

## Rediscovered Pass-through Window



While working on opening a section of plaster to create a “witness window” to expose the hand split wood plaster lath we discovered that the plaster was applied over metal lath and gypsum board. This would have been done in either the 1940s or 1950s renovations. We stripped back a bit more and discovered an old frame of an opening leading into the built-in closet in the kitchen. After further investigation we determined that there was originally a small pass-through opening in the wall between the kitchen and Gathering Room. The

shelves have the same bead detail on both sides. To keep the plaster contractor moving forward we applied a temporary wood frame to be used as a plaster stop.

We carefully removed the old counter nosing (that had been previously broken off) to identify the style of nail used to secure it. This would allow us to determine if this was an original element when the addition to the house was constructed in 1841. We found machine cut square nails which would have been used in that period establishing that the opening is an original element. In the hoard of salvaged original moldings, we found casings taken from the former upstairs hall closet. These had originally started out elsewhere in the building and during the history of renovation were repurposed into the upper hall closet.



The detail of the bead is a match to the casing on the kitchen side of the built-in closet so it is an appropriate style that could have been present in the Gathering Room. We recreated a sill and cased out the opening based on clues left on the old frame.

Since we had the opportunity to display original materials from 1841, we also created “witness windows” to show the early hand split oak plaster lath on either side of the pass-through.

On the wall to the left we created a wood frame to display the early exterior plaster material. This material extends behind the partition wall in the c. 1841 addition giving evidence that the c. 1829 house was originally plastered over the exterior stone.

