

319 Spruce St. (c1908)



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Bungalow

c. 1908

This bungalow with neoclassical details was built for R.M. Walter and Lillian Heidbreder in 1908. Its construction used "Quincy Dimension (or Quincy bed) Stone, known around the country and valued for its special roughness and its ability to be cut into irregular shapes. Few stone cutters today can hand drill the rock from its base and cut it freestyle. Thus, this house is irreplaceable.

- Two shapes of stone are used:
 1. A straight dimension or rectangular cut comprises the 30-inch thick foundation.
 2. The 18-inch thick upper section is made of free-style stone, much more difficult to cut.
- This vernacular structure is found on the east-west streets in the Quincy Historic District:

Vernacular architecture is an architectural style that is designed based on local needs, availability of construction materials and reflecting local traditions. At least originally, vernacular architecture did not use formally-schooled architects, but relied on the design skills and tradition of local builders.

- Greek Revival columns adorn the front porch as well as a lathe-turned balustrade. The steep hip roof has 3 gables with broken pediments.
- Prior owners stripped the interior cypress woodwork and refinished the oak trim and foyer columns. Additionally, they renovated the kitchen, keeping both the original kitchen and pantry.
- Present owners have redone the bath in keeping with the style of the house, with tin ceiling, subway tile and repurposed antiques. The kitchen is next to be renovated.
- Of note are the chandeliers in living and dining rooms, decorated with colored chariots, a possible tribute to the movie "Ben Hur".