



H-W Photos/Michael Kipley

By Ruth Hultz

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Fourteen years ago, Mike and Lisa Hummert found a top quality house for their growing family.

They've been keeping it in tiptop shape ever since.

With their third child on the way in 1986, the Hummerts started looking for something larger than their two-bedroom bungalow. They looked and looked and had almost given up hope about finding a house they liked.

But as soon as they saw the reception hall of the August and Matilda Stroot house at 433 N. 20th, they knew it was the house for them.

"It was hard not to fall in love with it," Lisa said. "It's very homey. We liked the roominess and openness. We like the light and the wood."

Mike recognized the "fantastic carpentry work" on the stair case, the living room bookcases and built-in dining room

buffet.

They had always wanted an older brick home, and this Prairie-style house was "top quality."

"The doors — they are so solid compared to new houses we looked at," Lisa said.

Architect Martin Geise's specifications to the contractor said the entire job is to be perfect in every respect.

The specifications called for "the best quarter-sawn red oak" on the first floor and "the best clear hard maple" for the kitchen floor. Geise called for "the best Damhorst brick" and "first quality" rubble work for the exterior.

Over the past 14 years, the Hummerts have been dedicated to keeping their historic home top quality. Because the house had been so well kept by the Stroot family, the Hummerts only had to do some freshening up and updating.

Mike worked his way through college at Fischer Builders, so with Lisa's help, he was able to do most of the work himself. The work included putting new fixtures and ceramic tile in the bathrooms

Top Quality

Mike and Lisa Hummert found exactly what they were looking for in the Prairie-style house at 433 N. 20th

