

of these styles.

In the 1930s, modest Tudor Revival houses often had classical doorways — as seen on the Merkel house — with its pilasters and broken pediment.

John Merkel who grew up in the house with his twin brother, Russ, said he thought it was a great family home.

The back stairs offered quick getaways and the basement with its “secret hiding places” was the perfect room for ping pong and other active games.

In 1993, the Allen family made it their family home. Moving to the house from their Mill Creek house was a great move, according to Janet Allen.

“With two children, I would have been on the highway, non-stop,” she said.

When Allen began house hunting in town, she favored older houses because her traditional taste in furnishings and her interest in antiques. Allen

Top: The large living room of Janet Allen’s home at 2027 Prairie Avenue, lower left, is light and cheery and has convenient arched, built-in bookcases. Below, the airy sun room adds extra living space to the cozy home.

said she just looked at a lot of houses and the house just “felt” right.

There were many aspects of the modest Tudor Revival house that attracted her.

The house offered plenty of room for her children — Julie and Nathan — to play. Another attraction was its location between both Baldwin School and Quincy Junior High School.

Allen said she liked all the “cute extras” that the roomy house offers, such as built-in shoe racks, belt hangers and blanket chests in the closets. There is more built-in storage in the roomy bathroom.

A real plus for Allen is the large kitchen and eating area with ample pantry and closet space.

The kitchen is loaded with cabinets that have marvelous conveniences such as built-in dividers for organizing cooking utensils and pullout shelving for tablecloths, place mats and napkins.

Allen also likes the built-in corner china cabinet in the dining room and the sun



room off the dining room.

After moving in, Allen went right to work sprucing up the house. One of the first things she did was take the off-the-cuff advice of one of Nathan’s teenage friends who suggested removing the wall that enclosed the stairs

With the help of Dave Eversden, an elegant traditional staircase with curved handrail and turned spindles was built.

Allen also had a traditional mantel piece made to surround the original, stone-trimmed fireplace.

AT A GLANCE

❑ **Address:** 2027 Prairie Avenue.

❑ **Original Owners:** Carl E. and Florence Merkel. In 1913, Carl E. Merkel joined Merkel Brothers Hardware. John Merkel established the business in 1904. Carl Merkel later became president of Merkel Hardware. He was also president of the Quincy Board of Education and the Blessing Hospital Board. Florence Merkel also was very involved in the family business.

❑ **Contractor:** Russ Allen.

❑ **Style of Architecture:** Tudor Revival.

❑ **Features:** Unusually tall, steeply-pitched, front-gabled roof with two shed dormers, shingled wall-cladding, front placement of large prominent brick chimney, gabled entry, arched window on west, side sun room.