



Cliveden of the National Trust 2020 Annual Report



“A beautiful and important historic site.”



**HISTORIC
GERMANTOWN**
Freedom's Backyard



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

“Thank you for helping bring history to life.”

Mission Statement

Cliveden’s mission is to help people understand our shared history and motivate them to preserve it by providing access to the rich continuity of history and preservation in one community and family over time, and by offering direction and knowledge about preserving our built heritage and its value. We fulfill this mission:

By interpreting Cliveden meaningfully to the public based on solid research;

By preserving our houses, grounds and collections;

By working with local businesses and community revitalization and historical organizations to be a catalyst for preserving and reusing historic buildings to sustain economic development for historic Northwest Philadelphia and beyond;

By promoting our community’s cultural life and historic preservation efforts;

And by being a model of historic site management and preservation outreach.

Report from Board Chair, Ted Reed

Challenging events force reexamination of how our history informs our lives in 2020

Cliveden joined with many others in our community and beyond in supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. The systemic racism of our society, revealed once again by the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and so many others across our country, required heightened examination of the historic and contemporary role of Cliveden:

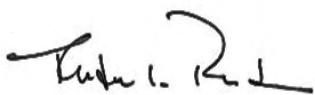
- **Cliveden Conversations** focused on the Battle of Germantown reenactment and contemporary gun violence started a dialog and reexamination that will continue as Cliveden explores how our mission can most effectively integrate with the needs of the community.
- The expansion of the **Revolutionary Germantown Festival** well beyond the traditional reenactment enabled our partner institutions of Historic Germantown to present new perspectives on the Revolutionary War period.
- Our **Liberty to Go to See** portrayal of the lives of enslaved and indentured residents of the Cliveden household continues to engender lively discussions of equity in times past and present.

The Covid-19 pandemic also challenged Cliveden:

- Programming became virtual with **Liberty to Go to See** streaming on-line to audiences exceeding those of previous on-site presentations.
- An exhibit on **The Women of Cliveden**, initially planned for in-person viewing, went virtual with videos and on-line exhibit of artifacts from the extensive Cliveden collections.
- A new presentation in support of the Black Lives Matter initiative included biographies of Black people who lived, worked and were enslaved at Cliveden.
- Staff created a new exhibit highlighting the buildings and history of Cliveden for those unable to visited the grounds.
- The under-utilized grounds of the property enabled Cliveden to present limited in-person programs, while meeting Covid health and safety guidelines, thus offering the community an educational, visual, and spatial respite from Covid-dictated confinement.

And through all of this, Cliveden continued to address its preservation mission, ncluding installation of new protective interior storm windows, the ongoing maintenance issues attendant to an historic home, and planning for major capital improvements to the site to make it more accessible and usable for the general public.

Do join us to help enrich our lives through knowledge of our shared history.



“Good history lesson”



Report from Chief Executive Officer, Nancy VanDolsen

2020 was a year that no one will forget: a worldwide pandemic and a much more overdue national discussion about civil rights in response to the murder of George Floyd in May.

Beginning in March, Cliveden staff began to work remotely, with one person onsite one or two days a week. The grounds remained closed until early July, when the State of Pennsylvania opened gardens and museum for visitation. At that time, the one staff member was on site each day to open the grounds. For the summer and fall, Cliveden became a respite for nearby residents, a place to sit and enjoy the weather, walk dogs, or let children run around for an hour or two.

Noticing the uptick in visitors and realizing that it might be quite a while before we could have usual tours and educational programming on site, the staff created temporary yard signs that told those interested about the buildings and the property. These signs proved quite popular, and due to the generosity of the Connelly Foundation, movable signs made from ash trees that once stood on the grounds, will be made in 2021.

We also prepared an exhibit in response to the social justice movement Black Lives Matter, that we printed and placed on the Cliveden Street fence since visitors would not be coming into the Carriage House due to the pandemic anytime in 2020. This exhibit has also proved to be thought-provoking and will be expanded in the future.

Other preservation projects for 2020 also centered around the grounds, including an inventory of our walls, fences, and statuary completed by our intern, Caitlin Livesey, who also cleaned our sculpture. We also had an extensive pruning of our trees by Liberty Tree Service who donated \$12,000 worth of work. In addition, the Indow company gave a substantial donation for the installation of Indows, interior storm windows that are non-obtrusive and which do not disturb or damage historic woodwork; these were installed in the main house in the spring.

The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage (PCAH), along with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, generously supported our in-depth study and conversation regarding the annual Battle of Germantown re-enactment in light of twenty-first century gun violence. The project, which went on during the pandemic, explored with our neighbors and the re-enactment community, the value and meaning of the battle re-enactment. As a result, changes will be made to the annual Revolutionary Germantown Festival beginning in 2021 to expand our interpretation and to explore the diverse experiences of the loyalists, pacifists, and supporters of the revolution.

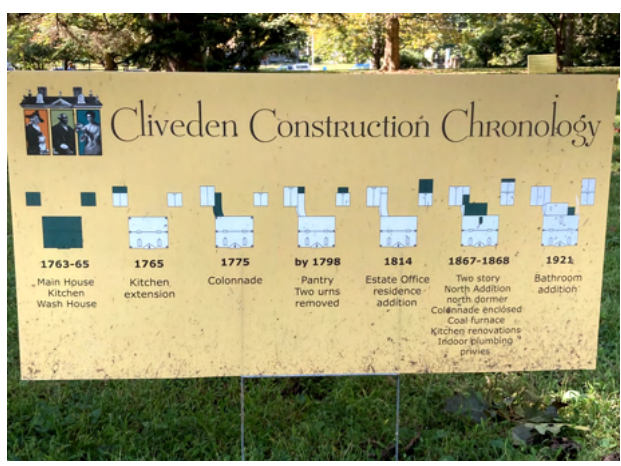
We also produced a virtual exhibit of videos and an exploration of artifacts associated with the women of Cliveden. This exhibit will continue into 2021 so that visitors can see the re-installation of the rooms in the house, each associated with women from different time periods and with diverse roles.

During quite an unusual year, to say the least, Cliveden was able to continue its work due to the support of many different foundations, governmental agencies and individuals, listed below. We were extremely fortunate and thank all who helped us in so many ways during the past year.

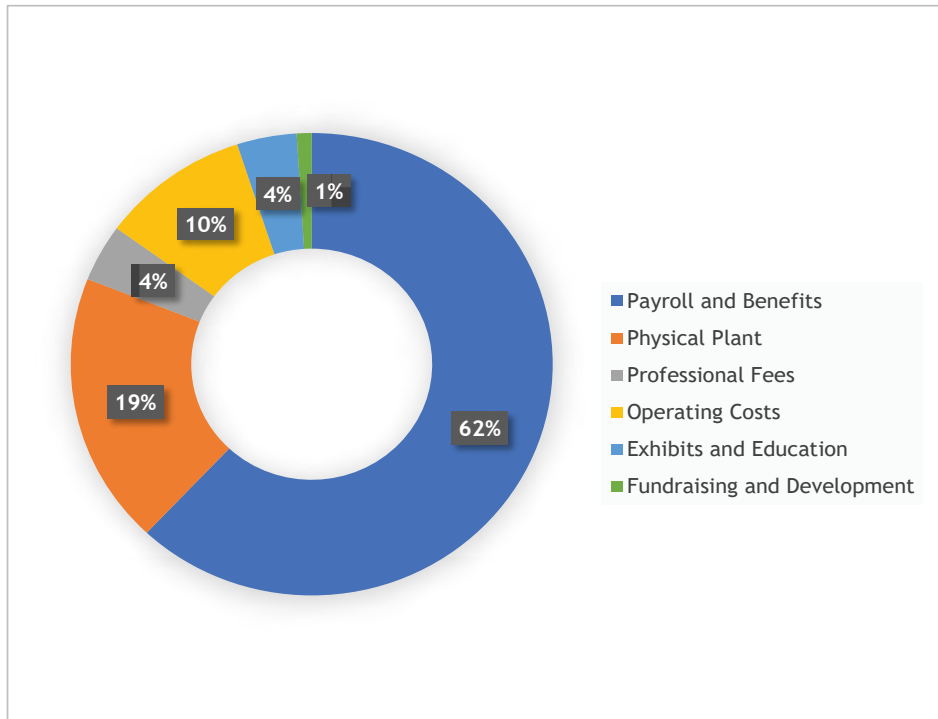
Nancy VanDolsen



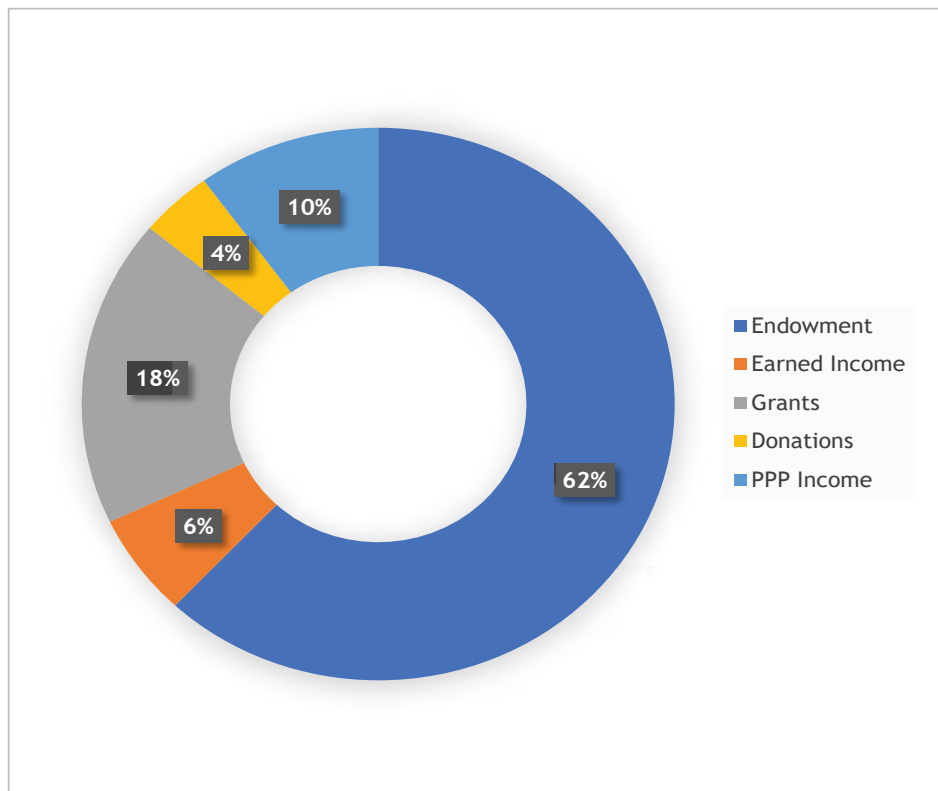
“Thank you for the wonderful history you have preserved and sharing with us through Facebook!”



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2020 Operating Income



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Cliveden Staff

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 Libbie Hawes, Preservation Director
 Carolyn Wallace, Education Director
 Jocelyn Rouse, Marketing & Business
 Operations Coordinator
 Lanette Mackie, Facilities Custodian
 Caroline Slama, Rental Manager
 Neil Jordan, Caretaker

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 Christine Mifsud, Guide
 Constance Ragsdale, Guide
 Kelby J. Reed, Guide
 Sharon Reid, Guide
 Eleanor Smith, Guide
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“Was grateful to get a property tour with Carolyn Wallace. Property and grounds are amazing and Carolyn was extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastic.”

“My last tour was the best yet! Keep up the great work.”



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