

Reddick mansion

1. The Reddick mansion association have the original carpenter specifications written by the architect S. Emsted & Nicholson January 1856. These specifications along with photographs are being used for restoration work.
2. The stone in the building is Joliet limestone brought from Joliet by barge on the Illinois Michigan canal.
3. The marble came from Italy and was worked on site by artisans probably from Italy.
4. The brick was probably formed and kilned in the yard around the house since clay was very plentiful locally. It is a soft sand brick - clay heavily filled with sand.
5. The house cost \$25,000 which is authenticated by records in Springfield which show that the Appellate court house across the street cost \$29,500. The court house was built in 1857.
6. All the wood in the house is soft white pine except for the walnut spindle and St. Domingo mahogany rail in the main stairs. The newel post was to be worth \$15.00, the banisters to be worth 31 cents each.
7. The brackets for the 4 foot cornice are cast iron made in 3 pieces and bolted to the walls.
8. All woodwork in main rooms was hand primed to look like hard wood. (Wood used was pine.)

9. The floor joists are on 12" centers; the attic joists on 16" centers; ceiling joists on 20" centers; and rafters 24" centers. Standard building construction today is all on 16" centers.

10. Outer walls and center or hall walls are brick about 12" thick.

11. Gutters were at least 5" deep. The leaders from gutters were galvanized iron running to two cisterns.

12. The old hand operated cistern pump is still in the boiler room.

13. Water was pumped to tank on top floor and gravity fed to basins in bedrooms thru lead pipe. Basins were drained thru lead pipe. We have found this pipe.

14. All windows in principal floors have inside shutters made to slide into walls.

15. The house was lighted by gas ceiling fixtures and gas wall fixtures. (Ottawa had gas works in 1848)

16. The carpenter specifications state that a separate specification was furnished for heating furnace. The single pipe steam radiators in use today were the ones used by Mr. Reddick.

17. There were 5 fireplaces on every floor level, so there were 5 chimneys on the roof.

18. Parlor and Chamber floor prepared for the mason

to deepen three inches deep. Also close to all windows & doors in partitions to block passage for rats & other vermin.

19. Lower half of window is longer than upper half in windows opening to the floor. They have boxed heads (board above lower part of window is loose) in order that the window may slide up behind the lintel (so lower or longer half of window may be opened to full height of upper window)

20. A moulding board about 6 feet off floor around all walls in NE room on third floor fitted with hooks. This was drying room for clothes, laundry done on ground floor and carried to third level for drying

21. By description of moulding in basement, we determine that south east room on ground level was a dining room. The main dining room was on first floor in NE corner.

22. Dumb Water ran from kitchen to dining room, so kitchen was in NE corner on ground floor. (never found)

23. Under specifications for closets, it states "fit up Bathroom by casing Bath tub, closet, wash bowls etc". We do not locate the bathroom, though it was probably in NW corner of second or bedroom floor.

24. There was a bell system. One at front door (worth \$5⁰⁰) one to each room on Parlor

story, one from each back door and one from each of the four principal Chambers 2nd story all made to ring in kitchen. One bell from principal Chamber to ring in servants room.
never found

25. There were speaking tubes from Dining Room to Kitchen and from main Chambers to Kitchen, & one in Hall of Chamber story. Speaking tubes concealed in walls and partitions.
never found.

26. A gross of hooks were to be used in the closet through out house.

27. The servants rooms were on the 3rd floor with 7 foot ceilings. - Basement story was 9 feet - Principal story 13 feet - Chamber story 12 feet.

28. There was a skylight in roof that admitted light down the open main stairway thru all levels down to the basement. Glass also covered opening in ceiling of chamber story stairway.

29. There was a back (or servants) stairs that started in the back hall (intersection of our present kitchen) and went up to the attic (crawl space under the roof.)