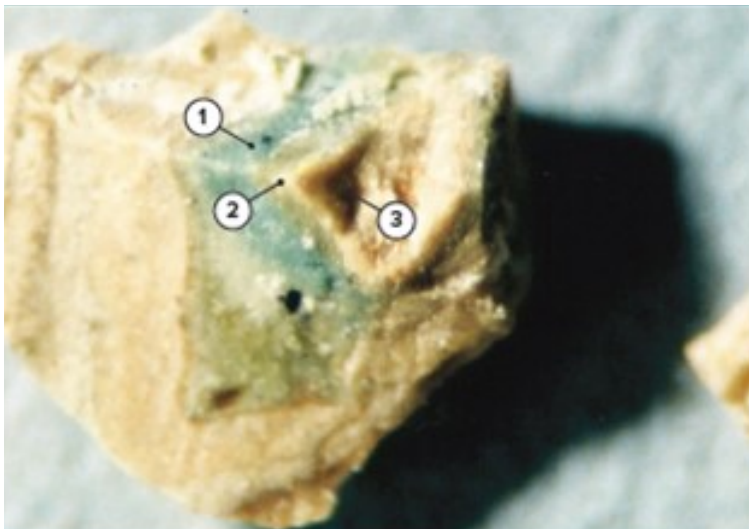


# IS THIS PAINT COLOR BASED ON THE ORIGINAL?

When the Met took the original woodwork, they also stripped all of the original paint from it. Fortunately, the Met missed taking the window sashes from the blacked-out window in this room. This window was covered over when the 1878 addition was built, and was not rediscovered until the 1970s during restoration.

An expert paint restorer collected paint samples to complete a rough layer-by-layer paint “history” through the use of chromochrology, the science of treating colors. The samples were microscopically examined to identify the layers of paint.

Analyzing the layers and chemical composition of the paint revealed the Prussian Blue seen today. The red-brown glaze on the chair rail, window sills, and doors is based on a mahogany effect popular during the 18th and 19th centuries. The colors seen throughout the buildings are based on paint analyses completed between 1975 and 2003.



1. Prussian Blue
2. Lead White
3. Wood Fragment

Photograph courtesy of Matthew Mosca