

# Couple sold on 'that barn house'

Jennifer and Curtis Wall love the spaciousness of the Dutch Colonial Revival house at 230 S. 16th

By Ruth Hultz

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The first couple of times Jennifer and Curtis Wall walked past "that barn house" at 230 S. 16th, they never believed one day it would belong to them.

But when they were ready to buy their own home, they came away impressed with the space the Dutch Colonial Revival home had to offer.

They were sold.

So the Walls passed up several other historic homes on the market and moved in.

The Walls love the spaciousness of the house, which includes a large tin-floored sleeping porch with a treehouse-like feeling on the third floor.

The house's gambrel roof creates a huge living space for their young family. A grand entry hall divides the living room and dining room. The living room is almost the depth of the house and is perfect for the currently popular overstuffed furniture that the Walls favor. The room's elegant fireplace and wide crown molding create a formal look.

Behind the living room is the bookshelf-lined den, which Jennifer says is the perfect playroom for their two children, Olivia and Landon.

Jennifer also loves the large, elegant dining room with its two original built-in colonial corner China cabinets. A sizable butler's pantry leads to the roomy kitchen where the family spends much of its time.



The Walls enjoy the upstairs living space, too. The bedrooms are so large that the log cabin playhouse in their daughter's room still leaves plenty of floor space to play. Closets are plentiful and each bedroom has a jumbo bathroom that it shares with its neighboring bedroom.

A large landing increases the family's feeling of a home that Curtis says is "conducive to relaxation. You can really breathe in this house."

The barn-shaped home had another appeal to the Walls. It had been newly renovated by the former owner. With new heating, wiring and plumbing in place, the Walls get to do what they like the most — decorate.

Jennifer loves pouring over decorating magazines, looking at wallpaper books and choosing paint colors. Jennifer is a patient decorator.

"I do nothing on a whim," Jennifer said.

She is even willing to paint an area and live with it for a few weeks until she is sure she likes the feel. If she doesn't, she just keeps searching till she finds the color that feels right.

Curtis is the handyman for the family. He does much of the wallpapering and painting and he has learned to be comfortable with Jennifer's decorating choices.

"She has a natural talent for colors," Curtis said. "She has very good taste."

Curtis likes the personal satisfaction that comes with working on the house.

"We are always excited about what we are going to do next," he said. "We see the before and change it. It's immediate gratification; being part of the creative process. And Jennifer is always happy with my work."

## AT A GLANCE

□ **Original owners:** Edwin B. and Adele Hillman. Hillman was the manager of Independent Light and Power Co. in Quincy.

□ **Date of Construction:** circa 1907.

□ **Style of architecture:** Dutch Colonial Revival.

□ **Features:** Side gambrel wood-shingled roof with shed dormers and center gambrel dormer and flared eaves, round attic windows, double-hung windows with diamond glazing, entry porch with triple columns and flared base, oak front door with leaded glass sidelights.

also have attractive foliage with unique shapes and colors.

Thick foliage on the vines can lower the surrounding air temperature by 10 degrees or more through transpiration. This is actual cooling from the moisture given off by the leaves. The vines trap this cool air to create a thermal buffer between the trellis and your house wall for energy savings.

The best choice is deciduous vines on the south and west exposures because they will lose their leaves in the winter. Select ones with an open vine pattern. Even without leaves, a heavy vine pattern may still block much of the winter sun. Evergreen vines on the northwest block winter winds too.

A trellis design that is simple is generally most effective for energy savings. A very ornate trellis looks beautiful, but after the leaves drop, they still block too much of the winter sun. A simple rectangular trellis built with lightweight lumber is effective and easy to make yourself.

It is very important to check the weather "hardiness zone" of each variety when selecting them. Not all varieties survive severe winter temperatures or harsh summer conditions. The maximum length of a vine is also an important characteristic to be sure it will cover the entire trellis.

Two excellent groups of shading vine are ones that attach themselves with tendrils and ones that twine. Particularly with wood siding, avoid vines that attach directly to a wall because they may hold in moisture.

Twining vines are an excellent complement to a simple-to-build copper wire trellis. The vines will quickly grow and wrap securely around the copper wire. Copper weathers to a green patina, so it blends well with the vines.

Write for Update Bulletin No. 765, a list 60 varieties of climbing vines, vine lengths, growth habits, flowers and color hardiness zones, and 10 mail-order vine seed suppliers. Send \$3 and a business-size SAE to: James Dullely, The Quincy Herald-Whig, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45244.

For an instant download, visit James Dullely's Web site at [www.dullely.com](http://www.dullely.com)