

Further Recommendations



FURTHER RESEARCH, STUDIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

After having surveyed and the Carter G. Woodson Home extensively, many questions were answered as to the development and use of the house. However, as many questioned were answered, more questions arose. Unfortunately, the consultant team had very few archival photographs and no historic drawings to augment their field observations. As a result, there are several recommendations of further research, studies and investigation that should occur outside the scope of this Historic Structure Report but prior to the restoration of the house.

Ceiling Removal by Room 106:

Although cut nails were identified in the wall construction that separates Room 207 and Room 208 on the second floor, and the cut nail pipe anchor on the exterior of the building anchoring the sanitary pipe to the south wall all indicate that Room 207 was of that size and had plumbing, it is unclear as to the actual configuration of the plumbing fixtures in that room. Removal of the ceiling below might reveal further clues as to how that room was configured and why the wall separating Room 207 and Room 208 separated at the floor from the second floor framing.

Archival Research at the ASALH:

The consultant team had limited access to the archives at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. The archival information is also not fully catalogued. It would be beneficial to have these archives searched through for any further drawings, photographs or written documentation of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Carter G. Woodson Home.

Probes at Second and Third Floor Flues:

Although a probe in Room 303 exposed a flue and a metal tube with an elbow, confirming the use of an early heat ducting system in the building, it would be beneficial to implement probes in Rooms 203, 205 and 305 to see if similar elbow existed.

Light Fixture Research:

The consultant team was able to uncover a photograph that did identify a light fixture that existed during the Period 3, the period of significance; further research will be required to identify where that fixture might have been made and how to replicate it.

Wall Probe at Room 109 and Room 110:

Beyer Blinder Belle was able to observe through a small hole in the wall adjacent to the fireplace in Room 110 that the wall had been chased out. Similarly, one could make out that the walls in Room 109 had been furred out with wood studs and gypsum wall board. Original plaster on masonry could be seen just behind the furred out wall. It would be beneficial to remove the wall to the left of the fireplace in Room 110 and to the right of the fireplace bump out in Room 110 to gain a better understanding of the fireplace construction and how it was configured during Period 2.

Door Hardware:

Although an initial analysis of the hardware was conducted as part of this Historic Structure Report, further research should be done to confirm a more precise date for when the hardware was manufactured. The dates for the rim lock hardware and other door hardware were too broad and potentially be identified to a more precise time period.

Further Paint Analysis:

Although at least 40 paint samples were taken from various locations throughout the building at two separate times during the analysis stage of the project, additional paint analysis will be required. Not every element that required sampling was analyzed. This additional paint analysis will help to confirm outstanding ambiguities regarding dating of different materials.

Room 207 Shower:

Significant attention was paid to the wall construction between Room 207 and Room 208 to confirm that the wall dates to Period 1. The identification of the tub being installed during Period 5 resulted in the adjustment of door D207. And drawings identify that this room was a bathroom during the Period of Significance. However, further research will be required to document where the shower was located in the building prior to Period 5.

Structural Probes:

- *Front Entrance Footing* - At the entrance stair, an excavation to investigate the existence of a footing that extends below the frost line is warranted. If such a footing is not present, a new foundation should be designed and installed. Temporary support and repositioning of the stone landing slab would be required.
- *Removal of Plaster Ceilings* - Much of the framing on all floors has suffered from localized, sustained water damage. Typically the deterioration in plaster finishes on walls and ceilings points to these areas. Although some of the framing has been directly observed, the structure in such areas of clear moisture infiltration should be exposed for full evaluation and determination of required repairs.
- *Second Floor Framing Exposure* - Examine and confirm the bearing conditions of the second floor framing above Room 109.

Termite Inspection:

Although a termite inspection was noted in some of the National Park Service documentation, it would be beneficial, given the amount of time the building has been vacant, that a termite inspection be conducted to confirm that termite damage has not continued.

Sanitary Sewer Scoping:

In anticipation of introducing code compliant sanitary sewer attachments as part of the renovation, a sanitary sewer scoping should be executed.

Asbestos and Lead Paint Abatement:

A Level-1 Pre-Acquisition Survey and a Level-2 Containment Survey were completed for the NPS in August of 2004 by URS Group, Inc. The findings of these reports will need to be incorporated into an abatement plan for removal of the hazardous materials.

Historic Furnishings Plan:

As part of the interpretive exhibit design, a historic furnishings plan should be developed to more accurately depict how Dr. Carter G. Woodson might have used the space. This exercise would be complimented by the further research at the ASALH to find additional photographs depicting the interior during Dr. Woodson's occupancy of the house.

Cementitious Coating Testing:

The cementitious coating that was used as parging on the west elevation of the two-story addition and on the sides of the chimneys requires further investigation. It is recommended that this material undergo further analysis of physical makeup prior to treatment as the removal of different types of cement might require different treatment.