

## Belmont Mansion



### PROJECT

Belmont Mansion  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### CLIENT

The Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust

### DATES

2001 Conditions Assessment

### DESCRIPTION

Belmont Mansion is comprised of a main building and several additions. Built in the early eighteenth century, the Mansion is one of the finest examples of Palladian architecture in the United States. Many famous Americans including Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison enjoyed views from this renowned property. The original gardens of this lovely home were among the finest in America during the colonial era.

### CHALLENGE

As with many historic masonry buildings, Belmont Mansion was exhibiting problems with moisture stains on the plaster walls. S. Harris Ltd. was asked by the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust to analyze the building to determine the source of the moisture problems and to recommend ways to remediate these issues.

### SERVICES

Conditions Assessment

Conducted an on site inspection of the water stained areas. S. Harris Ltd. traced the source of the water back to issues with the existing roof and its associated drainage system, and the masonry walls. The wall problems contribute to the extent of the moisture infiltration by wicking moisture along and through the solid masonry walls.

Provided an assessment report identifying deficiencies with the building.

Prepared a comprehensive report which included recommendations for remediation of the issues at hand.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

The Belmont Mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Belmont Mansion property became part of Fairmount Park in 1869, and is now an Underground Railroad museum open to the public for tours.