

ROTUNDA: EAST ELEVATION

The east elevation includes the curved east face of the rotunda drum, five bays wide, between the tall, narrow north and south “buttresses.”

The original bricks are laid in Flemish bond, such that ten courses of brick are approximately 2'-2 1/2" high.

The brick foundation is capped with a 9-1/2" high stone water table, which projects approximately 1'-0" out from the brick. This coping stone was quarried in 1833 and set in 1834. The brick extends up thirty-seven courses above the water table to a course of blackened bricks, then steps back to the main surface of the drum. The blackened brick course aligns with the marble crown molding below the balustrade of the wings; it is not seen in the post-fire photographs.

Doors: A doorway at the base of the north “buttress” was inserted in the mid-1970s to provide access to a spiral utility stair. The plain metal door is set into a metal frame.

Windows: There are five original 1827 window openings in each of the three stories; the center openings at each level are false windows, set in front of the reconstructed east chimney. The trim and sash date to the McKim Mead & White restoration/reconstruction.

The post-fire photographs reveal that the false windows survived the conflagration, but were removed when McKim Mead & White created functional window openings in these locations. In those photographs, a brick wall surface can be seen behind the broken glass of the false windows [*Figures 58-59*].

Each ground level window opening is framed by a 7-3/4" wide two-fascia architrave set in the opening. The sandstone sills sit directly on the water table. The sills are 5-1/2" high at the outside ends, and then dip down to 5" at the center. The cut stone surface of each sill retains a curved outline, that may indicate that the original sash were curved. The opening are fitted with 1898 8/8 sash. There are two small metal hooks above each architrave.

The tall first-story (or main level) window openings have similar trim to the south window openings: 8-1/4" wide two-fascia architraves; marble sills; pediments; and 12/12 wood sash, but the trims are curved to follow the surface of the drum and are positioned on the face of the brick wall rather than within the openings.

Like the front and rear elevations, the window entablature and pediment vary slightly in size from the conditions seen in pre-fire photographs.

The second-story window openings that light the Dome Room are also similar to the south windows, with 8-1/4" two-fascia architraves, marble sills and 12/12 wood sash.