



Walter and Rose Heidbreder House
2332 York—1919
George Behrensmeyer, architect

Nearly everything George Behrensmeyer designed has an air of monumentality about it, and his house for the Heidbreder is no exception. The tapestry brick walls are periodically stepped out into piers suggesting buttresses, and massive belts of limestone wrap around the piers. Even the conspicuously ornamental features of the design suggest massiveness and weight: though the entry is only set within a shallow recess, it is flanked by stone columns and headed by a heavy stone lintel. The arched entry canopy is as thick as the main roof, and the chief surface decoration is a scattering of uncarved blocks of stone set into the brick face like medallions.

The solid, immutable feel of the design was a perfect professional fit for Walter Heidbreder, for his job as cashier at State Street Bank and Trust demanded just such qualities. But the building also responds to its large lot by making a number of dramatic gestures towards its surroundings. Broad overhangs jut out from the roofs; these are particularly noticeable around the living porch to the east. The rear is graced with a decorative pergola-like wood sunscreen above the first story windows, which is a perfect foil for the broadly glazed sleeping porch above.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
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