

## **INTRODUCTION**

As part of the investigation project in the 2001 Architectural Restoration Field School, we surveyed the city-owned building at 405 Cabell St. Locally known as the Crossroads Carriage House, this circa 1853 brick and stucco building on the corner is set back from the street and is adjacent to the Dabney-Scott-Adams house for which it was an original dependency of unknown use.

At the time of survey, Interior and exterior photos and measurements were taken. Interior documentation consisted of: measuring walls, windows, trim, room dimensions, and fireplaces, taking photos, taking plaster and mortar samples for analysis, attic and roof investigation, and schematic drawings. Unfortunately there was no time to do historic research to gain additional information on the property. Based on this investigation recommendations were made to the city regarding the building's future disposition.

## **Room 101**

**Floors:** This room has tongue-and-groove wood floorboards which run the length of the room and range in width from 4 ½ “ to 6”. No nails are visible.

**Base:** The baseboards are 6” high and terminate in a ½” bead at the top. They are painted black and are dislodging on the northeast wall.

**Walls:** The walls are composed of plaster over riven wood lath. The plaster is severely cracked or missing in patches on all walls and has buckled on the north wall.

**Ceiling:** The ceiling is plaster on riven wood lath. Settling of the building has led to an approximately 1” differential in ceiling height within the room; the north end is higher. The ceiling also has holes, the most noticeable are above the hearth, in the NW corner, and above the NE window.

**Doors:** The room has two doors: D101-1 leads from the hall into the room while D101-2 opens onto a steep drop to the sidewalk on the D St. side.

D101-1 is probably not original. It is the only raised panel door in the house and its frame does not match those of the other doors. This door, measuring 2’5½” x 6’5”, is unpainted and has four rectangular panels, two extended ones above the handle and two shorter ones below. The door has two butt hinges with removable pins (another indication that it does not correspond to the other doors). The porcelain handle is mounted on a rim lock and above this is a deadbolt.

D101-2 measures 3’1” x 6’11” and has four flat panels surrounded by a molding on each side. The lower two panels are missing and have been covered with plywood. The interior and exterior frames are painted a dark green while the exterior is painted white. The exterior paint is severely deteriorated. The door has two hinges and shows ghost marks of two previous hinges. (The other hardware/handle is missing.)

**Windows:** The room has two windows, neither of which is centered. W101-1 is on the east wall and W101-2 is on the west wall. Both windows are designed to have 6/6 double-hung sash within a wood frame with ¾” muntins; however, the lower sash of W101-1 has been replaced with a single pane of glass.

**Fireplace:** The firebox is brick, much of which is damaged, crumbling, or missing. The hearth is also missing; it has seemingly been cut out of the floor, leaving an entrance to a crawlspace. The fireplace has a metal lintel. The entire fireplace wall projects 1’ 1 ¼”.

**Mantel:** The wood mantel is painted black and has a simple 5" frame around the firebox. Centered above the mantel is a triangular ghost mark on the wall. The mantel piece is detached from the wall towards the top and the brick and mortar behind can be easily seen.

**Hardware:** Throughout the room a mixture of cut and wire nails are visible. Clinched nails are evident in the mantel and window frames and the north wall has a spike near the ceiling.

### Room 102

**Floors:** The entry hall has tongue and groove wood floorboards ranging from 4 ½" to 6½". The flooring is uneven and has an approximately 1 ½" by 1' patch located just inside the threshold.

**Walls:** The diagonal wall directly behind the main door is a later addition based on the larger width of the wood lath and wire cut nails found behind the plaster. The staircase wall (east) is also composed of plaster on wood lath with wire cut nails.

**Ceiling:** On the diagonal wall at a height of approximately 10 feet is a triangular projection composed of wood lath and plaster with most of the plaster gone.

**Doors:** The main entry door is        and has four panels surrounded by molding. At stomach level on both sides of the frame are wood elements to receive a wood beam. It is apparent that this was an interior bolting system.

**Staircase:** Stairs leading up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor are steeply pitched with rounded nosings. The staircase consists of a single flight of 12 stairs with 9" risers, 11" tread, and an overall width of 37". The first quarter of the staircase has an open string and rectangular wood balusters (1 ½" x ¾"), one of which is missing next to the post, topped by an octagonal handrail. The square wood newel post is 4x4 and capped by a flattened ball finial with a turned 1" neck.