

A taste of the country

The one-time farmhouse at 218 S. 18th may have been built with its current owners in mind

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Lush greenery shrouds the house at 218 S. 18th St., nearly concealing the building from passersby. It is still worth a peek.

The greenery is one of owner Lee Lindsay Curtis' favorite features. Some of her friends and neighbors have encouraged her to cut down the large trees that hide the facade of her home. She says she won't — as long as the trees are healthy.

In tandem with a front hedge, the trees provide a measure of privacy and a taste of the country.

Inside the entryway, which is really a small foyer between double doors, a sliding door provides a buffer from street noise. The rural feel continues with several pieces of art that capture pastoral settings. Those pieces are intermingled with family photographs.

When the house was built around 1879, it was a farmhouse, Lindsay Curtis says. It received a makeover in the turn-of-the-century that included the addition of a brick exterior over the existing wood frame structure.

Lindsay Curtis has owned the house since she and her family returned to Quincy in 1979. She recalls growing up on nearby Grove Avenue and walking to school past the house day after day. When the family moved back to Quincy, the house was on the market — as though it was needed for them.

Over the years, Lindsay Curtis has "tried to preserve the integrity of the house." When she bought it, the house had been painted red over the bricks. A little sandblast-removed the offending paint. The bricks also needed repointing and the roof required repair.

Inside, she has gone room by room to give the house a country feel. The interior colors are white painted woodwork with wheat colored walls.

The old kitchen was gutted. It was expanded with the addition of a porch on the northwest corner of the house. The floor, several layers of linoleum, was replaced with a hardwood floor.

Appliances are neatly built in. The kitchen counter is a dark green. Lindsay Curtis says the color was consid-



H-W Photo/Michael Kipley

ered unusual when she chose it, but is now more common in kitchens.

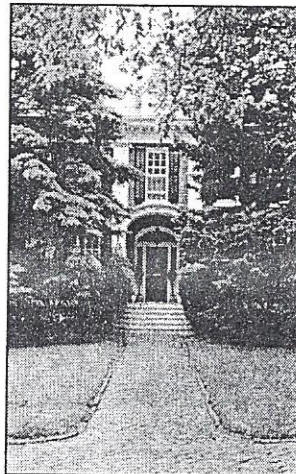
For several years, the sliding door off the kitchen was the "door to nowhere" she says. Then the family added a stepped deck just outside the house. They left the wood unfinished to better fit the landscaping and the country appeal of the house.

The home has six functional fireplaces. Two were converted to gas logs for simplicity and convenience. Several have new mantles and marble.

Any remodeling requires a competent contractor and good communication, Lindsay Curtis says. She has used Don Schmidt who, along with his two sons, Dave and Mike, have done much of the renovation.

Lindsay Curtis complemented the country feel of the house with furniture that has been in the family for generations. She likes being surrounded by pieces with a rich wood texture.

"It's comfortable having pieces that have been in the



H-W Photo/Jeanne Long

Lee Lindsay Curtis has worked to give her the interior of her home a country feel. The white woodwork and wheat colored walls in the living room, above, add to the "warm" mood of the house.

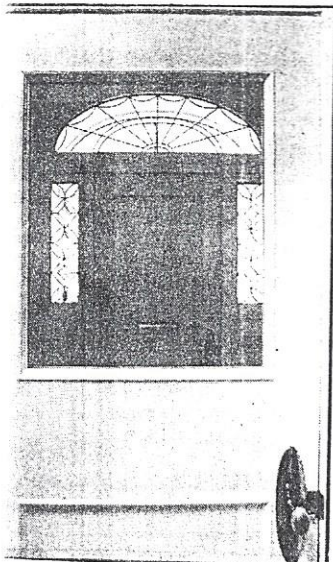
At left, and exterior view of the house shows how trees shroud the facade, blocking out the noise of a busy street.

family," Lindsay Curtis says.

The property on which the original farmhouse was built was purchased by Charles Whitmore in 1874. He sold it to James Orr, a contract builder in partnership with T.C. Conner.

The first owner was probably Joseph W. Emery, president and treasurer of the Channon-Emery Stove Co. Emery was born in Taunton, Mass., in 1850 and came to Quincy as a youth.

This is another in a series on home of historical or architectural significance as identified by Quincy Preserves.



H-W Photos/Michael Kipley

The window of the inside entryway door, at left, frames the intricate glasswork of the exterior entryway door. Above, a sitting room showcases one of the home's fireplaces and more designed glasswork.

AT A GLANCE

Original owner: Joseph W. Emery

Date of construction: circa 1879

Style: Georgian Revival

Outstanding features:

■ Side gabled roof;

■ Balustrade over length of roof;

■ Chippendale roof rail;

■ Double-hung front windows 9-over-1 with flat arch and exaggerated keystones;

■ South windows in dining room 9-over-9;

■ Entry with beveled sidelights and elliptical fan light transom;

■ Formal verandah on north side with flat roof and balustrade surround;

■ Three matching dormers on east side with Palladian windows;

■ Modillions underneath cornice;

■ Four matching pilasters with Ionic capitals on front facade.