CHRISTOPHER MILLS CONSERVATION SERVICES, LLC

Four Mile Tree

Revealing and Conserving Parlor Graining

Contact: Privately Owned Home

Four Mile Tree plantation was patented in 1625. It has long been considered one of the most prominent and oldest English settlements in America, and the present house was constructed in 1744. In 1834, Philip St. George Cocke made some of the most extensive changes to the building, and his residency was chosen as the period of interpretation. He is responsible for commisioning extensive woodgraining throughout the house.
In the house's parlor, the woodgraining sat under numerous layers of paint on the lower paneling. Through extensive testing, it was determined that the graining could be uncovered through stripping layers of paint in two different campaigns. After the panels had been stripped, they were carefully cleaned to remove any remaining unwanted paint. Then, areas of loss were filled with wax and/or inpainted to create a more continuous surface. Some sections also needed to be re-created as they had completely disappeared.

Room Prior to Treatment

135 high street
becket ma 01223

646-270-0999
www.chrismillsconservation.com

167 congress street 3r
brooklyn ny 11201

Woodwork prior to paint removal

Panels to left of fireplace prior to cleaning

South wall in the midst of paint removal

135 high street
becket ma 01223

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Closeup of wax fills

Area of extensive loss

South wall after cleaning and in the midst of inpainting

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South wall after inpainting and re-creation of some graining

West wall after inpainting and re-creation of graining

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