

A cat takes center stage between the front room and foyer of the the Mackiewicz home at 1100 Kentucky in the above photo while Ginger, Henry and Jackie Mackiewicz pose in one of the rooms in the photo below.

Please come in

Family's home radiates warmth, even in winter

By Barbara Schleppenbach

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It's the newest house on the block, but the handsome brick four-square home at 1100 Kentucky radiates a sense of history.

That feeling of connection with past residents attracted current owners, Henry and Ginger Mackiewicz.

"It felt like home," Ginger says of their 1980 purchase. "We had looked at a lot of new homes, but older ones have their own character and personality."

Built in 1940, the house incorporates elements of the Mission or Craftsman style into its interior.

The foyer, for instance, is focused on a square, compact staircase. A few steps up, a broad landing features a small decorative table. A departure from the predominant style is the set of French doors that separate the front room from the foyer. They were added when the previous owner, Lucille Bonansinga, converted the second floor into an apartment.

An abundance of windows and open space provide a sunny environment that Ginger appreciates, especially in the cold months.

"The winter sun warms the house," she says.

A bay window in the dining room showcases the simple elegance of contemporary furnishings in the Mission style and highlights the burnished oak

woodwork that adorns the main floor. Cypress was used on the second floor and in a finished attic, where a bedroom affords teen daughter Jackie a private retreat.

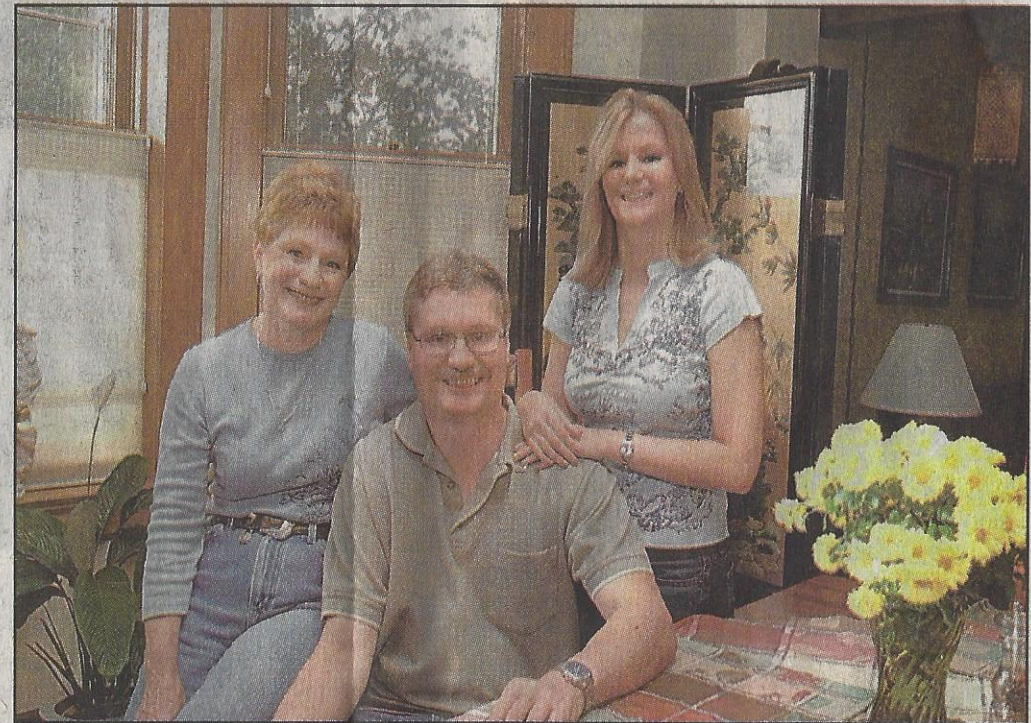
The gleaming woodwork in the dining room is the result of an effort that rivaled an archeological dig.

"I removed 13 coats of paint from the window sills," Ginger says. "I found mustard yellow, dark turquoise, white, then beige. I worked on it forever, and there are still little flecks of paint in the cracks."

Pursuing this pet project over two or three years, she is proud of the results, but not looking forward to tackling a similar venture in the hallway, where paper had been glued over the painted wood.

Henry Mackiewicz notes that the infrastructure of the home has been completely updated, from roof to HVAC, wiring and plumbing. The couple redecorated the master bedroom on the second floor as well as the kitchen and a cozy breakfast nook, which features a view of the backyard and of a sunroom added by the family.

A thriving garden offers a relaxing



sight in the summer. In winter, many of the plants find a haven in the sunroom, which "feels like you're in a forest," Ginger says.

Reese, the family dog, and an elegant white cat named Evie enjoy this indoor park as much as the human residents, who also share their home with pet birds and a friendly ferret.

More projects are scheduled for the near future. Worn carpet and a dropped

ceiling have already been removed from an upstairs room. Ginger feels certain that by the time each room has had its turn, it will be time to start over again.

That possibility suits the entire Mackiewicz clan. In fact, two older daughters, who have left the nest, always remind their parents that this house still feels like home to them. Now that's the kind of history every family wants to make.