

310 Stites Avenue - John and Cathleen Moore

Year Built: 1950



This two-bedroom cape cod was originally built by returning WWII veteran Don DePew in 1950. It is believed that the house may have been a “catalog house” of the Sears Robuck company. John and Cathleen Moore purchased the property in 1997 after the original owner had passed away. Although a modest addition was made to the rear in 2000, the front of the house maintained its original unprepossessing 1950’s character.

Inasmuch as the house had never had any sort of intermediate space between inside and out – save for a small, uncovered entry stoop -- the Moore’s this year have added a 3-bay open porch across the full width of the front of the house. This has not only provided an outdoor social and relaxation space for the inhabitants, but it also contributes to the sense of social neighborliness of the community as a whole.

Specific Challenges Faced:

After studying options for adding a porch, the front of the house seemed the only feasible option. However, although the original house was set well back from the street, in order to add a front porch having a usable depth, the front of the porch needed to extend minimally past the front yard setback line as stipulated by current day zoning regulations.



“Before” photo



“After” photo

Specific Actions Taken:

The porch addition was designed to have a minimal, unnoticeable intrusion into the setback, yet present a clear architectural character and welcoming scale to the streetscape. The addition transforms the house from seeming merely utilitarian into having a very open, sociable and gracious feeling – a win-win.