

613 Broadway



Year Built:

c. 1872

Name of House:

Robert W. Gardner

Style:

Second Empire & Italianate

architect:

unknown

Current Owners:

Klingner & Associates

This house was constructed in the 1870's for Robert W. Gardner. He had a patent for a steam governor and later for an air compressor. He founded the Gardner Company and by 1888 the company gained notoriety. This was one of 18 Italianate mansions built along Broadway.

The house is generally eclectic in character but the ten room mansion closely appears French Second Empire in style with high windows, central tower, and circular windows protruding from the roof. However, Italian Villa features can be found in the wide eaves, round arched windows on the sides and the rear of the house, the grouping of windows in threes, and the general shape of the tower and eave brackets.

The exterior walls are four bricks thick with plaster applied directly to the innermost wall. Window lintels are stone on the south wall and brick, in a semi-arched pattern on the other walls. Wood is used sparingly, except for the porch, decorative brackets and the windows. The steps to the entry are the original carved stone bordered by cast iron rails with brass ball finials. The carved doors are also original and the geometric patterns are found repeated throughout the house.

The perfectly restored foundation reveals a large steam pipe protruding from one of the walls. Reportedly, this pipe was a part of a central heating system that once served not only the Gardner House but also the two houses immediately east, as well as the house immediately west.

The main hall has parlors on either side and features an interesting walnut staircase with a neo-Grec bust carved in the newel. The circular carvings present on the side of the banister suggest an Eastlake influence. The east parlor features a cherry mantel and a door on the east wall has a leaded glass window. Immediately north of this room is the dining room. The northern most room was the kitchen. All of the interior woodwork is original and has been refinished.

The upstairs consists of a major hall, four rooms in the main section of the house and three in the north wing. The rooms in the north wing have white porcelain door knobs while the hardware on the doors of the main wing are of brass. The two major rooms to the east include fireplaces with mantels. A "G" is carved on the mantels which are of butternut. The large eastern room contains a fireplace but the mantel is missing.

The Klinger firm used this house as their offices until moving into their present offices in 1997.

