

convert house into practical use

By Ruth Hultz

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

The Henry C. and Clara Sprick house at 2320 York is in a class all its own.

Designed for the Sprick family by George Behrensmeyer, the Eclectic/Craftsman-style house is full of architectural, artistic and functional superlatives.



This intercom was part of the 1923 state-of-the-art mechanical system which included a mammoth clothes dryer in the basement.

“A woman had to have been involved in planning this house,” Julie McDevitt said. “It is such a beautiful house, it makes it fun to clean.”

The family makes use of every nook and cranny of the extraordinary house — though differently than the Sprick family.

The musical McDevitt family uses the original five-sided sun parlor as a music room. The family turned the second floor sleeping porch into a playroom and the original maid’s room — complete with original medicine cabinet and original intercom — is now a bedroom. The suite that the Spricks used for guests is now the master bedroom.

Splendid architectural features punctuate

every room. Elaborate cornices, crown moldings and decorative beams add interest to the living areas. Graceful archways create elegant transitions from room to room.

Special features are the art glass and leaded glass windows sprinkled throughout the house — the most notable ones being the Wrightean-style windows in the dining room. There are one-of-a-kind chandeliers and sconces throughout the house, as well as hand-painted murals in the bathrooms.

Although the house is magnificent and looks imposing from the street, Julie said it is above all a “friendly” house. It is perfectly located — close to music teachers, schools and shopping.

It has a delightful vegetable/wild-flower garden, a huge yard, and a wonderful pantry that Julie said “stole her heart” when she first saw the house.



The dining room’s hand-painted murals were popular during the Arts and Crafts era. The landscape paintings captured the beauty of nature.

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A neoclassical scroll is worked into the otherwise Craftsman-style main balustrade.

AT A GLANCE

Original Owner: Henry C. and Clara Sprick. Sprick was president of State Street Bank, a director of Quincy Stove Company and was instrumental in forming the first Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Architectural Features: Asymmetrical design, red tile hip roof with Jacobean parapet, Doric columns on the dining room bay, copper canopy and Prairie school piers and windows at the recessed entry, exposed Craftsman-style rafters, blank stone insets and decorative brickwork.