

From the Owners

Our Neighborhood:

24 Parker is a wonderful place that we've been grateful to call our home. Our tree-lined street with common setbacks is one of the prettiest in town. The Parker Street neighborhood is a warm welcoming place where everyone knows one another, and neighborhood children run freely between homes. The annual block party, Fourth of July parties, and holiday open houses keep this tight neighborhood together. We are *the* street to visit on Halloween when it seems like the whole town shows up to trick or treat. When you move in you'll be welcomed via the neighborhood email list--a wonderful resource and way to stay in touch with each other. You can get as involved as you like in this community, and our neighbors are close but respectful of privacy.

The Home:

24 Parker is part of Lexington history and is historically significant although not recognized as a historical home. This is important because you can freely change the exterior. The porch spandrels are called out as some of the few remaining in town from the era, and the pitch of the porch floor is purposefully angling away from the structure. The home was built as part of a development effort in the late 1800's designed for Lexington bankers and other professionals. When you move in, the Historical Society will send you a write up on our street's fascinating history covering both prosperity and despair. Throughout its storied past, our home has served the town's professionals and rumor has it, stepped up during troubled times to become a boarding house for retirees.

When we bought the home 11 years ago we could see the beautiful bones and couldn't wait to move in. Through the years, as we've updated things, we tried to respect the period of the home. As an example, in the living room, we added a gas-powered fireplace inside the coal-burning firebox graced by woodwork & mantel original to the home. The tiled hearth is unique to the period and is considered rare so we left it as is. The formal stairway is also original to the home and blends wonderfully with the woodwork of the parlor. Light fixtures throughout the home respect the period and are a whimsical reference to the time.

In other areas, such as bathrooms and kitchen, you'll see careful attention to modern convenience. We've redone or refinished the floors on every level and have replaced wallpaper with plastered, painted walls. The basement is dry, and the third floor enjoys soundproofed bamboo flooring which you'll thank us for when it is crowded with children and their music. The third floor is well heated from the rest of the house, and we are in the process of installing electric baseboard units.

The many rooms on the second and third floor have served us well. Above the Jack and Jill stairs by the kitchen, we've used the bedroom, sitting room, and bathroom as an in-law suite enjoying extended grandparent visits. The third floor is perfect for kids as they head into their teen years and need their own space, while the bedrooms on the second floor kept them close when they were young. The master bedroom is far away from the hustle of the home and a nice retreat. Our conversion of an extra-bedroom into a closet was an indulgence that helps this grand dame of a home support a modern lifestyle. It can easily be converted back into a bedroom if need be.

Beyond the interior, we have also taken good care of the infrastructure of the home. We upgraded the electrical to 200 amps shortly after we arrived, reinforced the substructure of the house, and last year replaced the roof, skylights, and gutters. The home also has a central vacuum system and is wired to Verizon FIOS. The heating system "could heat a church" to use the words of one heating professional and is the heart

of the house. We've explored upgrading it, but every supplier tells us that it is top of the line and built to last. It requires no service and is not connected to electrical so we've never been without heat. We are happy to share quotes and discuss options with serious buyers.

They say the party always ends up in the kitchen and this home is no exception. The wood-burning stove is easy to operate and provides a cozy setting in the winter months. The large kitchen and dining area has held the entire neighborhood during parties, and the baking peninsula is the perfect height for cooks of all sizes. We often move easy chairs next to the stove during the colder months and the room's size easily accommodates the winter additions. The south facing windows become a haven for plants wintering it indoors and the combination of warmth, flora, and comfy chairs creates a cozy gathering place for the family. We love this room and thank former owners for this thoughtful and terrific addition.

The Grounds:

While our neighbors are close, and school and town are steps away, our quiet, resort-like backyard makes you feel a thousand miles away from it all. We spend three seasons in our wonderful outdoor living space. If you want to interact with neighbors and the evening sun, enjoy the front porch swing. Have your coffee in the morning on the private East-facing back porch and listen to the cacophony of bird songs welcome the day. Take a seat under the cherry tree facing the side gardens and enjoy the never-ending gush of low maintenance perennials along the South-facing side of the home. As the day warms, we are always poolside, where the many hours of full sun helps our gorgeous gardens bloom from April – October and the family gathers to enjoy a swim or a nice read in the shade of our apple tree. In the evening, pause to hear the occasional town church bells serenade you and help you decompress after a tough day. Then as the days cool, enjoy fires poolside where the hanging pool lights and under-lit waters make it a very special setting to enjoy fall.

About the Pool:

We completely renovated the pool in 2016. This means we took it down to the frame and refinished the surface with Gunite and a modern pebble stone finish. We also put in a heater, replaced the pump with one that doesn't require backwash, and added a self-cleaning Polaris pool vacuum. Because of the heater, we can open the pool in the spring and close it in the fall--the Polaris does the rest. The pool has a roped off shallow end at three feet with wading stairs leading into it. On the deep end of the pool, is a granite diving stone recycled from a former bank entryway. (We like to think of the diving stone as living a wonderful retirement.) Part of this renovation includes new hardscape and all the pool and paver colors are blue and grey neutrals for a natural effect. The new Looplock cover and self-locking steel gate provide a safe, to-code environment for your family, and the gardens bloom from spring to fall.

We hope you are lucky enough to call 24 Parker Street home. We think it's the best house in town.