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Handsome Harvard Street Hideaway

809 Harvard Street

The ABC Streets Neighborhood at the eastern end of Park Avenue is a secluded enclave of early 20th century homes on smaller denser lots with grocery stores, boutique shops, and Cobbs Hills Park all within walking distance. Harvard Street, which parallels the former Erie Canal bed, was once the site of the unique half-mile long horse racetrack known as the Rochester Speedway from 1903 to 1906. The straightaway stretched from Culver Road east into the Village of Brighton, until it was rapidly redeveloped into residential lots beginning in 1907. It was around 1913, when widow Sarah Bradstreet and her two daughters built this refined Colonial Revival residence as their new home.

A brick pathway leads to the formal entry porch with its arched hood, built-in benches and trelliswork that set the stage for the interior beyond. A multi-paned wood and glass front door leads to the foyer with its classically inspired staircase, plentiful molding, and hardwood floors that carry throughout the house. A broad opening to your left leads to the living room, which is enhanced by a projected window bay, broad Roman-brick wood-burning fireplace, and French doors that lead to a porch now enclosed as a cozy sunroom with a classic quarry tile floor. Through another broad opening, the dining room is filled with light from a window bay and one of the many original windows. A large original butler's pantry at the rear of the house connects the dining room to the kitchen

with its plentiful counter space. The kitchen provides access to the foyer with a small coat closet and to the basement.

The central hall of the second floor and the stair landing are lit by an intricate stained glass window. There are three bedrooms and a large shared bathroom that retains its original clawfoot tub. All of the bedrooms have generous closets, some lit by small windows, striking dark two-paneled doors with original hardware, and gleaming hardwood floors. The large sleeping porch overlooking the terraced backyard is shared by two of the bedrooms. An enclosed stair leads to the partially finished attic with a fourth bedroom. The basement is well-lit and features recently updated mechanicals, including air-conditioning. A large brick rear patio and detached two car garage complete the property.

This 1,963 square foot home exudes understated elegance and possesses the design hallmarks of an architect. Its charm and irreplaceable original features have largely been retained and maintained. Contact realtor Carmen Lonardo with RE/MAX Realty Group at 585-233-4119 for more information and make it your home for \$199,900.

by Christopher Brandt
Christopher is a longtime Landmark Society volunteer and blogs about his own historic home at www.myperfectlittlemoney.com.