

Sneak Preview: Before and After at Point Breeze

See the Renovations and New Exhibits for Yourself

Join us at our Greenway Gala, Sunday, May 7 from 4–6 p.m.

Point Breeze has a long and storied history that goes back 13,000 years to the Lenape who lived along the Delaware River and to King Joseph Bonaparte who made his residence here after being exiled as the King of Spain in the 1800s. When D&R Greenway joined the City of Bordentown and the State of New Jersey to permanently preserve the 60-acre property on December 18, 2020, we took assumed ownership and responsibility for King Bonaparte's former Gardener's House, the only remaining structure from the Bonaparte era.

The Gardener's House, built ca. 1820, saw many important visitors during Joseph Bonaparte's time, including the former King himself. It had been used over the past eighty years by Divine Word Missionaries for

meetings, education and counseling, and as a home for several priests. Alterations made in the 1960s era included drop ceilings, shag carpeting, construction of non-bearing walls that led to a bathroom and a "modern" kitchen that fortunately still retains the original iron bake oven manufactured in Philadelphia, Pa. in the 1830s.

The roof needed to be replaced, the chimney relined, and the building needed safety features to open to the public. The modern front door leaked and destroyed hallway flooring that needed replacement, which led to matching old wood with new.

The Revolving Land Fund that was established by D&R Greenway made a significant contribution to preservation of the property. D&R Greenway took on the challenge of raising private donations to ensure that the new Discovery Center at Point Breeze would be ready to open in two short years.

On May 7, D&R Greenway supporters will be the first to have an opportunity to visit the new Discovery Center at Point Breeze, just before it opens to the public. The mission of the Discovery Center is the same as D&R Greenway's mission: to tell the story of the land and connect people to a conservation ethic.



A sentinel sycamore tree stands tall in front of the Discovery Center at Point Breeze, ready to welcome you.



The entrance hallway shows the front door with sidelights that was in place, and the damage done to the floor from a lead under the door.



The new wood floor matches the uncovered and refinished floors in the Crown Jewels Gallery and the Peoples Room. The mahogany paneled double door is modeled after historic photos, and an antique chandelier welcomes you.



Caption



Caption