



at Isaac Handy's death. "Accuracy and preservation is our priority," explained Pat Taylor, Chair of the Pemberton Hall Foundation. "The heart of our mission is to interpret the home, its property and the family that built and ran it, and to educate others about it. We're still researching and uncovering more about Pemberton Hall all the time."

The Pemberton Hall Foundation has helped in the discovery of invaluable new information about the property. Among them is the excavation of the 18th Century Mulberry Landing Wharf along the shores of the Wicomico River. Conducting dendrochronology analysis (studying the tree rings of the wood), scientists and the foundation discovered the wharf to be the oldest documented one of its kind in the United States — estimated to have been built in 1747. Its upstairs bedroom also houses the only known intact tester frame (bed chamber), in its original site, in the country. The frame, which looks like crown molding on the ceiling, outlines the bed and was used to hang curtains from.

More recently, the Pemberton Hall Foundation has worked to include the history of the plantation's more than 20 enslaved people into their interpretation. Pat Taylor and the other members of the board enlisted the help of historian Anthony Cohen, who has served as Director of Historical Interpretation for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and a consultant to the National Parks Conservation Association, to aid in the accurate portrayal of the home's enslaved people.

From its beautiful walking trails to its delicately preserved home, Pemberton Hall is a sight to behold. There are few sites on the Eastern Shore as compelling as Pemberton Hall, and thanks to the Pemberton Hall Foundation, donors and the community as a whole, its elegant gambrel roof and crimson brick edifice stand as a reminder of the rich heritage we have here on the Shore. ■



great room is like stepping back in time. You half-expect to be greeted by the home's original owners, Isaac and Ann Handy. The room, which was used by Handy to conduct much of his daily business, is an incredible portrait of early colonial life on the Eastern Shore. The great room features its original paneled walls, fluted pilasters and charming bofit (barrel-

backed, built-in cupboard). All of these pieces are painted in a Prussian blue, the first patented paint color brought to the Americas, which only the wealthiest could afford. Surrounded by the blue wood is the great room's mammoth 7 ½ by 4 ½ foot fireplace.

Every detail of the home is presented with the utmost historical representation. The Pemberton Hall Foundation has furnished the home based on the 1763 probate inventories taken

*Pemberton Hall can be enjoyed by visitors from May – October, Saturdays 12pm-2pm, or by appointment. [www.pembertonhallfoundation.com](http://www.pembertonhallfoundation.com) Pemberton Historical Park and its 262 acres of scenic trails and water views can be explored year-round. 5561 Plantation Lane, Salisbury, Md.*