

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRAYTON HALL ANNOUNCES OPENING OF STEPHEN J. WOOD CONSERVATION LABORATORY

CHARLESTON, SC SEPTEMBER 22, 2022: Drayton Hall Preservation Trust will open the Stephen J. Wood Conservation Laboratory on October 1, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. Located in the Sally Reahard Visitor's Center at Drayton Hall, The Stephen J. Wood Conservation Laboratory honors the life and legacy of Stephen and his conservation work completed at Drayton Hall.

In August of 1980, Stephen J. Wood, a talented preservationist working at Drayton Hall, tragically lost his life when scaffolding erected on the north side of the main house gave way. Evidence of Wood's work can still be seen today on the chimney caps, riverfront staircase, and exterior stonework of the main house at Drayton Hall.

Tony Wood, Drayton Hall Preservation Trust Board of Trustee and brother of Stephen J. Wood comments, "The Wood Conservation Lab is a deeply appreciated and wonderful tribute to my brother. As a place to engage and educate the public about the hands-on work of preserving Drayton Hall, it will also lift up the story of all the preservationists who -- over the -- decades have devoted their energy and expertise to the loving stewardship of Drayton Hall."

This state-of-the-art facility will give guests a unique hands-on experience with Drayton Hall's archaeology and preservation teams. In this shared space, preservationists will work on the conservation of architectural materials and artifacts uncovered during current archaeological excavations which will be brought back to the laboratory for processing allowing visitors to witness the cleaning, mending and conservation in real time. Studying Drayton Hall through the archaeological record is one of the most valuable ways we can continue to preserve and advance our historical understanding of this important landmark.

About Drayton Hall Preservation Trust

Drayton Hall Preservation Trust is a 501c3 non-profit organization which operates Drayton Hall, a National Trust for Historic Preservation site in the Ashley River Historic District of Charleston, South Carolina. The first fully executed Palladian edifice in North America, Drayton Hall was established by John Drayton in 1738. In addition to the main house Drayton Hall is an active archaeological site that includes a postbellum caretaker's house, visitor center with orientation hall and exhibit galleries, and a vast landscape complete with ornamental features, rice fields, and an African American Cemetery. For more information about Drayton Hall, visit www.draytonhall.org.

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