



CHRISTOPHER MILLS CONSERVATION SERVICES, LLC

James Brice House, Annapolis MD. c. 1773

Paint Removal, Stabilization, and Repairs on Dining Room Cornice

Contact: Historic Annapolis/Willie Graham, Consultant



In the Dining Room of the James Brice House, layers of paint and limewash obscured much of the detail of the plaster cornice. Made of lime and gypsum, the cornice had a long history of instability and failure, apparent in many missing and broken elements. Attempts to stabilize the fragile substrate included many applications of limewash and then paint to essentially hold the material in place. After many unsatisfactory trials with paint removal systems, the team found that water, when carefully applied and timed, would swell the limewash layers-allowing an opportunity to pick, or pull all layers away from the substrate. Although time consuming and tedious, the system proved extremely effective.

Consolidation of the substrate took place during the paint removal process and missing or incomplete elements were cast with like materials tinted to be identifiable, and then reapplied.



Before treatment



After paint removal and repair



During treatment



After treatment



After treatment with replacement



Before treatment conditions



During repair and element replacement



After treatment

135 high street
becket ma 01223

646-270-0999
www.chrismillsconservation.com

167 congress street 3r
brooklyn ny 11201