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Victorian-era rowhouse

21 Eagle Street

The heart of the Corn Hill Historic District offers a seemingly endless number of unique architectural gems that are unlike anything else you might see in Rochester. The character and craftsmanship that has been lovingly preserved through the generations is often augmented by the thoughtful personal design touches of residents over the years, offering modern day living in a historic setting.

The house at 21 Eagle Street is a perfect example of history and modernity combined. This timeless brick Victorian-era building shines just as bright as the day it was built in 1873 and, at first glance, appears to be a single-family home. However, this home has a secret: it is split down the middle into two rowhouses with mirrored floor plans.

A small enclosed entranceway on the north side opens into an attractive dining room with exposed brick that is complemented by salvaged wood paneling. Immaculate, original oak hardwood floors cover the entire first floor.

The original long, narrow windows highlight the adjacent parlor area, which is accessible through a set of dramatic oak doors. Discretion can be maintained by closing the original wooden shutters, which work as well as the day they were installed. Spend any time in this room and your eyes are naturally drawn upward to a sparkling chandelier that sprouts from an ornate ceiling medallion.

On the other side of the house is a completely redesigned, modern kitchen. The custom mahogany cabinetry features more salvaged wood that blends nicely with metal pendant lights (also salvaged!), granite

countertops, and stainless-steel appliances. A half-bath and first-floor laundry area are located behind this fantastic kitchen.

Even the staircase to the second floor reflects the theme of historic salvage with a unique brass handrail. Those incredible oak hardwoods wind their way up to the second floor as well.

At the top of the stairs, behind a French door, is the entrance to the renovated full bath. This room features beautiful tiled floors and a large stand-up shower wrapped in high-end white tile. The two bedrooms are a short walk down a quaint hallway, accessible through a small communal area.

Another unique bedroom is accessed separately, from the first-floor kitchen area—a set of narrow stairs leads up to a self-contained area at the back of the house. Part of this space was also skillfully adapted into a full bathroom, creating an ideal space for overnight guests.

The backyard is cozy and relaxing, with a thoughtful landscape design that provides a peaceful sitting area behind a high privacy fence. There is also the perk of a one-car garage.

21 Eagle Street offers approximately 1,876 square feet of living space and is listed at \$219,900. It is listed by Richard Sarkis (585-455-4504) and Michael Faucher (585-317-3801) of Howard Hanna.

by Peter Smith

Peter Smith lives and works in Rochester and is a Landmark Society volunteer.