



H-W Photos/Jeanne Long

Above: Windows in the original Frederick C. and Hannah Menke house at 1431 Kentucky have small, dogwood-style flowers carved in trim. Lower right: The house as it looks today for Jim, Ann and Avery Titus. Lower left: The house has carved newels and turned balusters on its Victorian-style staircase.

Updated Queen Anne home at 1431 Kentucky has old-time charm

By Ruth Hultz

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Around 1907, many homeowners were building houses in new architectural styles like Prairie and Craftsman.

Frederick C. and Hannah Menke, however, favored Victorian-style homes.

The Menkes decided to build a compact, late-Queen Anne home with all the architectural finery of larger, more imposing Victorian homes.

The cottage-like house at 1431

Kentucky has the usual Queen Anne floor plan with an entry hall, front and back parlors, dining room and kitchen. But it also had a butler's pantry and back stairway, features found in much larger Victorian homes.

The picturesque house has the usual Queen Anne wraparound front porch, but the lyrical arrangement of the baluster spools creates a one-of-a-kind look. The cutaway bay areas with decorative, incised-carved brackets and drop finials are an example of architectural elements that were used to create the valued

asymmetrical look that Queen Anne homes are known for.

Many other charming decorative elements dress up the charming house.

Jim, Ann and Avery Titus, who currently live in the house, said it has been perfect for their needs the past eight years.

They are glad they were the first family to discover the house when retired contractor John Campbell finished sprucing it up after years of neglect.

Campbell has rescued 50 or more houses around the area. He chose the Frederick C. Menke house for one of his many renovations because it is in a nice neighborhood and because it is structurally sound, therefore a good house for resale.

Campbell developed an expertise in fixing problems that go with old, neglected houses. Campbell said that his wife, Barbara, decorates the homes that he fixes up, using neutral wall and floor coverings. When Campbell goes to work on a home, he usually fixes up the kitchen with



new cabinets and appliances.

In the Titus' house, he removed a wall between the entry hall and front parlor and replaced it with a fluted wooden column. The result is an airy feeling to the living room that maintains the original feel of the house.

The entry hall is a perfect place for Avery to set up her kitchen furniture to play house. A room-sized upstairs landing is another spot for Avery to play and it is also perfect for Ann's sewing room where she makes quilts for her specialty quilt business.

