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For Immediate
Release
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Dumbarton House

Dumbarton House Receives Dorothea de Schweinitz Fund Grant

January 24, 2012 - Georgetown, Washington, D.C. -- A \$4,312.50 grant from The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Dorothea de Schweinitz Fund for the District of Columbia has been awarded to Dumbarton House to support the study of mortar samples from the historic site.



The research supported by the grant will allow the staff to identify the mortar recipes used to build the house. Dumbarton House has undergone multiple phases of construction since it was built 1798-1800, including: the house's extraordinary 1915 move from its original location on what is today Q Street and construction of the wings, the restoration of the 1930s, and the contemporary east wing ballroom and terraces additions built in 1991. Identifying the mortar recipes for each phase will be essential to the preservation of the house's historic brick facades.

The National Trust's Dorothea de Schweinitz Fund for the District of Columbia awards grants to non-profit organizations for preservation planning and educational outreach. The purpose of the fund is to support the rejuvenation of the District of Columbia through rehabilitation, restoration, and adaptation of historic research. This is the third grant Dumbarton House has received from the de Schweinitz Fund.

Dorothea de Schweinitz (1891-1980) was a graduate of Smith College in 1912, who later studied at the Universities of Wisconsin and Chicago and obtained her M.A. at Columbia University in 1929. All forty years of her illustrious career were in employment, vocational guidance work, labor relations, and social work. After retirement, de Schweinitz's attentions included preservation activities specific to Georgetown, Washington, D.C., where she was instrumental in obtaining the 1950 "Old Georgetown"

Act in which the U.S. Congress established the historic village as an official Historic District under the protection of the Commission of Fine Arts.

"We are honored to have received this generous grant from The Trust to support preservation of an architectural gem with which Miss de Schweinitz was certainly familiar -- it is a tribute to the legacy of her earliest support of the preservation of Georgetown," says Karen L. Daly, Executive Director of Dumbarton House.

For additional information, please contact Dumbarton House.

The Dumbarton House is a Federal period historic house museum, circa 1800, preserved to educate the public about life in Washington, D.C., during the early years of the Republic. Since 1928, Dumbarton House has been owned and maintained as headquarters for *The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America*, a women's organization that actively promotes our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. The museum, open to the public in 1932, is today open for tours Tuesday through Sunday, eleven in the morning until three in the afternoon (last entry, two-forty-five). The museum hosts a year-round calendar of public events, lectures, concerts, balls, exhibitions, family activities, summer camps, and rental events. www.DumbartonHouse.org





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