The Hays-Heighe House: Made by Hand Exhibit Fact Sheet

Exhibit run: June 17, 2010 – September 6, 2011

Exhibit curators: Sharon Stowers, Ellen Avitts, Sharoll Love

Ribbon cutting ceremony: June 17, 2010

Exhibit opening: October 5, 2010

Artifacts on loan: Steppingstone Museum, Havre de Grace, Maryland; Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air, Maryland; Sharoll Love private collection

Exhibit statement: A showcase of the local building trades and exploration of who built the house and how it was constructed.

Panels:

Architecture of Status
The exhibit panels in this room explore how the building can be read as a book, and one can learn about the social history of wealth and status by what types of houses were built and from what material.

Skilled Hands Then and Now: Spring House; Planing the Past; Hidden Labor; Nailing Down the Date of the House; Painting the Past; 200 Years and Still Standing; Slate Roofing; Skilled & Caring Hands; Stone Masonry; Strong Foundation Makes for a Strong Building; Then and Now; What is Rehabilitation?

Panels explore questions on historic integrity and modern amenities; defines concepts involved with historic preservation; discusses renovation components, including nails, slate roof, stone masonry, finish carpentry, paint

Building Harford: Skills of Enslaved and Free Africans; Humans as Property; Skilled African Descended Peoples and Trades; Will of Thomas Hays, Sr

Panels provided slavery timeline in Maryland and discusses the lives of freed and enslaved laborers associated with the construction of the House; explores Thomas Hayes’ slaves and patterns of inheritance. Features reproduction artifacts related to slavery and African culture, including shackles, whip, quilt; transcribed manumission documents

Did Archer Hays Build the Hays-Heighe House?; The David Hopkins Debate

Panels discuss lives of original owners of the House, including Hays family genealogy; explores the possibility of David Hopkins as foreman/principal builder of the House. Features a 1904 Geologic Map of Harford County, Maryland and one of the types of stone used in the building of the foundation.