

26 Prospect Street

Wallpaper Samples

The duplex at 26-28 Prospect Street was constructed ca. 1870 as a rental property by Clark Bennett, a local insurance agent. There is no evidence that Bennett ever lived here yet the house was improved over the years by the application of various wallpapers. For some unknown reason, wallpaper is more prevalent in the north half of the house, 26 Prospect Street. The building has been unoccupied for at least twenty years and has been used to store plumbing and heating equipment. The space has been heated minimally and there is both mold and extreme peeling paint. The wallpaper which survives is in poor condition but still provides interesting documentation of changing tastes and fashions. Although the goal was to remove one foot square samples, in most areas the papers were either too brittle or moldy to obtain large pieces. The following wallpapers were photographed at 26 Prospect Street prior to the demolition of the building with samples (where available) given to the City.

First Floor, Front room



This geometric pattern of green, rose, taupe, and beige is found under later layers adjacent to the marble fireplace in the front (west) room at 26 Prospect Street. This was once the most formal room in the house and the wallpaper appears to have been applied directly to the plaster walls, suggesting it is early, if not original. It likely dates to the late 19th century.

Under Front Stairs

The walls under the front stairs retain a surprising number of wallpaper layers given that this was largely hidden from view, providing access to the basement. There are large areas of the following paper with border.



However, underneath this paper is also evidence of an earlier border (below).



First Floor

A later ca. 1950 paper is found in the first floor front hallway, illustrated by the latest mid century modern domestic architecture – examples of suburban Cape Cod and Ranch-style houses; a decidedly intriguing decorating choice for the interior of an urban, 19th century Italianate-style residence.



Visible in the photograph above, this “modern” paper was placed over a fussier, Victorian paper.



Yet other examples of wallpaper are found in the attic. These include twentieth century rose and ivy designs.



Underneath is evidence of an earlier paper (below) which is so fragile as to make removal impossible.

