highly detailed restoration work hidden in plain sight. In fact, the work has been so expertly performed that most of us would never notice the final results of the preservation efforts. Except for some logistical assistance, much of this work has been managed and completed by our own joiner and **craftsman Ben Masterson with the assistance of craftsman Blake Stevenson**.

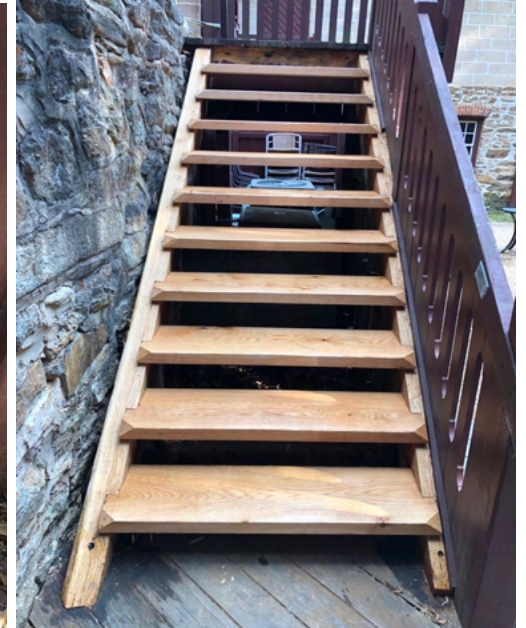
Our priorities are guided by the Phase Two & Three Reopening of the historic district to visitation. We are prioritizing buildings and landscape features that will be utilized by our visitors during these phases. The Fresh Coat Initiative is providing us a solid matrix within which we can better sequence, restore, and rehabilitate buildings and features in the district.

Many thanks,
Frank Vagnone

President & CEO Old Salem Museums & Gardens and The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts



*(Left to right) The exterior back stair treads and railing at the Fourth House were unsafe. The Fourth House is the location of large fundraising & celebratory gatherings orchestrated by the President's Office. The first gathering post-pandemic will take place as an opening for the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts "Map Seminar" in September 2021. This work was primarily facilitated by joiner **Ben Masterson**.*



(Left to right) The public stair that runs from Main Street down to the plaza in front of Salem Stitches and Muddy Creek Café had been closed due to rot (a public safety hazard). In preparation for our Phase Two Reopening, we have restored the stair based on its original design. This stair is particularly important as Muddy Creek Café and Salem Stitches will be reopening in Phase Two. This restoration work was primarily completed by **craftsmen Ben Masterson**, with the logistical assistance of **Blake Stevenson, craftsman, Erik Skarzynski, Director of Facilities, and Tony Bragg, Facilities Associate**



*(Left to right) The orthwestern corner of the Fourth House was in need of considerable repair. Due to poor water drainage at the rear stair, an entire wood joint had rotted away from the sill timber. . . A dutchman repair was utilized to seamlessly patch the compromised joint. The handrail had also dislodged from the building and was failing. Each step of the restoration can be seen in these photographs. The final restoration is pictured below. This repair was primarily completed by joiner **Ben Masterson** with assistance from craftsman **Blake Stevenson** and the logistical assistance of **Erik Skarzynski**, Director of Facilities and **Tony Bragg**, Facilities Associate.*

