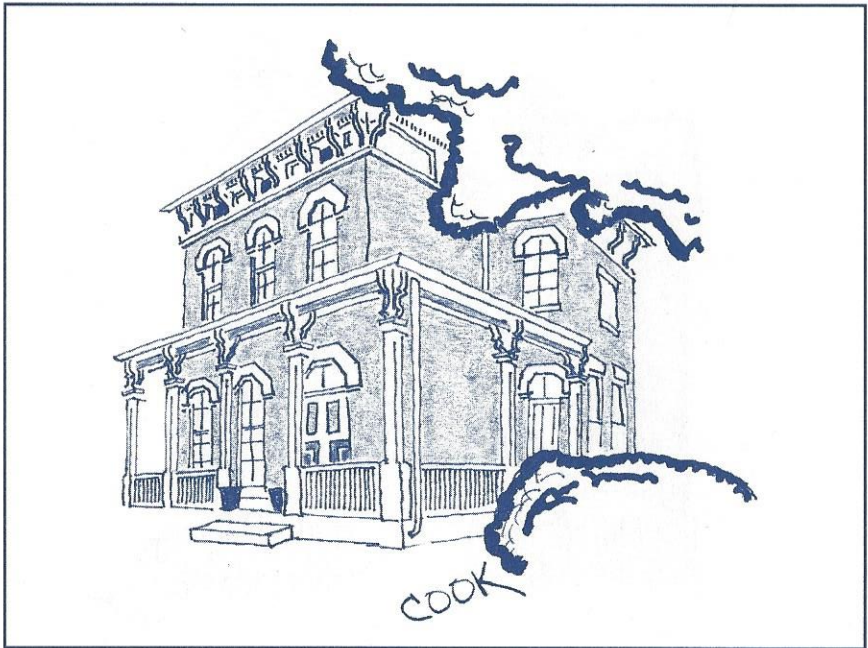




William Larkworthy Rental House
531 Lind • 1872 • Larkworthy & Burge, builder • Italianate Style

This house's Italianate style was created by applying decorative bracketing, stone window hoods, and finely tooled lintels to a simple brick box, or so it appears from the front. But the plan is surprisingly large. Cruciform in outline, it embraces a full two-story rear wing; the period norm for simple Italianate houses was a one-story kitchen wing.

Like many of its Greek Revival predecessors, the front door opens to a sidehall and staircase which is lit during the day by a transom window. The dentiled frieze that encircles the house beneath the roof is also a carryover from Greek Revival. By contrast, the front windows are entirely up-to-date. Extending to the floor, they do away with neat classical proportions in order to bring more light into the main living spaces.

A shallow attic story, well articulated from the outside, crowns the house. Surprisingly, the attic achieves enough height near the peak of the hipped roof to allow the recent creation of a family room.

The house is one of a number of similar rental and spec houses erected by pre-eminent builders Larkworthy and Burge when Larkworthy moved into the neighborhood. His own house was located near the corner of Lind and N. 5th Street, where Grace Methodist Church now stands. Thirteen years after the house was erected, Larkworthy moved into new quarters on the corner of Lind and N. 6th, just to the east of 531.

Current owners: Michael and Sandy Austin

Behind Closed Doors
October 17, 1992