

STAFF DINING ROOM AND PANTRY REFRESH

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In 2025, Hillwood plans to refresh the displays and interpretation in the pantry and staff dining room. This will provide an opportunity to enhance the pantry space (Fig. 1) with more objects from storage and to further explore the relationship between Marjorie Merriweather Post and her staff in the staff dining room. The project will be completed in two successive phases: the pantry will be completed in 2025 during the first quarter of the year while the staff dining room will be refreshed later in 2025 during late summer or early fall.

Work and research led by Hillwood's Head of Archives and Special Collections Jason Speck will continue to highlight the multi-faceted relationship between Marjorie Post and her staff at Hillwood, and those at her other properties, as featured in the staff dining room. New displays will focus on the complexities of operating multiple households and the remarkable skill of the staff, Post's generosity toward the staff and their dedication to Post as well as their contributions to the museum's collection, and the staff's life at Hillwood.

While research and planning continue, the new pantry displays are complete and will be installed, along with new cases on the countertops, during the first quarter of 2025. The displays will include a selection of silver pieces from storage that will be featured under a vitrine on the table near the safe. This display will focus on the care of the collection by the dedicated staff. The current photo, featuring footman Arthur Field cleaning silver, will remain and a selection of the pieces featured in the image will be displayed.



Fig. 1. The pantry, pictured here, and staff dining room will both be refreshed with new objects and interpretation in 2025.

On the opposite side of the pantry, two vitrines installed on the countertop under the cabinets will display a selection of plates Post used on her magnificent table. Additionally, a tray set for Marjorie Post's breakfast featuring her favorite service and goldware will sit ready to be sent upstairs via the dumbwaiter.

Be on the lookout next year for more resources about these exciting, refreshed displays in the pantry and staff dining room, including the accompanying interpretive labels.