

buy the place. In 2008, Wellman got the chance to buy his dream home.

"I never thought it would happen," Wellman said.

Now, he and his wife, Robin, spend their time in the four-room, two-bedroom house that originally was built in 1873 for Sarah A. Baker, a Georgia native who moved to Quincy with her mother and sister in the late 1850s. The gingerbread cottage was one of the first suburban residences to go up on Gershom Dimmock's farmland. Quincy eventually grew up around the residence, which is just north of the John Wood Mansion. It will be one of the spotlight homes on the Quincy Preserves' Spring Home Tour, which will take place May 3 and focus on homes in the city's south end.

The house's design is attributed to Quincy architect Robert Bunce because of its similarities to his church designs of the 1870s. The family of Jean and Keith



Dick and Robin Wellman stand in front of their circa 1873 home at 327 S. 12th in Quincy. Elaborately detailed, the house is known as the Sarah A. Baker home, and features extensive butternut woodwork throughout its interior. | H-W Photo/Phil Carlson

Delap lived in the house for many years. The Delaps added a peacock stained glass window and a front-porch light created by one of their children.

Dick Wellman talked about what it is like to live in the historic home:

**What's your favorite feature in your home?**

Of course it has to be the uniqueness. Ornamental woodwork inside and out. The main rooms are all in butternut.

**What feature do**

**you wish you had that you don't?**

The list is very lengthy but if we had to choose at the moment it is a new patio. We could also use new bathrooms, which haven't been updated since the 1960s.

**How does the living space compare in your home to your previous homes?**

Even though this house presents as a small cottage, its size is deceiving. There is a little over 2,700 square feet, which is not quite double our previous home's square footage.

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**I never thought it would happen.**”

Dick Wellman

We have several large rooms that are connect-

ed, which makes it easy to have larger groups. My family usually has its Christmas celebration here.

**How does the closet space compare to the older homes you used to live in?**

My wife will never have enough closet space. Actually neither will I. Unusually this house almost has a closet in every room, so I'm sure it was far ahead of its time in that respect.

**What do you like most about the neighborhood?**

The most important thing about this neighborhood is that we are bordering the most beautiful historic district in the city. If we could, we'd move the house to a nice larger lot where neighboring homes aren't so close.

**How long do you think you'll stay in this house?**

Since I wanted this house since I was in junior high, it will be until the day we can no longer take care of it. Then someone else will have to love and accept the challenge.