



Albert W. Wells
335 South 16th
c. 1884
Vernacular
architect unknown

owners - Lee and Kathy Dancer

This home was constructed around 1884 for Mr. Albert W. Wells. He was a partner in the firm of Emmons and Wells. They were prominent lawyers and the firm was located at 17 North Fifth Street. Mr. Wells and his wife Amanda lived at 335 South 16th and until his death the home was a single family dwelling. In 1903, it was turned into two apartments and went through various stages of single and multiple housing. The present owners have converted it back to a single family home. A stairway in the middle of the home was hidden and the present owners found it after they purchased the house. Consequently, they opened it up.

The original exterior was thought to be brick and has since been sided. The two and a half story home has a front facing gable with cross gables and unusual detailing at the corners of the gables. The home has some Italianate features such as the full facade porch with brackets. There are other typical Italianate details like large solid brackets supporting the roof structure over the south elevation, and small brackets decorating the enclosed porch at the southeast corner of the house. The sleeping porch on the east side is only a second floor structure. Most of the windows on the premise are four over four double hung.

Originally there was a double door entrance. When it was made into apartments, a different style of doors was installed and a wall was added to separate the upstairs from the downstairs. The first floor parlor has the original fireplace slate mantle with surround and a cast iron coal burning insert. The floor to ceiling windows in the living room are an easy access to the porch. During this time period they would be raised so that the front porch became part of the parlor for entertaining. The same type of window is used in the dining room. The kitchen was modernized by the previous owners. The floor in the upstairs kitchen is the original hard maple and present owners make use of this room as an exercise room. The second story sleeping porch is off of the kitchen. A unique feature in the upstairs bath is the terrazzo marble. The front master bedroom has a turn of the century mantle with fluted columns and Corinthian caps accenting the fireplace. The floors in the upstairs bedrooms are quarter sawn oak.