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Regal Rowhouse

157 South Fitzhugh Street

One of the most unique houses in Corn Hill, and indeed in the city of Rochester, is the tall, narrow brick house at 157 South Fitzhugh Street. The residence matches its neighbor at 159 and a one-time third residence at 155, now an empty lot and part of this property. Similar in design to the rowhouses of larger cities in the northeast, this house is an example of late 19th century High Victorian Gothic. Just three bays wide, yet three stories high, the house has a projecting pavilion with Gothic detailing on the window below a steeply-pitched roof, carved stone lintels, wrought iron railings off several windows, as well as an iron cresting on the pavilion roof. All three houses were built c.1875 by Ebenezer Sill, owner of the Sill Stove Company.

The front entrance is accessed by metal steps that were salvaged from the original Eastman Building of RIT, which had its home in the old Third Ward before moving to its Henrietta campus in 1968. Another recycled item visible from the street is the wrought iron fence, originally from Mt. Hope Cemetery and now fronting the lawn area. Inside, the "tall" continues with high ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, and three long staircases that lead to the second and third floors as well as the basement. Much of the house's historic fabric remains including wood floors, moldings, and stone fireplaces in the front parlor and dining rooms. A gas-fired stove warms the

parlor. The owners recently renovated the kitchen with new floors, cabinets, granite counters, and hanging fixtures recycled from a Rochester city school. Beyond the kitchen is a sitting room with a round window that overlooks a Japanese-style garden with a fish pond and falls, also added by the owner.

The second and third floors contain a total of five bedrooms, two full baths, a small kitchenette on the third floor, and the laundry area. Two small ells off the front bedrooms on each floor are potential dressing rooms or nurseries. The full basement contains a sitting room, storage area for bicycles, a room for exercise machines, an area with a wet bar, and, finally, a home theatre with two rows of plush seating. Outside is a separate garage with a loft above, which is accessed from a rear alley, and a pleasant stone terrace, lawn and garden area.

The Corn Hill Historic District is the oldest city residential district on the west side of the Genesee River and home to a congenial and diverse community committed to the stewardship of its historic neighborhood. With close to 4,000 square feet, this spacious property is offered at \$399,900. Contact Richard Sarkis of Nothnagle Realtors at 585-455-4504.

by Ann Parks

Ann is a Landmark Society volunteer.