

July 1,2020

In July 2011, the UWM Preservation Institute produced a Beulah Brinton House Preservation Institute Study Report. Page 52 references the room with the skylight, which the report refers to as a storage room.

In 2019 I toured the home with Beulah Brinton's great-great granddaughter, Ellen Tucker, who lived in the home with her parents during her childhood. This room was referred to as the "maid's room". Her recollection is that it was used to store chamber pots when the home did not have an indoor bathroom, only an outhouse. In the room is a stairway down to the kitchen which led to a back door to the outside for convenience.

The room is significant part of the tour and history of the home, and it is particularly intriguing to children for its small scale and rather hidden access to the kitchen.

In the room there is an antique marble sink with iron brackets which was connected to still visible old lead (not galvanized) plumbing pipes.

The old skylight opens for ventilation. It has a sturdy metal frame and "chicken wire" reinforced glass. The window and surround does not leak.

Subsequent to receiving the quote from Noffke Roofing, we discussed with Noffke the option of preserving it rather than replacing it with a newly built window. But if not, we feel it would still better reflect the character of the room to have a natural light source.

We are hopeful that the essence of this room can be maintained by preserving the skylight, as it is part of the home's history.

Joan Sliker

Member, roof replacement committee