

## PRESIDENT'S HOUSE ON CARR'S HILL

paneled pilasters, as you suggest.” The bookcase currently located in the northwest corner of the study (current library) has this detail.

At about twenty-seven by nineteen feet, the living room is the largest of the four main rooms of the first story. Its focal point is a centrally placed fireplace in the east wall, with a Classical Revival-style mantelpiece that features a bas relief carving of an ancient Greek lamp in its frieze. The lamp motif is a stylized variation on a common decorative arts symbol of education known as the “lamp of knowledge.” The mantelpiece has a shelf with about four stages of moldings along its edges, supported at each end on a scrolled console. Below the consoles and frieze, the mantelpiece consists of a mitered casing that frames the sides and top of the fireplace opening. The backband of the casing flares outward to form knees as it meets the baseboard. Within the mitered frame of the casing, the fireplace opening has a facing of deep-green marble with delicate white veining. The same marble provides the outer portion of the hearth, outside the firebox. The firebox has been fitted with gas logs, as evidenced by a key that operates the gas valve from within a small wooden box attached to the floor to the right of the chimney breast.



*The living room mantelpiece features a carving of an ancient Greek oil lamp flanked by console-style brackets supporting the mantelshelf.*

The living room is entered from the hall at a doorway centered in its west wall, opposite the fireplace, or from the dining room by way of a doorway centered in the north wall. The doorway to the dining room has a pair of side-hinged doors; a similar pair has been removed from the opening from the living room to the main hall. The openings are both four-feet six-inches in width. These are among the original doorways where the original pocket doors were located before they were replaced around 1959. The set of side-hinged doors leading to the main hall was removed in the 1970s and is stored in the attic of the house, above the portico.

The room has an oak floor with some quarter-sawn floorboards and a light finish, as found throughout the first story. The flooring is original, though it has been refinished recently.