

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sons of the RevolutionSM in the State of New York, Inc. to restore the façade of historic Fraunces Tavern[®], and invites the public to help.

New York: May 9, 2022, marks the beginning of the façade restoration of the Fraunces Tavern Museum Complex. The focus of the restoration will be the repair and fortification of the most vulnerable and damaged structural elements of the façade—the windows and dormers—of 54 Pearl Street. This 300-year-old structure, a New York City landmark since 1965 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008, is the cornerstone of Fraunces Tavern Museum and Restaurant. Work will also be done on the façades of adjoining buildings 58 Pearl Street and 101 Broad Street, both of which are part of the five-building complex located within the Fraunces Tavern Historic Block District, also listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

Built by the De Lancey family in 1719 as a private residence, 54 Pearl Street is best known for the role it played during the Revolutionary Era. General George Washington dined at Fraunces Tavern in 1776 before the British Army occupied New York and was honored at a banquet at Fraunces Tavern the night the British Army evacuated New York at the end of the War. Washington thereafter bade farewell to his officers in the building's iconic Long Room, which the public can still visit today.

The building suffered from several fires in the 19th century, and a series of owners made some changes. Sons of the RevolutionSM in the State of New York, Inc. purchased the building in 1904 and hired architect William H. Mersereau to restore it. 54 Pearl Street opened as Fraunces Tavern Museum and Restaurant in 1907, eventually expanding into four adjacent historic buildings by the 1960s.

Over many years, wood has rotted, and paint has chipped off dormers (windows that project vertically from the pitched roof of 54 Pearl Street) and window frames. If left untreated, the windows will continue to deteriorate and eventually malfunction and break apart, exposing the façade to weather elements and further damage, jeopardizing the interiors of the buildings and the Museum collections it holds.

SRNY invites the public to support the Façade Restoration by sponsoring one of the complex's 63 windows.

“Fraunces Tavern has been an important community space in Lower Manhattan for centuries,” says Scott Dwyer, Director of SRNY and its Fraunces Tavern Museum. “We’re excited to invite the public to not only sponsor a window in one of the most historically significant gathering spaces in New York City, but also to join us in our mission to preserve and interpret the history of the American Revolutionary Era.”

A donation of \$5,000 supports the restoration of one window. Sponsors to date include the Mary Washington Colonial Chapter, NSDAR. To learn more, visit

www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/facade-project, or contact Diego Foronda, Development Officer, at dforonda@frauncestavernmuseum.org, or 347-468-3183.

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About Fraunces Tavern Museum:

Fraunces Tavern Museum's mission is to preserve and interpret the history of the American Revolutionary era through public education. This mission is fulfilled through the interpretation and preservation of the Museum's collections, landmarked buildings and varied public programs that serve the community. Visit the rooms where General George Washington said farewell to his officers, and where John Jay negotiated treaties with foreign nations. Explore six additional galleries focusing on America's War for Independence and the preservation of early American history. To learn more, visit our website at frauncestavernmuseum.org.

About Sons of the RevolutionSM in the State of New York, Inc.:

Founded in 1876 in New York City, Sons of the RevolutionSM in the State of New York, Inc. (SRNY) is a nonprofit devoted to educating the public about those who, in military, naval or civil service, by their acts or counsel, helped achieved American Independence. The Society accomplishes this through its many educational programs, including owning and operating Fraunces Tavern Museum located at 54 Pearl Street.