

A house at 2009 Hampshire is the fifth house that Mary Jane and Cory McCloskey have enlivened

By Ruth Hultz

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Mary Jane and Cory McCloskey have a flair for the dramatic and they used that flair in redoing their brick Italianate home at 2009 Hampshire.

This is the fifth old house the McCloskeys have enlivened with their talent and enthusiasm and Cory said it might not be their last.

"I think I still have one old house in me," said Cory.

The McCloskeys knew the 1870s house needed a lot of work because it has had many owners. However, the couple enjoys restoring old houses and this house was perfect because of its family room addition and finished attic for their girls' playroom.

"It's fun. We enjoy the challenge of it. We like trying to figure out where things

were originally and decide what we can do to bring it back," Mary Jane said.

The house originally had fireplaces in every room and Mary Jane said she dreams of putting them back.

The couple enjoys working together and usually redo their houses "half and half" - half the work they do themselves and half they hire professionals to do.

The McCloskeys put their mark on the house, painting the foyer a bold yellow, putting in a black and white floor and painting the steps black with white risers.

In the dining room they painted and papered the walls rich dark green and red. They carried the red and green color scheme into the living room with red upholstered furniture and green carpet.

They hired professionals to install new gutters and are planning to have storm windows custom made for the eight-foot high windows.

One of the home's many embellishments is the grand "flying staircase" which is typical in formal Italianate homes. There are double 9 1/2-foot high carved front doors and a massive walnut starting newel and a radiused or curved banister. The staircase ceilings are gracefully curved.

The home's wide window and door trim is painted white for a formal effect. It is made from a buildup of applied molding, which is another "extra" in the

house. The window and door trim has peaked pediments or tops and doors are flat paneled with applied molding which is another elegant touch. The dining room has a china closet, the only original closet in the house.

Historic restorationist Rick Dulaney said this Italianate home is a perfect example of a "grand and elegant looking house within a small square footage."

He said the original owners did a superb job of building a house with great curb appeal while cutting corners. They did that inside by having a small foyer, a tiny study and only one parlor.

Outside they cut corners, too, but maintained a grand appearance. The house has decorative brick work at the eaves to give the illusion of having the customary Italianate brackets, but without the high cost of brackets.

Italianate houses typically have a flat front with bays on the side, but this home has a two story bay area in the front, which makes the house look bigger than it is. The house has the usual hoods over the rounded windows, but they are not as

elaborate as in many Italianate houses.

Many Italianate houses commonly had a "widow's walk", but it appears that this house's hip roof once had an iron roof balustrade instead of a more expensive "widow's walk."



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Top: A stairwell in the home of Mary Jane and Cory McCloskey at 2009 Hampshire, upper left. Above: The entrance and foyer to the home. Far lower left: The dining room.



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