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Brick Beechwood Beauty

1315 Culver Road

Since its very beginning in the early twentieth century, spurred by the annexation of new land from the town of Irondequoit and the expansion of the streetcar system, Beechwood has remained a diverse neighborhood filled with modest well-built houses on tree lined streets.

In 1914 Daniel Verwey and his wife, Bertie, bought a lot along Culver Road and began construction on their stately brick Foursquare home. Daniel was a mason by trade and likely laid the brick and stone of the house, carriage house, and unique landscape features himself. In 1930 Daniel sold his house to its infamous second owner, Pasquale Amico. Patsy was allegedly the head of the Rochester mafia from the 1920s-1940s. During this time he had many brushes with the law including operating a speakeasy at 55 South Avenue, bootlegging, and being a prime suspect in two murder cases of possible business associates.

From the street, the elegant rubble stone walls and planter piers frame your approach to the broad proportions of the all-brick exterior of the home. A full width front porch with massive brick columns provides cover to the substantial oak and glass paneled front door. Passing through the tiled vestibule with leaded glass sidelights, the grand interior impresses with original hand stenciled wall fabric, gleaming oversized oak trim and floors, and large double-hung windows lighting every room. The main stair wraps up overhead in the hall with a convenient powder room to the side and a stained glass window at the landing. Through a grand arch the living room features leaded glass built-in bookcases

flanking a broad brick hearth and oversized window bay. A wood colonnade gives way to the formal dining room with a beamed ceiling, faux-bois stone walls, and window bay. A separate breakfast room has a unique free-standing safe sold by the H. H. Warner Company in the 1880s. The kitchen has plentiful newer modern cabinetry and provides access to the butler's pantry, basement stair, and rear porch.

The second floor has three large bedrooms and a period shared bathroom arranged around a central hall with linen closet. All bedrooms are outfitted with original light fixtures and good sized closets. The master bedroom has an enormous full-width private rear porch great for a breezy summer afternoon.

The attic was originally finished with two additional bedrooms and separate storage areas. The basement is large with new mechanicals, several storage areas, a root cellar, and a finished room with a utilitarian fireplace. The carriage house is three bays wide with a rear carriage door, front automobile door, and walk-up loft.

This remarkable and intact home, with 3,050 square feet, is listed at \$149,900. Contact James Blaine of Nothnagle Realtors at 585-794-8991 to make this unique piece of Rochester history yours.

by Christopher Brandt

Christopher is a longtime Landmark Society volunteer and blogs about his own historic home at www.myp perfect little money pit.com.