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Life is better with a porch

261 Ravenwood Avenue

The deep front porch anchored by square tapered columns at 261 Ravenwood Avenue welcomes friends and neighbors alike, while its generous roof overhang and wide-plank railing offer a bit of seclusion from which to watch summer unfold or rain fall on this tree lined street in the heart of the 19th Ward.

The glass paned front door leads from the porch directly into the central and cozy living room. The warmth of the skinny oak flooring pairs well with the dark stained trim, massive crown molding, and high ceiling. These features continue into the formal dining room and reveal the true character of this 1920 colonial, boasting 1,557 square feet. Aside from a couple of newer sliding windows in the kitchen and sleeping porch, the original double hung and fixed wood windows have stood the test of time, some with weighted pulleys still intact. Red paint in the small kitchen off the living room catches the eye. The connecting butler's pantry provides supplemental cabinetry and leads to the dining room and an enclosed porch with backyard access.

Adjacent to the living room, the partially open staircase is the architectural highlight of the home, featuring a large square newel post complemented by square balusters, and leads to the bathroom and three bedrooms upstairs. Pine floors, wooden panel doors, brass hardware, and mainly unpainted trim are charming touches. The sleeping porch is accessed through a back bedroom, while the master, located up front, extends the full house width and has a staircase

to the partially finished attic. Renovate the bathroom? Maybe, but the clawfoot tub and wooden medicine cabinet could be incorporated into the design.

The basement houses the utilities, workbench, laundry chute, sewer connections for a potential second full bath, and separate stairs for egress to the partially fenced backyard that is ripe with potential. The detached single car garage is extra wide, albeit in need of a door.

Close to parks, universities, and highways, this house is ideal for a handy first-time homeowner. With a thorough cleaning, fresh paint, and some TLC in the kitchen and bath, you will feel the pride for this house that your new neighbors feel for theirs. Though the beauty of the 19th Ward emanates not just from the variety of historic houses, but also from the character of its residents, who together form one of the city's most active community associations through which they support neighbors in need, organize yearly events, and direct the development and rehabilitation of this culturally and economically diverse southwesterly neighborhood. If you too want to live by the Ward's motto, 'Urban by Choice', contact Gary Thompson of Hunt Real Estate at 585-672-1660 for a showing of this listing offered at \$73,200.

by Jason Salter

Jason is a Landmark Society member and lives with his family in Swillburg.