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Every home has a story, but not many can boast an entire chapter of a book.

The charming brick cottage at 1254 Kentucky is one of the few that can.

The home was celebrated in a 1980 volume recalling the life and times of Quincy's Wurst family, who lived there for many years. Current owners Camille and Roger Donaldson received a copy of "The Quincy Years of the Wurst Family" from grateful family members who enjoyed corresponding with Camille and visiting the house on a reunion visit to Quincy.

Camille recognizes the home's attraction as a subject for a budding author; while attending college classes, she wrote a term paper about its history and features. She traced its ownership through old phone books and city directories on file at the nearby John Wood mansion, determining that the house, built in the early 1880s, stands on ground that was once part of Gov. Wood's orchard.

She and her family now share the sentiments expressed in the Wurst memoir: "They really loved their house."

The Donaldsons moved to Quincy shortly after the flood of 1993 and found properties in their price range selling briskly.

"This house caught Roger's eye when he was in the neighborhood to look at another one," Camille says. When the couple finally arranged a visit, "we were sold the minute we walked in. We signed the papers in March on my husband's birthday."

From the start, the pair prized the cheery exterior with steep gables, a hipped roof, ornamented trim, and a white picket fence.

They appreciated the numerous and spacious closets, unusual additions for a

home of its era. Camille imagines that in earlier years children learned to dodge the potentially finger-pinching pocket doors just as her sons Hunter (7) and Hayden (2) have done.

When they moved in, Roger and Camille found carpet everywhere but the foyer, which featured oak planks. They refinished every floor but the one in the family room, where the painted pine seemed more serviceable.

A dark kitchen contrasted with the rest of the house where most of the paint was white. Now the tones are reversed, with a white kitchen featuring touches of blue, including painted tiles created by Camille.

Bold shades of cadet blue, spice, and burgundy add cheer to the front room, dining room, and family room. "I'm never afraid of color," Camille says. Roger discovered that a touch of blue also added interest to the white trim setting off the brick exterior.

The pair replaced a fireplace in the front room, and Roger constructed cabinets upstairs. They added borders to the richly figured wall coverings, which are described in the Wurst family memoir as "a good quality of wallpaper."

The book details other unique features of the home, which was one of the



H-W Photos/Philip Carlson

This house at 1254 Kentucky rates a chapter in a book about a Quincy family, but the current owners, Roger and Camille Donaldson, are writing their own chapter of the house, which was built in the 1880s. Top photos the Donaldsons, Roger, Camille and sons, Hunter and Hayden, sit in their front room. Above, the dining room features the wood floors the Donaldsons refinished after removing the carpet found throughout the house.

first in Quincy to have the benefit of indoor plumbing, thanks to the foresight of the Wursts.

The family installed many other practical elements including a skylight, a hot water tank and heater, and a coal-burning furnace in the basement. Concrete terrace steps, a concrete walk surrounding the house, and a wisteria arbor gave the home a smart appearance that endures to this day.

With a place perfectly suited to their family and a "wonderful neighborhood," the Donaldsons are planning for

future projects. "We'd like to pull up the carpeting on the stairs and remove the stucco texture from the walls of the foyer," Roger says.

Camille agrees that "we'll probably be in this house forever," quoting with approval her mother's adage that "an old home is just so much warmer."

No doubt the Wurst children would be pleased to see Hunter, Hayden, and their canine sidekick, Holly, adding a new chapter to the story of the cozy residence at 1254 Kentucky.