



## Lockwood House

HARPERS FERRY, WV

Encompassed by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and overlooking the junction of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, Lockwood House appears to have been frozen in time, providing a view into and acting as a living monument to the United States' Civil War era. The house was built in 1848 as the home of the Armory Paymaster and was used as a hospital for Union soldiers and to hold prisoners throughout the Civil War. When the war was over, Lockwood House transitioned into a school for freed slaves as part of Storer College, one of the first colleges for African Americans in US history.

Lockwood House has been minimally altered since the closure of Storer College in 1955. Period wallpaper and paint layers still remain in many of the rooms, as well as the original plaster layers applied as early as the house's conception in the mid-19th Century. The most important historical artifact maintained by Lockwood House is its collection of 19th- and 20th-Century graffiti found written and drawn directly on the finish coat plaster in multiple rooms of the house. This graffiti is an invaluable record of Lockwood House's history and its variety of occupants, prisoners, and students, who contributed to a collection of drawings, calligraphy, and signatures that uniquely document a significant era of US history.

Unfortunately, in contrast with its past image as an elegant venue that hosted extravagant balls and prestigious visitors, Lockwood House fell into disrepair over time, victim to water infiltration and poor maintenance which resulted in large amounts of plaster loss and degradation. What remained of the historic interior had become increasingly unstable, and valuable tokens of history have been lost or have become at risk. Multiple past conservation attempts and abrasive methods to reveal graffiti have also complicated the physical history and legibility of the original interior...

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/lockwood-house/>

### SERVICES PERFORMED

- Conservation Treatments
- Disaster & Emergency Response
- Graffiti Conservation & Removal
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- Plaster Restoration



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