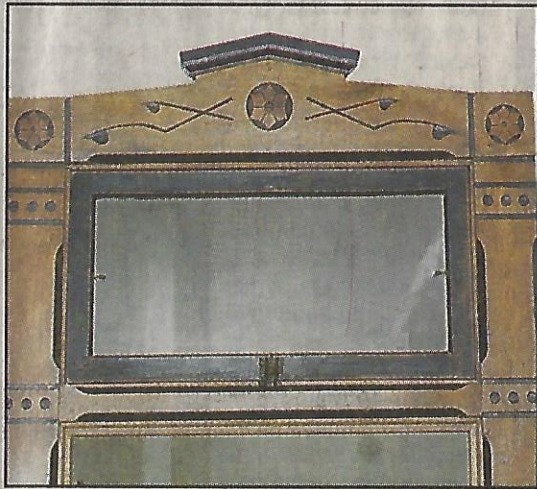


HERALD-WHIG LIVING

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Sunday, Jan. 7, 2001



A look at Hope Tucker's cottage at 1022 Payson Ave. Her brick Queen Anne cottage, built in 1882, has received a Pride of the German Village Plaque in 1995 and won the Quincy Herald-Whig's Lookin' Good Contest in 1996.

H-W Photos/
Michael Kipley



Meeting A Challenge

Improvements
cottage at
Payson earn



Sensible Homes

By James Dulley



Proper furnace selection can cut energy bills

Q: Our gas rates have jumped 30 percent in one year and my heating bills are killing our budget this winter. My 17-year-old gas furnace still works. Does it make sense to replace it with a super-efficient one? — Bob C.

A: Heating bills across the country are the highest they have ever been with no relief in sight. Even if your older furnace still runs, from an economic standpoint, it would most likely be wise to replace it. With the proper furnace selection, your central air-conditioning bills can be lower too.

As compared to a 17-year-old furnace, a new furnace can save the typical family hundreds of dollars per year. Based on the efficiency of your old furnace, probably 60 percent at best, a new furnace can cut your utility bills by 40 percent. You can do the arithmetic to determine your own annual savings.

Not only will you have lower utility bills, but the comfort and quiet operation