

NATE THE PRESERVATIONIST

Winter Break



ABOVE: Nate Michalak, Old West End Historic District, Toledo, Ohio. **BELLOW:** natural mahogany front door.

OLD WEST END HISTORIC DISTRICT: To find out more about the history and preservation of the Old West End Historic District in Toledo visit their website oldwestendtoledo.com/site/



Hi! It's me Nate. Now that winter is here we decided to take a little break from working on the house next door and spend some time working at our house. The last area we need to re-do (besides bedrooms) is the vestibule, front hall, and master staircase. It doesn't sound like a lot, but it will probably be a 2-year project before it is completely done.

We started with the woodwork first. The woodwork is a combination of painted and natural wood. We started by heat gunning the painted wood and stripping all of the natural woodwork. I haven't been able to help with any of this work since it involves chemical strippers and lead based paint. But it has been really cool to see it getting done. I didn't realize how much detail there was in the woodwork with all the layers of paint on it.

The staircase has been completely taken apart and the spindles (all 185 of them) were stripped and repainted. The vestibule and front doors are already finished. They are all natural mahogany and look awesome now that you can see the beautiful red burgundy color again. We also decided to change the ceiling in the vestibule. It used to be plaster, but my dad decided he wanted to have a coffered ceiling instead. We hired a man named Ernie Stobinski who does all kinds of wood restoration to design and install the ceiling. It looks incredible! We like it so much we may have him do something like it in the front hallway too but painted.

We have also been working at the same time on the upstairs hallway too. There used to be a linen closet upstairs that was turned into a closet for the bedroom behind it. We wanted to put the linen closet back so my grandpa built the drawers and frame. We will be moving the wood trim from around the door to the linen closet so it will look like it used to. I got to help with installing the framing and building the drawers at my grandpa's house. They are going to look great when they get stained and finished.

The rest of the work will need to be done by my dad. He will need to sand, prime, and paint all of the woodwork before we can have the natural woodwork finished. Once that is done we can install the wallpaper and finish the floors. Since I can't really do much to help, my grandpa and I may start working on remaking the columns for my house next door. I can't wait for the spring so we can start working over there again.

Nate Michalak :o)





ABOVE LEFT: Nate and his grandpa working on restoring their upstairs linen closet. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The completed cabinetry for the linen closet. **BELLOW:** Vestibule ceiling done by wood restorer and artisan Ernie Stobinski.

