

If you need proof that surprises come in small packages, look no farther than this 1868 cottage.

As you approach this work-in-progress home, you'll see the new front porch that the current owners rebuilt. Then step into the parlor and you will see the original white pine flooring with its new camel paint. Also note the original eight inch baseboards and the double arched windows on the doors.

Damaged and neglected for many years, this cottage has been painstakingly given a new lease on life by Dr. and Mrs. Frederick, who have revitalized the whole block. As you see the "before" pictures, you will see how far it's come since last April. This cottage represents a true labor of love.

The cottage has an unusual history. Its original owner was William Cramer. He and his partner were proud businessmen who owned a large distillery by the river. They heard a rumor that the government was going to start taxing all whiskey sources, so the partners mortgaged their wives' precious cooking stoves and stockpiled all the liquor they could get their hands on.

Sure enough, one year later, the government jumped in and taxed liquor at a dollar a gallon. Cramer and his partner were able to sell their "stashed mash" at an enormous profit.

With the proceeds, he built three worker houses at 300 Elm, 304 Elm and this cottage—so workers could live near the mansion they were building for the Cramer family.



720 North 3rd Street



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
OCTOBER 14, 2000

Year Built: 1868

Name of House: The William Cramer
Workman's Cottage

Style: Greek Revival

Architect: unknown