

August 29, 1916.

Mr. W. L. Priddie,
Beaumont Lumber Company,
Beaumont, Texas.

Dear Mr. Priddie:

Under separate cover I am sending you the tracings for the improvements of your house for you to look over.

I am going to have my chief draftsman, together with a heating engineer, come over to Beaumont, and go over the house for final measurements relating to heating, position of radiators, etc. They will spend Thursday in Beaumont.✓

I want you to examine, as carefully as you can, the nature of the revisions which we recommend on these drawings, to see if they meet with your approval. I am convinced that the alterations will result in bringing the house into a modest and attractive form.

You will note that I have decided that it would be advisable to shift the position of the entrance doorway to the large living room on the first floor so as to have on either side of it the two large windows, which would add to the apparent width of the room and also make the space around the fireplace more usable and more comfortable. This allows the entrance to be more symmetrically placed with regard to the front, and in general invites a better composition.

After the repairs have been made, I would like to know what it is your intention to do with regard to finishing the walls on the interior; that is to say, whether you desire to have them painted, or whether you have a preference for wall papers.

I also want to know whether you could afford to allow the taking of part of the space underneath the secondary stairway from the kitchen to the second floor, which space is now a preserve closet, for use as the first floor toilet, as this would give a much more commodious and desirable entrance from the porte cochere. The entrance is of course possible

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by still retaining the toilet underneath the main stairway, but it would be more attractive if the other solution could be chosen.

I would be glad to know what is your feeling with regard to the main roof of the house, as there will be a reasonable amount of addition to it when the tile is removed and the roof is extended over the sleeping porches, and when this is being done, if the present roof is unsatisfactory in its condition, we would be glad to know whether you wish to replace the entire roof with a new shingle roof or with another material. If the roof is in sound condition we do not deem this necessary, but we do deem it necessary that the entire roof, both new and old, should be stained to a pleasant and uniform coloring. If the present shingle roof is in a poor state of repair and you desire to replace it with another roof of shingles, I would place the shingles in a more attractive manner of coursing than occurs at present. I would prefer not to remove it unless its condition is such as in your opinion warrants its replacement.

I would also appreciate knowing from you your ideas as to ~~the~~ awarding the contract in connection with this matter, as we always feel that it is highly desirable to the owner to choose only men in whom he has complete confidence and whose work is capable, wherever repair work is involved. We used Mr. Wellman in this capacity on Mr. Wiess' house, and I imagine you are in a position to be thoroughly acquainted with the most capable men in your city. I should choose about two or three of the men in whom you have confidence and invite a figure on the repairs, when the drawings and specifications have been completed.

I would like to know, in this connection, whether it is your intention to supply directly the lumber required for the work and whether you desire this omitted from the contract for the repairs.

I would call your attention to the nature of the details suggested for the sun parlor and the sleeping porch above it. We have recently executed

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a rather similar sun parlor and sleeping porch the final appearance of which was exceedingly attractive, both from the interior and from the exterior, and if you can allow it to remain as we have designed it we feel that it would be very pleasant to you.

You will kindly question any points which are not quite clear to you with our Mr. Cato on his arrival and then we will finish the drawings and take the figures and I shall come over and be with you at the time the figures are received.

I should say we ought to allow five or six days for the contractors to figure, and it will take us about a like amount of time to complete the drawings after Mr. Cato's visit to Beaumont.

I would be glad to know whether you have any definite preference as to a heating contractor. Our own experience in Beaumont has been limited to the work of Mr. Eastman, and we would be glad to have your expression as to whether it is your desire that he should do this work or whether we should have the work done by a Houston engineer in whom we have more complete confidence, ~~and whom~~ It has always been our practice, where heating work was installed in connection with the repair of residences, to recommend to the owner a contractor whose thoroughness and permanence of workmanship are such as to interfere with the use of the premises in the very least possible manner during the progress of such work, knowing that the results so obtained were always for the best interests of the owner.

Very truly yours,

ENDRESS & WATKIN,

By Wm. Ward Watkin