

562 PROSPECT S.E.

Hosts: Cait and Justin Wisniewski

This impressive Georgian Revival home makes quite a statement, with two-story bay windows on either corner of the symmetrical architecture. The exterior is clapboard which had to be bent to curve around the bays. Wide steps lead to a broad porch where the grand entrance includes two large side-light windows. Continuing the detail on the center of the facade, a decorative rounded window is on the second story and a prominent dormer with diamond-patterned mullions extends out from the roof.

The house was built in 1895 and was first owned by the Hayes family and then passed to F. Wells Bedford, the Deputy City Comptroller, and his wife, Elizabeth. In the 1930s, it was sold to Edwin M. Smith, a physician, who lived there with his wife Ivaleen for over 20 years. In 1968, Samuel Spicer Jr. who owned "Spicer's Union 76" purchased the home and lived there for several decades. A series of short term owners followed until Cait and Justin purchased the home two years ago. The house has been undergoing extensive renovation ever since, with some work still in progress. Imagine living with three children, including two very little ones, in the middle of a construction zone for two years - Cait and Justin deserve a huge THANK YOU for working so hard to get their home ready for the Tour.

MAIN FLOOR:

Tile work in the vestibule containing the house numbers welcomes you into the home. An open central stairway invites you into the foyer as you enter. A closet has replaced a pass-through to the kitchen that was just to the right of the stairs. All of the oak floors have recently been refinished and many missing trim pieces and doors have been replaced. In the process of revitalizing their home, the owners have artfully balanced the original character and era of the house with the needs and tastes of contemporary times.

The living room has a bay window and a lovely tiled fireplace, The parlor, with oak pocket doors on two sides and the other bay window, is being used as an office. Walls were taken down so that the dining room flows beautifully into the totally remodeled kitchen - all new appliances, cupboards and flooring. A chimney was removed from the kitchen as was a wall to a covered porch, enlarging the space. The bathroom off of the kitchen has been elegantly redone. The tile is new but the owners chose a style that fit with the era of the house. To the right of the kitchen is the door to the 1930s era attached garage - a rarity in Heritage Hill.

SECOND FLOOR:

The upper floor has seen extensive renovation. The front two rooms have the continuation of the downstairs bay windows. To the right is the principal bedroom with exposed chimney brick as a design element and a walk-in closet illuminated by a rounded window. Just down the hallway is a convenient second floor laundry and a grand master bathroom with a clawfoot tub set into the bay window alcove. To the left front is the baby's room. Next to it is a large children's bedroom with new built-in storage and a pass-through to a Jack-and-Jill bathroom that is shared by a bedroom near the back of the house. The bathroom has a dramatic Italian tile star pattern. A tall window at the top of the stairs provides a bird's-eye view of the back yard. A second stairway leads down to the kitchen.