

Architectural Elements~Interior



A notable feature in the interior of the school is a “jack chimney” (1) suspended from the roof, thus freeing up floor space for the classroom. The chimney, made of brick and plaster, is held in place by an iron carriage that runs along the edges of the chimney underneath and on each side that braces the chimney to the beams in the attic and cradles the brickwork of the chimney. This iron carriage is supported by the two timbers (2) that are then bolstered by an excellent truss system in the attic capable of distributing the 500-700 pound weight of the chimney. The final support system for the chimney is a king post (3) which is, in this case, an iron rod that further distributes the weight of the chimney.



The ventilation system in the school consists of four square doors in the ceiling – one close to each corner – which are connected to a pulley system in the attic. The ropes connected to each ventilation door, as well as that for the bell, are located on the back wall (4 & 5). This system would have allowed for airing out smoke from the stove or to create a breeze in the summertime in combination with opening the windows.



The plasterwork on the coved ceiling of the schoolhouse is original. The plaster was adhered using wood lath as the base to give the plaster something to grip to. After the lath was laid out, there would have been multiple layers of plaster placed over the lath to create a smooth surface. When looking at the plasterwork from the attic, the plaster “keys” (6) are created by plaster seeping through the lath. The keys are strong and have supported the plaster well, clearly the work of veteran plasterers.

