

The Bartels had recently returned to Quincy and were looking for a house. They wanted to live in an older house that was already restored.

The Ervins had recently completed a major renovation of an older house at 2135 Jefferson.

It was a perfect match.

The Bartels have built several new houses in the past, but Larry wanted an old house this time because he likes the character.

"You can't find that in a new house without putting a lot of money in them," Larry said.

Marva knew instantly that she wanted the house.

"I can look and look and look, then I can just walk into a house and know it is what I want," Marva said. "I liked every room in this house and the way it looked. I love the way the sun comes flooding in on a sunny day."

The Bartels have only lived in their gable front-and-wing folk house for two months, but Dianne said it already feels like home, partly because she has nestled her doll collection into the back parlor and displayed her collection of seraphim angels in the large dining room. The sunny dining room is also a school room where Marva home-schools their son, Jacob.

Larry claimed a small upstairs bedroom for his music room where he enjoys listening to opera and classical music.



A look at the Larry and Marva Bartels house at 2135 Jefferson. The Bartels bought the house from their friends, Bo and Julie Ervin.

H-W Photos/Joe Liesen

The Bartels think Bo Ervin did a great job making the house that Henry and Florence Lapp built around 1896 very livable while maintaining its charm.

Ervin, along with Jason and Steve Watson, worked on the house for six months. They had a special bit made for their table saw and made trim that matched the original in many rooms.

The workers also skimcoated or added drywall to most walls and carved closets from the two large bedrooms. Major work also was done on two bathrooms and a new kitchen with all of the conveniences was installed. They also blew insulation into every wall and replaced the plumbing.

Outside, they burned all the paint off the wood trim, replicated the deteriorated upper spindles on the



Ervin chose his favorite colors — cottage red, mushroom, cream and earthy Saratoga — to paint the house.

The crew replaced every window in the house with wooden, insulated glass retrofit windows.

"I don't know why I am attracted to neglected houses, but I am," Ervin said. "Most people figured it would be torn down, but I wanted to straighten it back out."

"Passers-by stopped and said, 'You are fixing it up, as if you were going to