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Dining Room Restoration

Dining Room Ceiling Project 2015

This plaster ceiling, an engineering feat, is constructed from over 50 separate cast pieces, all radiating out from the center and installed seamlessly when the house was first built.

In 2015, this ceiling was stabilized and fully restored. Layers of paint (including the most recent polychrome layer painted in the 1990s, and a mid-20th century sky blue layer) were carefully removed to reveal traces of the original cream color. Experts carefully scraped seven layers of paint from around the raised flowers and vine details, making the original details more pronounced.

Plaster experts also replaced two water-damaged panels from around the ceiling's perimeter (one above the fireplace, and one above the door to the left of the sideboard). After replacing the panels, the restoration crew repaired cracks between panel seams and stabilized the ceiling with hidden screws before applying a paint that matches the original color.



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Dining Room Restoration

Paneling and Flooring Restoration 2016-2017

The next step for our restoration contractors was to repair and replace sections of water damaged elm paneling around the south facing door and window frames, as well as above the mantle. A few panels had to be replaced, but most of the originals were saved. Elm wood with a similar grain to the original was sourced, and new wall panels were crafted in the same method as the original, using a paper thin elm veneer over plywood.

Within the last forty years, the paneling and flooring had been refinished and the original stain colors altered. Referencing historic photographs and traces of original stain around door frames and floor vents, a color and finish close to the original was selected. After a color was selected, the crew used gentle sanding equipment to remove modern finish while preserving the original wood underneath. The image right shows the floor halfway through re-staining.



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