

results.

So Sherry Forbes searched magazines, the library and other sources for information about the Victorian era. She used rag-rolling and stencils to create a Victorian aura.

"There are ways to do things inexpensively," she said.

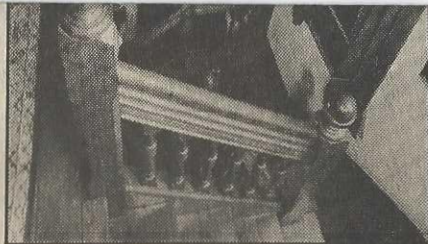
Most of the rooms have a decorative border at the tops of the walls and some have another midway up the wall. In the living room, just off the parlor, Sherry Forbes used alternating columns of flat and glossy paint of the same color to create a distinctive look.

Dave Forbes also put his mark on the historic 1888 house, although in a less visible way. He has replaced most of the wiring and plumbing. Forbes' grandfather was an electrical contractor and as a young man, he worked with both his grandfather and uncle doing electrical work.

When the Forbeses bought the house in 1993, it was cloaked in white aluminum siding, and they didn't know what was underneath. Then they discovered a nearby home that is nearly a duplicate of theirs. It had wood shingles.

So they made the decision to restore the exterior.

Dave Forbes also restored some exterior elements that were removed to accommodate the siding. With some educated guesswork, he was able to return



H-W Photo/Michael Kipley

A view down the wooden stairway at Dave and Sherry Forbes house.

the house to its original look.

After three years of work, the couple isn't done yet.

"People thought we were nuts (to buy this house)," Sherry Forbes said.

But they had experience restoring four other homes and knew what they were getting into.

"We're a lot braver than we used to be," Dave Forbes said.

Despite the time investment, they are very happy with the house. They like Victorian houses and the Victorian era. And the historic features of the house were mostly intact.

A staircase was removed, probably in the 1920s to make room for new plumbing. Part of the stairwell was converted to a closet; the steps are visible beneath the floor boards.

The couple also remodeled the kitchen, adding a new counter and built-in dish-



H-W Photo/Joe Liesen

The Francis W. Lyford House, 808 N. Sixth St.

washer. Sherry Forbes painted the hardwood floor in the kitchen to mimic floor tiles.

They had to refinish the rest of the hardwood floors.

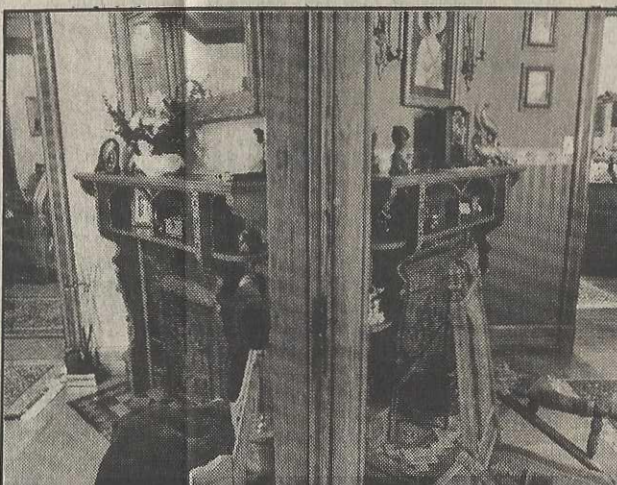
To complete the Victorian influence, they searched auctions, yard sales and occasionally trash to find vintage furnishings. Their own attic contained some Victorian era clothing that now hangs in various rooms.

To do it all right, research and initiative were both necessary. While the Fran-

cis W. Lyford house is not well documented, the Forbeses have found a great deal of information about the era it was built.

Lyford bought the property in the mid-1880s. Little is known about the original owner. A listing in the 1887 city directory said he was worked for G.H. Lyford and Co., a book, music and art store at 114 N. Fifth.

This is another in a series on home of historical or architectural significance as identified by Quincy Preserves.



Victorian furnishings, above, help set the home in the Forbes house. At left, identical fireplace mantels, similar chairs and a pocket door create a mirror effect in two of the rooms.

H-W Photos/Michael Kipley

AT A GLANCE

Original name: Francis W. Lyford House

Date of construction: 1888

Style: Queen Anne

Outstanding features:

- Random limestone foundation with vining (raised) mortar.
- Gabled pyramidal hip roof.
- Entrance porch left of the right south gable pavilion extends out from a small re-entrant angle with a steep pediment over the entrance bay.
- Starburst in pediment with scalloped cornice and incised scroll design
- Stylized balustrade with slat and cut-out circle pattern, turned posts.
- One-over-one double-hung sash windows.
- Second-story sash in pairs and sets.
- Paired, fixed sash at attic in gables.
- Leaded stained glass upper sash of 1/1 to left of entrance.
- Double door entrance with transom.
- Small gable roof romer off-set over entrance bay south.
- Historic 1 1/2 story board and batten carriage barn with slider doors at the rear alley.

ture, carpeting, cleaners, plastics, paints, dry cleaned clothes, plywood, adhesives, etc.

Significant research has been done much of it by the NASA space program which shows house plants are effective non-energy using air purifiers. In addition, they increase the oxygen content indoors. More than 20 common house plants have been found to be useful. Each is particularly effective for specific chemicals.

Select plants which fit your decor and tolerate your indoor lighting and moisture levels. For example, Boston ferns and Dracaena are good for formaldehyde removal. English Ivy is good for benzene removal and Parlor Palm and Peace Lily are good for TC removal.

A combination of selected plants is best. Including a few orchids and bromeliads (some are very easy to grow) is effective for nighttime purifying. Their leaf pores open at night.

Hydroponics is an excellent way to grow healthy plants indoors for effective air purification. With hydroponics, no soil is needed. The plants grow in an inert medium with water, air and special fertilizers.

Many companies sell complete single plant and larger hydroponic planter kits. This is ideal indoors for several reasons. The plants grow much faster and larger because not as much growth goes into root production. With no soil, there are less mold spores given off to cause allergies. Hydroponics is also effective for growing vegetables (tomatoes, lettuce) year-round.

To purify air with plants in rooms with little natural lighting, artificial light is needed. High intensity discharge (HID) lights use the least amount of electricity. High pressure sodium and metal halide are the best for plants.

Write for Update Bulletin No. 470 listing the 20 most effective purifying house plants for specific chemical pollutants, light, water and temperature requirements for each plant, general hydroponics information and a list of hydroponic planter kit suppliers. Send a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope to: James Dulley, Quincy Herald-Whig, 6906 Royalgreen Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45244