

DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Delaware Historical Society Receives \$300,000 Federal Grant

Read House & Gardens in Old New Castle slated for Major Improvements

WILMINGTON, DE: Thanks to a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the support of other funders, one of Delaware's "great" historic houses will receive upgrades to building, security and fire detection systems that will safeguard the house museum well into the future.

The George Read II House, located on The Strand in Historic New Castle, was built between 1797 and 1804 for the son of George Read, Sr., a signer of both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The outstanding Federal-era architecture and interiors, the grounds and gardens, and extensive archives that document the building and three families who occupied the residence, make the site invaluable for the study of early American history and culture. Acquired by the Delaware Historical Society in 1975, students, scholars and visitors from Delaware and around the world have visited and conducted research at the Read House & Gardens since the property opened to the public in 1976.

The award was one of only 14 grants awarded nationwide in the Endowment's 2016 *Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections* program. "NEH provides support for projects across America that preserve our heritage, promote scholarly discoveries, and make the best of America's humanities ideas available to all Americans," said **NEH Chairman William D. Adams**. "We are proud to announce this latest group of grantees who, through their projects and research, will bring valuable lessons of history and culture to Americans."

"This grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the George Read II House helps us continue our efforts to preserve the history of New Castle," said **Senator Chris Coons**. "Congratulations to the Delaware Historical Society for their dedication to helping preserve the Read House--a structure with immense historic and design significance to Delaware and this country."

For more information about the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit dehistory.org.

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DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Founded in 1864, the Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; the Read House & Gardens, recognized as an "American Treasure" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and The Center for African American Heritage, which is included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, scheduled to reopen October 2016.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES: Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the NEH supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.

