

December 9, 2024

This weekend was a turning point for the front parlor. The selective demolition work has now transitioned to putting the room back together.

There was a large cavity in the stone wall under one of the front windows where you could see daylight into the cellar window well from inside the parlor. Loose stones were removed and reset into the wall and the gaps pointed with mortar. The paint below the chair rail on the exterior walls had come loose from the plaster so it was carefully removed down to a solid base. A bonding adhesive will have to be painted on the raw plaster before any additional patching is done.

The wallboard around the parlor and stair hall has been installed. In the 19th century plaster would have been applied directly onto wood lath. With today's building techniques gypsum wallboard is used as a base layer and a veneer of compounds are troweled onto the surface to create the flat, smooth wall surface. In the areas on the exterior stone walls where the plaster base coat broke loose, a new base coat will be applied directly onto the stone to fill the voids.

The custom-made reproduction wood trim elements have been ordered and should be available in about 4 weeks.



Cavity in stone wall below front window. The wood block is the 19th century technique to mount the wooden trim to the masonry.



Loose stone was removed and the cavity vacuumed of dust and debris in preparation for resetting.



The stones were reset into the wall and gaps between were repointed with mortar. The wood mounting block for the trim was resecured.



Front closet door opening infill "BEFORE"



Front closet door opening infill "AFTER"



Center partition wall "BEFORE"



Center partition wall "AFTER". I covered the c. 1890 wallpaper panel with plywood to protect it during construction.



Front stair hall "BEFORE"



Front stair hall "AFTER". The stone wall where the baseboard was removed in the front wall was repointed.