

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The living room, like the other main rooms of the first story, has plain plaster in the walls and ceiling, with a decorative plaster cornice along the edges of the ceiling. The cornice is mainly composed of bench-cut plaster. However, it also includes a row of dentils and some cast-plaster ornamentation in the form of small, round medallions. At the bottom edge of the molding is a painted wood picture rail (at this time most items displayed on walls, such as paintings, were suspended from picture moldings by chains or similar devices). There is no evidence of the alterations that occurred at the doorways when the openings were reduced, in either the flat plaster surfaces or the baseboard. Extensive plaster replacement in 1959 explains the absence of evidence in the walls themselves, but the fact that there are no signs of the change in the woodwork either may indicate that the door casings and much of the baseboard were replaced at that time; if so, the replaced elements follow the original design details in all aspects except the dimensions and reveals of the doorways.

The room's door casings match those of the other first-story main rooms. They are traditional two-stage casings with a backband, mitered at the top corners, with small plinths at the bottom where the casing and baseboard meet. The baseboard is similar to that found in the main hall and other first-story rooms, but has a slightly different cap. The outlets in this room are located in the baseboard, and the room is lit by table lamps.



jamb of the first-story main room when the pocket door was removed (left).



The doorway opening at the main first-story room has traditional mitered casings and backbands (right).