

Celeste Gauthier relaxes in the formal dining room of her home at 2340 Jersey. The compact house has a nice-sized dining area with the original French doors.

H-W Photos/Jeanne Long

Celeste Gauthier finds house of her dreams in her childhood neighborhood

By Ruth Hultz

Herald Whig Staff Writer

When Celeste Gauthier returned to Quincy a year and a half ago, she was adamant about buying an older house and she hoped to find one in her childhood neighborhood.

"I like the character of old houses and the stories of the people who lived in them," she said.

"I am a preservationist at heart and I like to see these old houses maintained and 'living.' I recognize the importance of preserving the history of the house and the style of this house and others."

As luck would have it, she found a house at 2430 Jersey, just 1,000 feet away from her old home and one that she had walked by daily on her way to St.

Peter School.

"Some people who knew I was moving back suggested I call the owner and the whole thing just worked out," Gauthier said. "This was a cottage I had always noticed and thought I would like to live there."

The house is perfect for Gauthier, who wanted a historic house but wanted to have fun decorating, not renovating.

"One of the pluses was that I could basically walk in," she said.

"The yard was appealing and I knew the neighbors. It is a fun house. It is a very solid house. It felt very homey and I liked it being open and bright. It is a very warm house."

Light floods the interior of the Tudor Revival house through its many, multi-paned grouped windows and there is plenty of space for living and entertaining. A simple, ceramic-tabbed fireplace adds interest to the large living room.

A large, cheerful bedroom dominates the upstairs. Also upstairs is a smaller bedroom and a large, pampering bathroom that used to be a tiny bedroom or nursery. The wood trim throughout the house has been well maintained. On the main floor, the original trim is birch.

Rick Dulaney, a local historic restorationist, says, "Birch looks very much like butternut, but birch is very hard and butternut is soft. Birch was the wood of choice in 1930; it was a stock wood."

The upstairs doors are made of Douglas fir with single, rotary cut panels. Floors in the house are white oak, with narrow boards, also typical of the 1930s, Dulaney said.



The Forsthove House at 2340 Jersey has stucco walls which are seen in only a small percentage of Tudor Revival houses.



The many arched doorways in the house make it quaint and homey.

AT A GLANCE

❑ **Original Owners:** Joseph Marion and Helen Eaton Forsthove. Helen Forsthove was the daughter of J.H. and Jessie Eaton who lived next door. Joseph Forsthove was a salesman for Metropolitan Life.

❑ **Date of Construction:** Circa 1930

❑ **Style of Architecture:** Tudor Revival, a style that was popular for smaller houses during the economic downturn in the 1930s.

❑ **Features:** Asymmetrical styling with an entry gable with one-sided long, sloping roof, steeply-pitched roof with multiple side gables at varying heights, shed dormers, stucco wall cladding, prominent side brick chimney, multi-paned windows, diamond paned leaded glass window in front gable, Tudor arched doorway, solid birch door.