

A shell of its former self

Story by Barbara Schleppenbach | Photos by Jennifer Coombes | Herald-Whig Staff



Bruce and Jane Gardner were up to the challenge of resurrecting home at 1505 Kentucky

It was the Rip Van Winkle of homes, empty and boarded up for nearly 20 years.

When Bruce and Jane Gardner spotted the Craftsman bungalow at 1505 Kentucky, they didn't immediately recognize its potential.

"We were looking for an older home, and some friends had told us about it," Bruce recalls.

While the Gardners were touring a house across the street, the agent called their attention to 1505. "Jane said she didn't like the color of brick," Bruce says with a laugh. "And just

look what happened."

They bought the building in March 1990, agreeing to move out of their rental within a month. The previous owner had begun the gutting process, removing old wallpaper.

"All of the wood was in fairly good condition," Bruce says, "which was amazing if you can imagine the place being boarded up for 20 years."

"The kitchen was down to bare walls," Jane adds. "That was kind of nice because we could do what we wanted there."

Although moving day found them
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"We liked the whole layout. When this space was a shell, we could take it over and do it our own way."

— Jane Gardner on her home