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Grandiose Gothic Revival

149 South Fitzhugh Street

You know the house: It's the one that makes you stop and stare as you stroll down South Fitzhugh during the Corn Hill Festival.

Described by The Landmark Society as "the Third Ward's only formal city house in the Gothic Revival style," 149 S. Fitzhugh makes a dramatic statement along this narrow, winding street. And does it have stories to tell . . .

Abelard Reynolds, of Reynolds Arcade fame, built it c. 1870. The brick exterior with its tall arched windows speaks of affluence and style, a lifestyle it enjoyed for many decades. But as the neighborhood suffered a decline, so too did #149. It was home to as many as eight units for a time, and then abandoned in the 1960s. A heroic restoration began in the 1970s. It was zoned as a three-family property, which remains in effect today, though the current owners use it as a single family home.

Dramatic front doors lead to a grand foyer where a curving maple staircase takes center stage, illuminated by a large stained glass window. To the left of the foyer is the first of two parlors brightly lit by floor-to-ceiling windows, chandeliers set in elaborate plaster medallions, and fireplace with a handsome surround. A giant pocket door leads to the second parlor. Both parlors boast 10-foot ceilings, crown molding and 15-inch floor molding.

Across the hall is the formal dining room, connected to a contemporary kitchen with delightful nods to the past, especially the 1970s laminate countertops in vintage

chartreuse. A sunroom awaits beyond, and what happens next is another surprise: an enclosed breezeway—with the home's brick exterior on one long wall and windows on the other—leads to perhaps the longest attached garage in Corn Hill, or the world, with room for two cars plus storage, opening up to the driveway and service alley. The other end of the garage opens on to South Fitzhugh. Cool, huh?

The yard is almost a quarter acre, fully fenced and very private. Remnants of the original carriage house foundation now make up pathways and seating areas. Mature plantings and raised organic garden share the yard with playground equipment and concrete picnic table.

Many of the five bedrooms are huge, as are the 3.5 baths. Small kitchens remain in the rental units. Even rooms once designated as maids quarters and 1870s service kitchen enjoy large windows, original hardware, tall ceilings and wonderful old growth pine floors.

The story of 149 S. Fitzhugh St. is told in a binder full of historic photos and newspaper clippings for the new owners to enjoy, preserve, and add to. Micheal Faucher of Nothnagle Realtors is the listing agent, 585-314-3801. The 4,022 square foot property is listed for \$289,900.

by Elizabeth Teall

Elizabeth is a Landmark Society volunteer.