



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contacts:

Kristin Garbarino, Director of Marketing and Communications
media@thefrickpittsburgh.org; 412-342-4075

Stephanie Mirah, Marketing and Communications Manager
media@thefrickpittsburgh.org; 412-342-4025

The Frick Pittsburgh's Clayton mansion—now a Nationally Registered Historic Place—undergoes \$10 million preservation effort

Visitors can view the ongoing efforts through specialty preservation tours

PITTSBURGH – Henry Clay Frick's home-turned-museum is undergoing a multi-million-dollar exterior preservation project that will ensure visitors can enjoy it for decades to come and to stop moisture from impacting the interior of the house. The Frick is also pleased to announce Clayton is now recognized on the National Register of Historic Places as of May 2025.

The preservation project includes removing the current paint from Clayton's exterior and applying a Keim mineral silicate coating—a breathable and waterproof paint—in a [more historically accurate color](#). Other efforts include repointing brick and masonry, along with repairing and restoring the exterior metal, woodwork, windows, and slate and flat roof areas.

"Preserving Clayton is crucial to our organization's future, allowing our visitors to continue learning and appreciating the important role that Frick and Gilded Age Pittsburgh played during the industrialization of America," Chief Curator and Director of Collections Dawn R. Brean said.

Preservation will be conducted in multiple phases. Major deficiencies are being prioritized over less urgent repairs. Phase one began in 2024 and will wrap in June 2025. Phase two is expected to begin later in 2025.

Available funding will guide each phase's scope of work. Public and private dollars are supporting the \$10 million project. Those interested in donating to support the preservation of Clayton can visit the Frick's website at thefrickpittsburgh.org/claytonpreservation.

"Clayton is the last intact Gilded Age mansion from Pittsburgh's Millionaire's Row," said Executive Director Amanda Gillen. "It's vital that we keep this part of Pittsburgh's history for our community."

To guide the Frick's preservation effort, a team of architects from Ohio-based Perspectus Architecture assessed the building over many months and wrote a 240-page report to serve as a roadmap. Structural engineers from Barber & Hoffman Inc. and conservators from Heritage Conservation Collective also contributed to the report.

Perspectus Architecture, Barber & Hoffman and Heritage Conservation Collective visited Clayton twice during 2023.

While on-site preparing their report, the team undertook:

- conducting surveys using a lift
- taking images using a drone;
- sampling and material testing the brick, mortar, and painted finishes;
- testing paint removal methods, and more

Currently, visitors can view the house through the Frick's [award-winning Gilded, Not Golden tours](#), which will remain operational during the restoration. The Frick will also offer, for the first time, preservation-specific specialty tours of the first and second floors.

To give visitors a behind-the-scenes look into Clayton's preservation process—both in the present and the past—The Frick Pittsburgh is launching limited-run, restoration-themed tours. During a 60-minute tour, visitors will explore Clayton's evolution from a family home to a public museum while being led through the first and second floors of the house. They will learn about Clayton's extensive restoration in the late 1980s and ongoing efforts to preserve the home for the future. These specialty tours will begin on June 21 and run on Fridays and Saturdays at 10:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. in addition to regularly scheduled Gilded, Not Golden tours. Tickets for non-members are \$20 and are available for [purchase online](#) or in person.

These special tours are part of a specific fundraising campaign focused on the care and conservation of Clayton for future generations. The ticket price is a donation and is fully tax-deductible. All ticket buyers will receive a letter confirming that the cost of their tickets can be used as part of their itemized deductions.

Originally built in 1870 in Point Breeze, Clayton has undergone several renovations, most significantly between 1891 and 1892, when the family expanded it into a 23-room, Chateausque-style home.

The restoration of Clayton into a museum began after Helen Clay Frick died in 1984. The house was restored to the period of significance between 1883-1905 when the Frick family lived in it.

Following this preservation project, The Frick Pittsburgh hopes to make further improvements to Clayton's interior. This would include improving the interior lighting and restoring and reopening the blue bedroom on the second floor.

Images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/h8xsof7avi0nnkp0esqt8/AP1IR7u3UMhNVGMDWwf00Ho?rlkey=mgql2zy85kzal7oap7huhehv&e=1&st=474e5y04&dl=0>

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About The Frick Pittsburgh

The Frick Pittsburgh offers authentic experiences with art, history and nature that inspire and delight. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds are warmly welcomed to explore collections of fine and decorative arts, vehicles, historic objects, and buildings – including Clayton, the Frick family home and only intact Gilded Age mansion remaining from Pittsburgh's Millionaire's Row – left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Helen Clay Frick, daughter of noted industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Alongside these treasures, the Frick offers an active schedule of temporary exhibitions and programs on our 10-acre garden campus in the heart of Pittsburgh's East End. Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For additional information or images, please contact Kristin Garbarino, Director of Marketing and Communications, at Media@TheFrickPittsburgh.org