

Architectural Analysis of 500, Queen Anne Ct

By: *Architectural Historian*
Shelley Roff, PhD

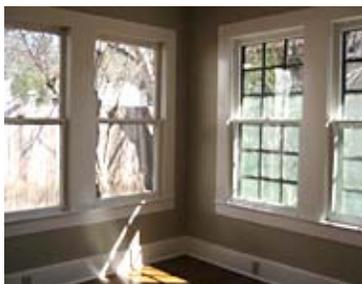


“The best things come in small packages.” This medieval proverb was the first thought that came to mind after seeing this charming bungalow at 500 Queen Anne. This Colonial Revival bungalow captured my heart with its eyebrow dormer sheltering a fanlight entry to the house, and its picket fence bordering the rose garden and orchid tree. Or perhaps it was the heartwarming effect of glowing rays of sun that

scattered across the newly crafted Arts and Crafts cabinetry and hardwood floors in the living and dining room. I could just imagine how cozy it would be like to curl up with a book, cat by my side, in an arm chair next to the built-in bookshelf.



The house was originally built in 1935 by a couple who owned a grocery



store a few blocks away. They wanted to live within walking distance to work, and to be near the trolley line which could take them downtown for needed supplies or a night out. The Colonial Revival style was considered to be patriotic in its time, a celebration of American roots in the Colonial period of the Eastern seaboard. These houses typically had the main entrance placed in the center of a perfectly symmetrical composition, and side porches and classical details such as the Doric columns supporting the porch of this house were common.

The present owners told me that the kitchen still had its original built-in cupboard, complete with flour and sugar bins when they moved in! However, they felt house needed a few renovations to make it more functional for modern living. They replaced those hard-to-clean bins, constructed a built-in desk with



The Joe Barfield Group
Specializing in Homes of Character and History
(210) 733-1928
Website: www.SanAntonioVintageHomes.com
Email: homes@joebarfield.com

internet connection, and brought in a new source of light for the kitchen. They opened the ceiling in the hallway and replaced a large attic fan with a skylight, which truly illuminates the view from the kitchen into the more private spaces of the house. A similar skylight was installed over the shower in the new bathroom constructed for the front bedroom.

The renovations to the house have given the interior its present Arts and Crafts character, which can be seen in details such as the new wood and glass panel kitchen cabinetry, the copper kitchen faucet and the beautiful stained glass window looking into the back yard (and the aforementioned cabinetry in the living room).



They preserved many of the original architectural details, such as the exterior Doric columns, latticework window screens, the interior molding, wood panel doors, glass door knobs and hexagonal floor tile and subway tile in the bathroom.

The back bedroom is illuminated on three sides by banks of windows which look out through crape myrtles into the back yard. Heavy timbers were used to create the awning over the back porch and the staircase leading up to the studio over the garage, adding a comfortable, earthy feeling to the exterior. The dappled sunlight effect on the interior of the house is continued into the backyard with a nice balance of open sunlit space and partial shade from overhanging oak and flowering trees.

