

## Room 204

Room 204 is a second floor room on the south side of a two over two I plan house. The original floor to ceiling height is 8'3 3/4". In one area, the floor framing has failed, and the floor to ceiling height has been expanded to 8'4 1/2". There is no indication of how this room was used, but if we assume that the house was used as a tenant structure, then the room could have served as a bedroom.

### Floors:

The floors are composed of random width pine boards ranging from 3 1/4" - 10 1/4" in width. The blind nailed tongue and groove boards run north south, in uninterrupted lengths of 13'6 1/8". The majority of the flooring is still very solid, with little creaking or movement detectable. But, due to a large hole in the roof, measuring approximately 3'9" by 16" above the northwest corner of the room, there is severe deterioration and rot in the corresponding floor area. The extent of the rot is unclear because of the pile of debris, approximately 12" in depth, which covers the suspect area. The debris has been formed over the 7-year life of the roof hole, and consists of decomposed brick, mortar, and wood. In the northeast corner of the room, the floor level has dropped a total of 1 1/2" over the span, probably due to the subsistence of the north partition wall.

### Base board:

The base board is composed of a single piece of dark painted wood with a bead on top. It measures a total of 6 3/4", and is used on the entire perimeter of the room, with the exception of the door opening and the mantel. The baseboard's corners are mitered instead of coped.

### Walls:

Three of the four walls of the room are load bearing masonry walls. The masonry is brick set in 5 Course American Bond on the interior face, which has been plastered. The bricks are relatively large, measuring 8 1/2" x 4" x 2 1/2" and appear to be sand cast bricks. The north wall is non-loadbearing, and is of wood frame construction with plaster finish. The plaster appears to have only 3 coats, with the first and second having hair integrated. The third finish coat is very thin. The overall texture of the plaster is very rough, and has an uneven and undulating surface. A thin coat of white paint has been applied to the plaster surface as a finish coat.

There is severe damage to the masonry on the west wall due to the unrepaired hole in roof. The plaster, bricks and mortar are disintegrating, and are very unstable. The interior bricks are very prone to weathering because they are under-fired, as evidenced by the large visible chunks of unfired clay that has been exposed in the spalled surfaces. Much of the detritus caused by this disintegration has collected just inside of the door D-204-1, collecting moisture and rotting the floor boards below.

On the south wall, just above the fireplace there is a large dark patch on the plaster, and the plaster had begun to release from the brick work. It appears to be from past water

damage, due to the coloration of the stain. When observed, it had rained in the area in the past 24 hours, and the plaster was not wet, therefore the area is not an active leak.

The north wall, which is of wood frame construction, and is a partition wall between the upper room and the stair hall, has settled a total of 1 ½” in the northeast corner, pulling the wall frame, plaster and flooring down. This has caused diagonal stress cracks on the north and east wall, and a large fissure between the north and east wall, measuring up to ¼”.

#### Cornice:

There is no present cornice, nor is there evidence that the room ever had a cornice.

#### Ceiling:

The ceiling ranges in height from 8’3 ¾” to 8’4 ½”. It is finished in the same plaster quality as the walls, with three apparent coats of plaster over riven wooden lath. The ceiling has cracked in many places, with a concentration of cracking near the hole in the roof and also possibly following the placement of the east west running joists above. The ceiling deterioration is so severe in the northwest corner that the hole in the roof and the rafters and joists can be clearly seen through the hole.

#### Door:

The entrance door into room 204 is a 4-panel wood sunken or flat panel door measuring 6’11 ½” x 3’ 7/8”. The door is pegged, and is unarticulated on both sides. It is 1 3/8” thick, and is hinged on the northeast side with cast butt hinges and swings into the space of the room. The hinges are fastened to the door with 8 early period screws each. These screws have a center slot of slight variation from center, and a squared off end with no gimlet, which probably date to the 1850’s or before.

The center rail of the door is the thickest member at 1 7/8”, with the top and bottom measuring 4 15/16” and 8 7/8” respectively. The door entablature is simple, and matches the molding around the windows (see profile ). The molding measures 4 7/8” wide. There is evidence of 4 locking mechanisms on this door, none of which survive. There is a shadow of a rim lock, 2 round holes that could have held deadbolts or doorknobs, and one round hole which has been plugged. The holes occur at 34 5/8”, 37 3/8”, 44 7/8”, and 48 ½”.

#### Windows:

The windows in room 204 are similar to those throughout the structure. They are 6 over 6 double hung wood windows with an overall measurement of 3’5 1/8” x 5’2”. The bottom sash of each window shows evidence of being weighted, with a groove and notch for the pulley cord in each side, but the window casing does not show any evidence of pulleys. There are retrofitted stops on each window, made of wood and tacked on with cut nails.

Window W204-1 was surrounded by the same trim as was found on the door, which measured 4 7/8" in width. W204-2 was surrounded by trim that had the same profile as the other window, but measures 5 1/8" in width. Two of the 12" x 14" panes in W204-2 are older cylinder glass with ripples, but all other lights appear to be replacement modern glass. There is no locking hardware on either window, either to hold the window open, or to secure it shut.

#### Fireplace:

The fireplace is located on the south wall, projects into the room by 14", and measures 5' 3" in width. The firebox itself is very shallow, measuring 5" deep, and indicates a coal burning heating system. The fireplace insert is made of cast iron with geometric bas relief decoration and measures 2'8" x 2'8 3/8" on the outside, and 2'2" x 15 1/2" at the apex of the flattened gothic arch opening. The insert is secured at the base with mortar.

The exposed masonry in the back of the fireplace is severely deteriorated, and there is a pile of debris inside and in front of the firebox covering the " x " brick hearth. Within this pile there is a tin pan with a round hole cut for a stove pipe and a solid tin pan which indicates that at some time there was probably a wood stove in the room.

The mantle has separated from the wall, possibly due to the previous water damage of the plaster above the mantle, which has been stained and has begun to separate from the brick. The mantle measures 4' 2 5/8" in height by 5'3" in width and is assembled of circular sawn wood planks, attached to the masonry with cut nails without inset nailing blocks. It appears to be original to the structure's construction because it fits the opening exactly, there are no ghosts of plaster, paint or other fasteners, and the plaster has squeezed behind the mantel at the top and sides, indicating that the mantle was secured, and then plastered around, rather than retrofitted in later.

#### Room 202

Room 202 is the landing at the top of the stairs and separates 201 and 203. Room 202 measures 6' 4 1/2" on both the east and west 3' 4 1/2" and was used as a transitional space between the two upstairs rooms.

Floors:

Baseboard:

Walls:

Cornice:

Ceiling:

Doors:

Window: