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Grand and gracious overlooking the gorge

1043 St. Paul Street

From 1890-1920, Rochester experienced explosive population growth, expansion, and the development of many industries. The city continued a series of annexations, including large sections of the then rural Town of Irondequoit and the former industrial Village of Carthage to its north. Near the intersection of Clifford Avenue and St. Paul Street, within walking distance of the new factories of Bausch and Lomb and a short streetcar ride to several others, several leaders of these companies built the opulent homes that make up the unique enclave known as Huntington Park. Out of the fifty homes that comprise this neighborhood, a queen reigns as one of the fairest of them all.

Built in 1890 for William S. Hale, an English immigrant and successful furrier, this quintessential Queen Anne style home with its medina sandstone foundation, Flemish brick walls, and elaborate gable millwork presides over its large corner lot overlooking the Genesee River. The ornate front door sheltered by the front porch gives way to an entry foyer that will take your breath away, with a grand staircase outfitted in oak paneling, carved newel posts, and stained glass windows ascending all the way to the third floor, elaborate double-mantel fireplace, oversized pocket doors, and gleaming oak floors with a broad mahogany inlay. These resplendent details carry throughout the first floor, including the large formal dining room directly ahead enhanced by four of the home's many oversized quarter-sawn oak windows and an ornate plaster ceiling. The light-filled parlors to the

left of the foyer also feature ornate plaster ceilings and an intricately detailed slate fireplace. The large kitchen to the rear of the house has newer cabinetry but retains its original chestnut paneling, tin ceiling, unique curved cupboard, two butler's pantries and maid's stair. A large side porch, entry hall, and powder room round out the first floor.

The second floor of the grand foyer is filled with light from original French doors to the roof of the front porch, and provides access to the four large bedrooms, walk-in linen closet, and the shared bathroom with its original wood paneling. All of the bedrooms feature large closets, bay windows, and parquet oak floors, with the master enhanced by a fireplace.

The third floor has three additional bedrooms, one with a private porch, and a large storage room reached by either staircase. The basement is large, dry, and abnormally tall, has original brick floors and updated mechanicals. A detached whimsical three-car garage built in the 1910s at the rear of the lot completes the property. This 4,067 square foot historic manse has been impeccably maintained, and was available at \$175,000 for only 24 hours before it sold. Contact realtor Nathan Wenzel of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services at 585-746-1117 for more information.

by Christopher Brandt

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