

Neill-Cochran House Museum Slave Quarters Project  
City of Austin Certificate of Appropriateness Application 2023

The Neill-Cochran House Museum has applied to the City of Austin Heritage Grants program for funding to complete the exterior restoration of the site's Slave Quarters, the only intact slave dwelling left in the City. Though the context of use changed over time, thankfully the structure retains remarkable integrity. The major exception is that both first and second floor doors appear to have been rebuilt. The changes to the second floor door may have a connection to the decision at some point to move the exterior staircase from the south-facing façade to the east-facing façade. The building today has an exterior staircase on the south-facing façade and will retain that context after restoration.



Contemporary view of the Slave Quarters from the southeast. The east façade window and 2 south façade doors are visible from this angle, along with the exterior staircase.



This photograph from c. 1960 soon after the NSCDA-TX acquired the property shows the back of the main house (with the 1900 rear addition) along with the Slave Quarters to the left, and the carport that the Cochrans constructed just to the west of the Slave Quarters. Note that the staircase at this time was on the east-facing façade.



This photograph, also c. 1960 and reproduced in the *Statesman* provides a close-up view of the south-facing façade. When the door was moved, the wall was in-filled around the smaller window.

A stairway ran up the east façade to the second floor door during this time period.

Note that the roof was metal, as it is today.



The first-floor door has been cut down and altered over time as the elements have warped it. The door will be completely replaced, including the hardware, which has failed.

We have found evidence for both long-leaf pine and cedar on the interior of the structure. We will replace the door with a new door made of one of those woods.

Wood trim and the structural lintel will be repainted to protect all wood surfaces.



The second-floor door has been moved at least twice. It is unclear whether this is the original c. 1855 door or not. It does share similarities with the original second-floor French doors to the main house in design. We do not anticipate a need to replace this door, though it will be stripped and repainted and the hinges will be adjusted. Should any new material be required, we will use either long-leaf pine or cedar as for the first-floor door.

The copper roof has not been addressed in decades. We will assess the condition and repair as necessary. It does not appear to have any leaks and we do not anticipate repairs to be extensive.





View of the roof and brick chimney from the west side. The taller chimney in the background is from the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs next door. The Slave Quarters chimney is in the foreground and has almost entirely deteriorated.

Work will be completed to restore, stabilize, and cap the chimney. We will acquire 19<sup>th</sup> century brick to match and extend the existing flue.



Wood fascia beneath the roof needs to be stripped and repainted to protect the original fabric.

This view gives a sense of the condition of the second-floor window. It will be stripped and re-glazed. Our expectation is that we will be able to reuse all parts. If any component must be replaced, we will replace with like materials.



Detail of the first-floor window, including wood rot at the bottom left corner. Our expectation is that we will strip and reglaze this window. If any element requires replacement, we will replace with like materials, but we consider that eventuality to be unlikely.

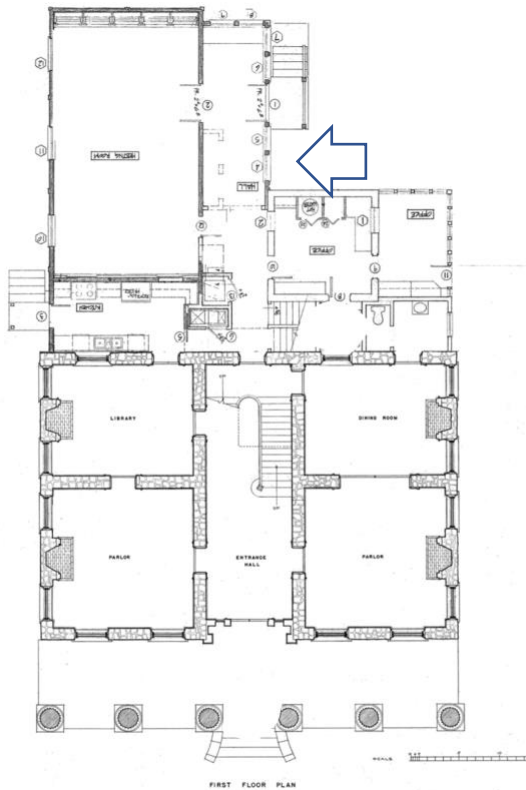
The bars on the windows date to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and will be removed.



The first-floor wood window has deteriorated over time and requires repair and repainting.

The NCHM has also received funding from the Heritage Grants program to replace our aging and unreliable ADA lift. The existing lift is connected to the stairs that enter at the back of the 1977 addition to the historic main house. The existing lift is not connected to the 1856 structure or the 1900 addition, and the new lift will not impact the historic structure either.

The arrow shows the location of the existing lift as well as the location where the new lift will be placed.



Below: a photograph of the existing lift.







This is a mockup of the appearance of the new lift.