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Positively pleasant pre-war Foursquare

287 Mount Vernon Avenue

Nestled between the South Wedge and Swillburg, the Highland Park Neighborhood offers a wide array of older home choices, from late 19th century cottages to larger houses in romantic revival styles from the 1920s. From nearly every house you are within walking distance to restaurants and businesses along South and South Clinton Avenues, and the inspiring beauty of Highland Park. Once part of the sprawling nursery of Ellwanger and Barry, in the 1880s the company began to redevelop their land around Mount Vernon Avenue. In 1908, a mail carrier, C. Bertram Mann and his wife Mildred Merrill, purchased their first house, this modest American Foursquare with a broad front porch and a deep backyard. They would call 287 Mt. Vernon home until the 1950s.

Proceeding up the porch steps to the front door of this classic Foursquare, with simple Colonial Revival details, the paneled wood door gives way to an interior filled with glowing chestnut woodwork that has been unharmed by paint. The entry hall has a coat closet, partially open staircase to the second floor, and the first of several different quarter-sawn oak parquet floors. Turning right through the paneled wood colonnade, the cozy living room looks out over the porch through one of the many original double-hung windows found throughout the house. A pair of pocket doors leads to the dining room lit by a broad window bay with views of the park-like backyard; a former doorway to the

pantry convincingly disguises itself as a built-in bookshelf. A distinguished herringbone parquet floor in both rooms adds a sense of formality. The kitchen fills the final quadrant of the “foursquare” and has ample storage in its c.1950s cabinetry. It is enhanced by an original pantry and rear entry porch that project beyond the back wall of the house.

An elaborately detailed parquet floor causes you to take pause at the stair landing before reaching the central upstairs hall, off of which there are three bedrooms, an office, and a shared bathroom. All of the bedrooms feature glowing pine floors, closets, and the whimsical wall grates of the central heating and cooling system. The office has the fourth and final parquet floor. The walk-up attic is open to possibility, and its floor has been insulated. The basement accessed from the kitchen and side-entry is open and has the house's mechanicals, laundry, and a convenient half-bath.

The very deep backyard and detached three-car garage complete the property. This 1,452 square foot cozy abode is ready to be your home. Contact Rome Celli with RE/MAX Realty Group at 585-756-7425 and make it yours for \$174,900.

by Christopher Brandt

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