

HERALD-WHIG LIVING

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Gothic Revival house keeps family coming home

Jim and Connie Balfour's house at 2700 Maine was on the outskirts of town when it was built in the late 1800s



H-W Photos/Jeanne Long
The shade trees add to the charm of this late 1800s farmhouse at 2700 Maine.



Connie Balfour's Gothic Revival house at 2700 Maine was built on the outskirts of Quincy when it was built in the late 1800s. Gothic Revival was a popular style for homes in the mid- to late-1800s. The style was popularized by Andrew Downing's 1850 pattern book, "The Architecture of Country Houses."

Home Maintenance

By C. Dwight Barnett



A squeaky floor can be very annoying

Q: We have a problem with squeaky floors. It is worse in winter when the furnace is on. We have heavy carpet so repairs from the top down would be difficult until new carpeting is needed. Are there carpenters who would tackle this problem for us? — H. J. Hunt, Huntingburg, Ind.

A: The squeaky floor is most likely the result of wood shrinkage and improper installed subflooring. In winter, the air inside the home is much drier than in the summer. This drier air causes the shrinkage. As the moisture inside the wood is drawn out, the wood cells are pressed together like a dry sponge. When the air is humid, the wood absorbs moisture and the cells are pushed apart from each other and the wood expands, causing the squeaks.