

Woodlawn Museum at Woodlawn Cultural Park

Institutional Architecture

Sandy Spring MD



Photo Credit Roger Foley

This project rehabilitates a historic (1832) three-story stone bank barn, adjacent carriage house (1897), and site for public use as a visitor center and museum at the core of the Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park. The site is on the county's Master Plan for Historic Preservation, the Maryland Historic Trust interior and exterior easement program, the National Park Services' National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Multi-media museum exhibits are featured in the restored Stone Barn, interpreting the history of the local African American and Quaker communities. The adjacent Carriage House has visitor orientation information and restrooms, and is the starting location for the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, which links Woodlawn to the historic Quaker properties of Sandy Spring.

An early plan to house all visitor center functions within the Stone Barn would have required extensive modification to the historic structure to condition the space. Instead, the architect identified the underutilized Carriage House as a more appropriate location for those functions. The design challenges were 1) to link these several historic buildings in a natural, inviting and accessible manner on a challenging multi-use site, and 2) to make the historic agricultural building safe for visitors and the multi-media exhibits.

Rehabilitation of the Stone Barn included replacing the cedar roof shingles and other roofing, extensively repointing major areas of worn mortar, encapsulating lead paint, and replacing several major structural beams in the lower level damaged by fire and pests. An existing dry-pipe sprinkler system was redesigned and reinstalled. Damage to the dirt floor of the animal stalls from groundhogs was repaired and their further entry was discouraged.

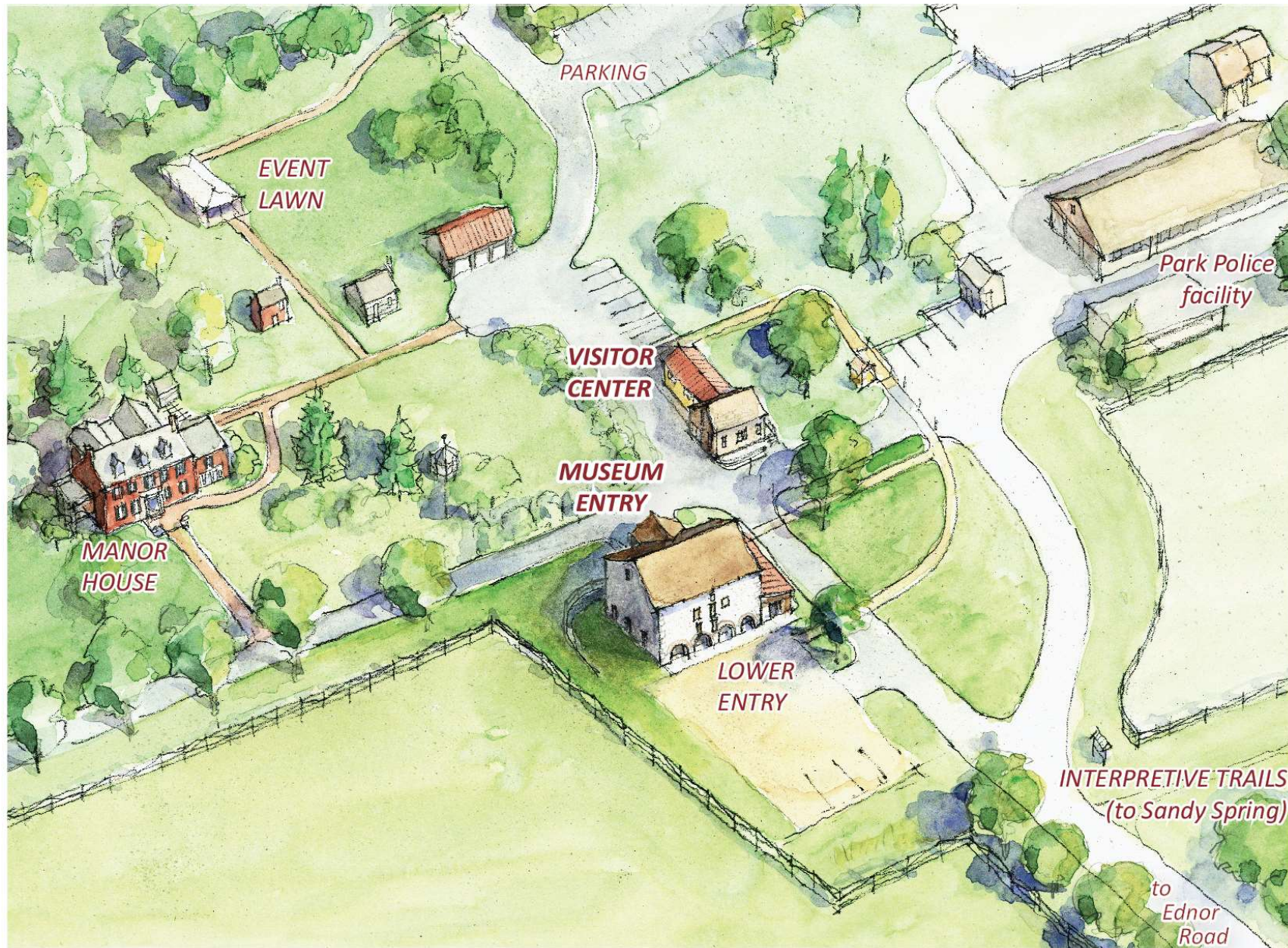
Additional changes to the Stone Barn and site were limited to those required by life safety/ building codes, ADA, stormwater regulations, and in support of the museum and educational programs. The Barn was improved to make it safe for public access and to allow a more natural flow of visitors through the exhibit spaces. A new stair was added linking the upper wagon level with the middle level. Window barriers and railings were added for visitor safety.

The exterior of the Carriage House was restored -- its foundation repaired and the walls and roof re-shingled. The interior, which contained a garage and narrow access to a loft space, was opened up to be a light and airy space. New windows and doors were added. An accessible restroom wing and breezeway were added to the north side of the building.

New accessible paths blend in with the agricultural setting while providing ADA access to multiple levels of the Barn and the Carriage House. Several non-contributing buildings were removed from the view shed of the Barn and the barnyard was repaired to make an outdoor event space.

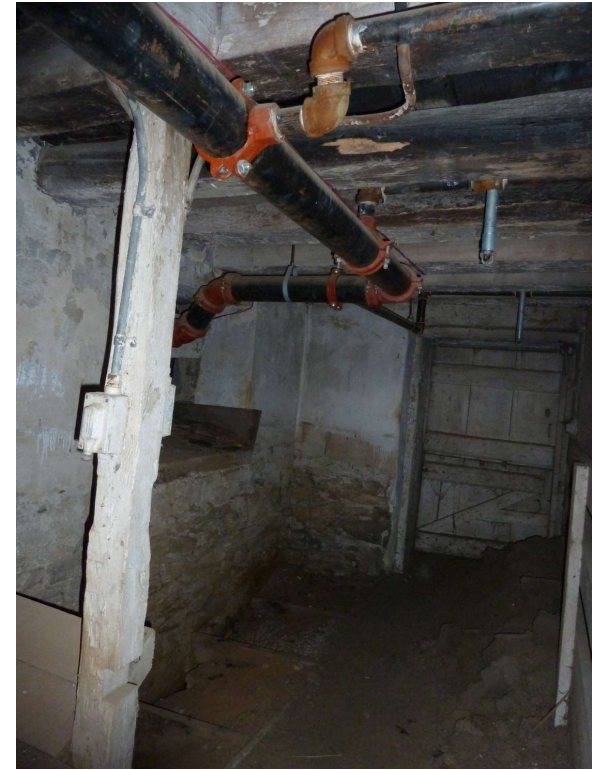
The end result is a project which fully utilizes the historic site and buildings and fulfills its purpose of providing a unique educational resource to the Montgomery County community for many years to come.

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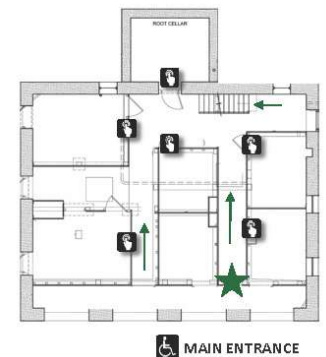


Woodlawn Cultural Park is an historic agricultural site incorporating multiple buildings and disparate uses. New paths and outdoor spaces provide access between the historic building and give cohesion to the historic core.

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The lower level of the barn contained charred timbers, lead paint, improper mortar repairs, an intrusive and leaky sprinkler system, and an uneven dirt floor.



♿ MAIN ENTRANCE

_Stone Barn

Lower Level _Before

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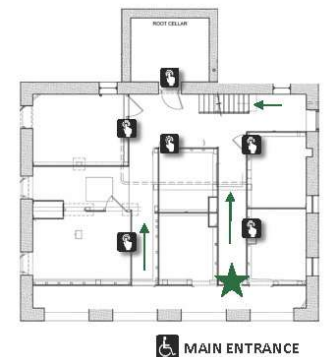


Photo Credit Roger Foley



The lead paint has been encapsulated, surfaces whitewashed, timbers replaced, floors stabilized, lighting added, and audio and visual exhibits installed.

The exterior has been repointed with lime mortar, the brick arches cleaned, the shutters repaired or replaced, and hogwire railings added at full-height openings.



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Fire-damaged flooring in the middle level was replaced. The stone walls were repaired and cleaned, but care was taken not to lose layers of history by doing too much.

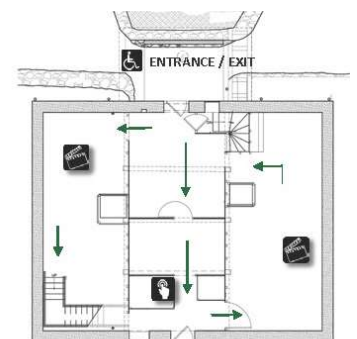


_Stone Barn



Middle Level _Before

The outer of two retaining walls, which have allowed the Barn to stand since 1832 without significant bowing, needed extensive repairs.



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A new stair was added to allow for better circulation between the upper and middle levels. Hogwire railings were added at the hay chute and upper level. Projectors and lighting were discreetly placed to illuminate the exhibits without intruding.

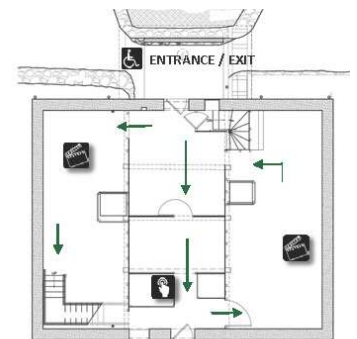


Photo Credit Roger Foley

_Stone Barn

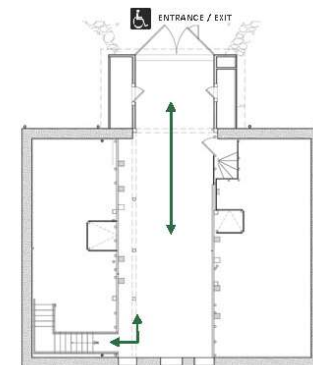
Middle Level _After

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The upper level exterior required repairs and reshingling. The non-historic cinderblock was removed from the middle level entrance. Drainage issues around the barn and the side shed (red roof) were addressed.

With the old roof removed and before new cedar shingles are installed, the barn interior is illuminated.



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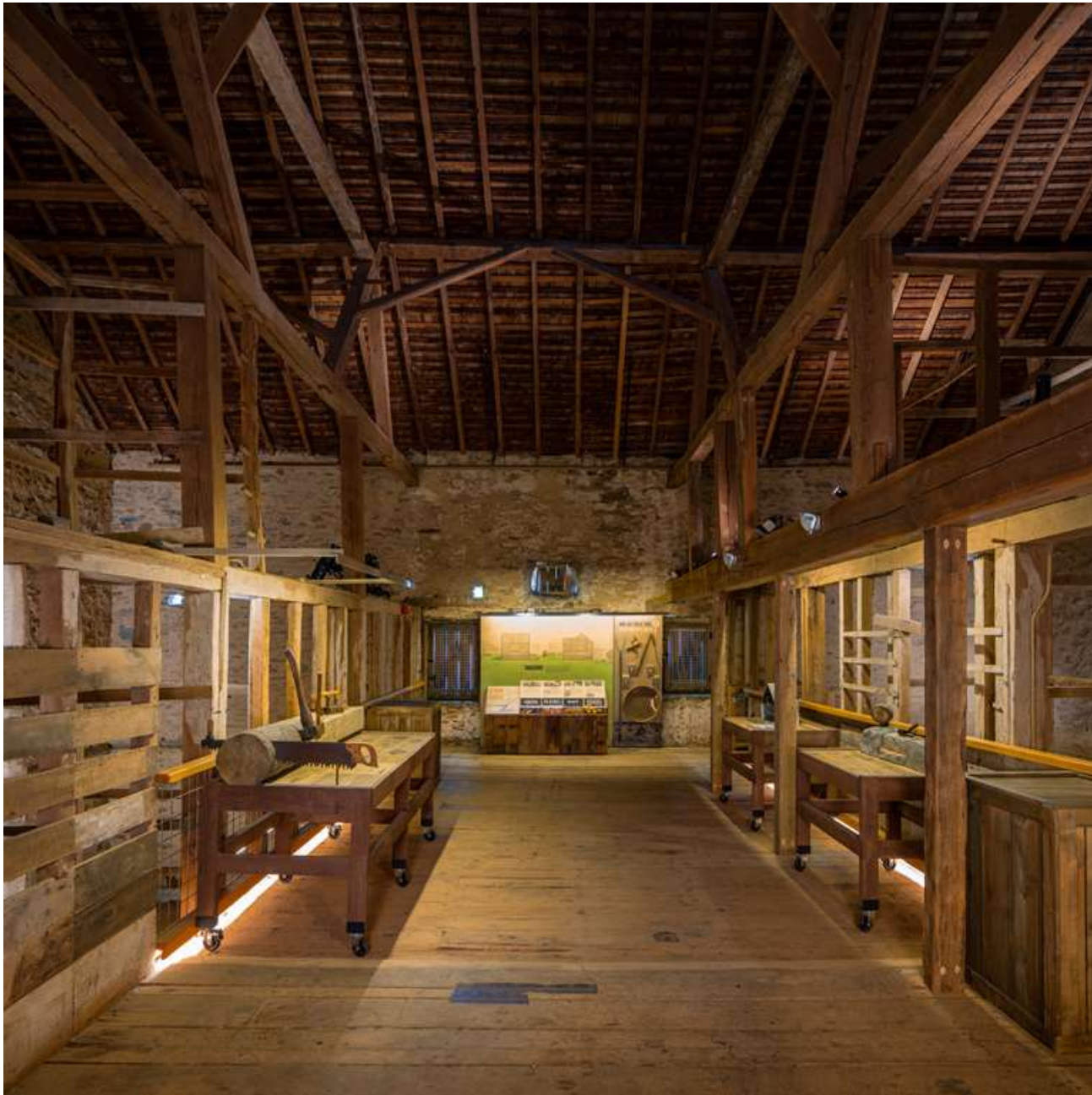
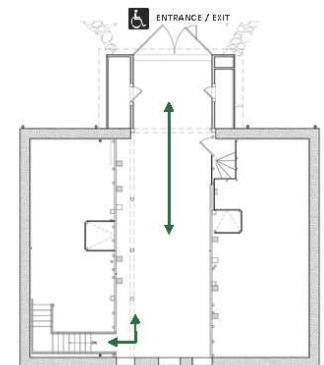


Photo Credits Roger Foley



Short scenes, projected onto the walls of the double-height space, tell the stories of local enslaved people and Quakers of the time.



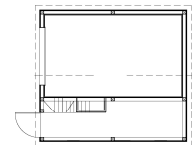
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The existing Carriage House had a pest and water-damaged foundation and no windows. The interior was an enclosed garage, used for storage, with a steep narrow stair to a loft above the garage.



The equipment in the existing pump house to the north of the Carriage House (visible in plan, right, and behind the blue dumpster, above left) needed to be incorporated into the restroom addition.



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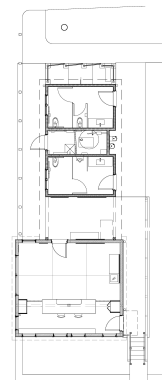


Photo Credit (above and below left) Roger Foley



(Above left) The renovated Barn and outdoor plaza are visible from the far side of the Carriage House Visitor Center.

The renovated Carriage House has windows and walkways that engage the site. The interior is light-filled and airy. A small addition provides accessible restrooms and other service functions.



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This slide can include additional information for the jury about the project.

The project was not eligible for LEED because most of the space remained unconditioned and the small minisplit setup used in the Carriage House was too small to qualify for LEED evaluation.

