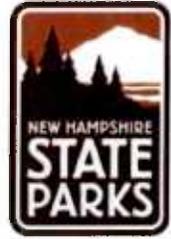




State of New Hampshire
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301
 Phone: 603-271-3556 Fax: 603-271-3553
 TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
 nhstateparks.org

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March 11, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
 and the Honorable Council
 State House Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 216 A:3-o, I, State Parks Gifts and Donations, authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Historic Sites to accept an in-kind donation valued at \$7,000 from the Wentworth Coolidge Mansion Association (WCMA) for interior wall and ceiling plaster repair and painting, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval. 100% Other Funds.

EXPLANATION

The WCMA was created to assist the State of New Hampshire in the preservation and presentation of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion and its surrounding park. The Bureau of Historic Sites entered into a Group Volunteer Agreement with the WCMA in 2022 to permit for the solicitation and acceptance of donations such as this. Paul Mazgelis, Principal of Paul the Painter, is a seacoast painter with experience working on historic structures including the Warner House and the Wentworth-Gardner House. Mazgelis has quoted the work to paint and repair the parlor ceiling and the pottery room's ceiling and walls for \$7,000. This work has the support of the NH Bureau of Historic Sites.

The WCMA received a \$2,000 grant from the Rosamund Thaxter Foundation and is willing to pay the remaining \$5,000 to complete the work scope. The WCMA proposes to pay Mazgelis directly without funds being transferred to a state account. The ceilings and walls in the parlor and pottery room have not had maintenance work completed in several decades and the new work will benefit the guest experience as well as preserve the one-of-a-kind, historic site.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Stewart



Sarah L. Stewart
 Commissioner



The Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion Association, Inc.

PO Box 700

Portsmouth, NH 03802-0700

www.wentworthcoolidge.org

February 6, 2025

Matthew Flanders
Director, Bureau of Historic Sites
Division of New Hampshire State Parks

Dear Mr. Flanders:

We respectfully request your approval of a gift of preservation services from the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion Association (the "WCMA"), a 501(c)3 organization affiliated with the Wentworth-Coolidge Commission. The WCMA has proposed to repair badly-peeling paint in two rooms of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, located on the Wentworth-Coolidge Historic Site in Portsmouth, NH. Royal Governor Benning Wentworth built and decorated this house as his principal residence between 1750 and 1765. Its elegant rooms and decoration have been remarkably well-preserved over the last two and a half centuries. The Association works closely with the Bureau of Historic Sites, which has oversight of the building, to preserve and interpret the building to the public.

The two rooms in need of repair are the Parlor and a very small room adjoining it, which is used mostly for the exhibit of objects related to the Wentworth family and the Mansion. The Parlor contains original 18th-century wallpaper purchased by Royal Governor Benning Wentworth about 1760. This wallpaper is a very important historical artifact, but the effect of the room is spoiled by the peeling paint on the ceiling. The small room adjoining it has plaster walls and ceiling, both of which are peeling at such a rate that the paint chips need to be cleaned off the floor every day. The Association would like to engage a professional painter to repaint the ceiling of the Parlor and the ceiling and walls of the small room.

The estimate from the painter for this work is \$7000 in total. With the consent of the Bureau of Historic Sites, the Association applied for a grant from the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation and was awarded \$2000 toward the completion of this project. The Association proposes to contribute the rest of the funds. This much-needed repair will not only contribute to the preservation of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, but also to an improved visitor experience.

We request your approval to proceed with this very important preservation project.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Rhoades Aykroyd
Chair

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