

By Ruth Hultz

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

Pat Musick's circa 1914 Craftsman bungalow is full of surprises. That's part of the reason she fell in love with the home at 221 N. 24th in 1976.

"It's distinctive. Nobody has one like mine," Musick said. "I know I'm home."

"It has some features of a big home but it's not a big home."

Musick's home is filled with the type of decorative appointments that usually were reserved for "grander" homes. The living room has a beamed ceiling and an exceptional double-mantled Craftsman fireplace. Built-in bookcases, with Wrightian-style stained and leaded glass doors, divide the living room and dining room.

The large dining room has more elaborate touches. Two corner china cabinets — also with leaded glass doors — are separated by a room-length wooden window seat. A magnificent crystal chandelier adds to the luxury.

The house has crown ceiling molding throughout, and all the trim is cypress, although it is stained to appear oak in the living areas.

A spacious music room is another special feature of the house.

Among the other surprises are a built-in wine cellar and a separate room for the ice box. The ice box room meant the original owners would not be disturbed when ice deliveries were made.

The bathroom originally had an unusually long claw-foot bathtub and large custom built-in drawers in the linen closet.

Another surprise is the roominess. Inside, the home is not at all cottage-like — even though that's what it looks like from the outside.

An amateur writer and member of many community organizations, Musick loves the openness and spaciousness of the family room, den and bedroom, where she spends hours comfortably working on her projects. The house also



has plenty of room for her large book collection.

Luckily for Musick, previous owners had maintained the integrity of the home.

"This home looks like it has really been loved," Musick said.

The woodwork is in excellent shape, and the oak floors are still intact. The original sconces and ceiling fixtures are in working order.

Musick also treats her Craftsman home with loving care. She makes sure the home has regular maintenance, and she has had the kitchen and bathroom updated. She has kept all the Craftsman features — even the original rope curtain rods.

One outside feature that requires special maintenance is a large pergola, an arbor with lattice work top and sides. Just keeping it painted and repaired is quite an undertaking. Musick has it painted every two to three years.

Regular visits by

AT A GLANCE

Original owners: Hugh and Effie King; King was a mail carrier

Built: circa 1914

Architect: unknown

Special features:

■ Shingled exterior with exposed rafters;

■ Hip roof, with low pitched, gabled porch roof with wide overhang;

■ Decorative false "beams" under casement windows;

■ Porch balusters continue from porch rail to the ground;

■ Distinctive craftsmanship on stone foundation;

■ Stone porch piers support wooden piers with Craftsman detailing.

her trusted, longtime handyman are part of her on-going preservation of the home.

Although preserving a wood and shingled home is tough, to Musick it is a labor of love.

"I sometimes think of moving to a cluster home, but they have the personality of a motel room. I would grieve for this house," Musick said.



Q: I am considering installing a gas fireplace in my living room. I am not sure whether I should get a vented or a vent-free model. Can you explain to me what the difference is between the two types?— Paula W.

A: The main difference is that a vented model exhausts the flue gases outdoors and a vent-free model exhausts the gases indoors.

This is similar to a kitchen gas range which has no vent either.

Most states now approve the use of vent-free gas fireplaces, but check your local codes first.

If you are planning to use the fireplace for a continuous source of heat in the room, then a vented model is your best choice.

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Q: I was considering buying a real massage chair instead of spending the money at the massage therapist. Those chairs seem to have a lot of motors in them. Do they use a lot of electricity to operate? — Suzi G.

A: At \$50 per hour for a therapist, using a massage chair can quickly recover its initial cost.

As you mentioned, these real massage chairs have many motors for a true massage, not just vibrators to relax.

I have an Interactive Health massage chair and it uses only 60 watts of electricity.

This costs less than a penny per hour used. The "human touch technologies" use several motors and electronics inside to provide various massage actions.

For an instant download, visit James Dulley's Web site at www.dulley.com