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The Kindly King of Kirkland

181 Kirkland Road

The 19th Ward is our city's largest and most culturally diverse neighborhood, and is largely defined by its plentiful early twentieth century housing stock lining its many streets. Kirkland Road's relatively short four-block length is crowned at its western end by two complementary Colonial Revival style homes standing across from one another. Warren Huther, who lived just around the corner on Wellington Avenue, hired architect Frederick Brockett to design the two homes at 181 and 186 Kirkland around 1914. Soon after, Mary Kirk and her four adult children moved into their new home, which her eldest daughter would retain until 1960.

The symmetrical street facade is a feast for the eyes with its broad front porch, intricate trelliswork, and arched attic window. A concrete walk to either side leads to the front and rear doors. The formal front door with its sidelights and transom beneath an elliptical hood hints at the detail found within. The formal vestibule beyond has a mosaic penny tile floor and leads to the central foyer with its grand open staircase and modern half-bath. Through a broad opening to the right is the large light-filled living room with its matching pairs of French doors to the front porch, the wood burning brick fireplace flanked by built-in bookcases and arched windows, oversized stained oak moldings that carry throughout the home, and original brass light fixtures. To the left of the foyer is the dining room with French doors to the rear porch, oak paneled window bay, door to the original butler's pantry,

and oak floors that also carry throughout. The kitchen is largely open with traditional scored plaster walls, access to the rear porch, basement stair, and rear entry door.

An elegant Palladian window lights the landing to the second floor, which features four generous bedrooms each with multiple windows, more original brass light fixtures, unpainted oak woodwork, and closets. A large sleeping porch is shared by two of the bedrooms and is the third exterior space of the home. The built-in linen closet, shared bathroom with its original fixtures, and stair to the attic round out the second floor.

The walk-up attic is well lit and partially finished with a small bedroom and cedar closet. The basement is open and has updated mechanicals. This elegant 1,784 square foot diamond in the rough has retained the majority of its irreplaceable original features, from its countless wood windows to its unpainted oak woodwork. It will require a thoughtful touch to harness its potential and polish it to a shine. Contact realtor Nils W. Miner with Howard Hanna Real Estate Services at 585-267-6032 for more information and make it your home for \$49,900.

by Christopher Brandt
Christopher is a member of the Young Urban Preservationists and blogs about his own historic home at www.myperfectlittlemoneypit.com.