



says that she “still can’t eat pizza.”

The results, however, were worth the sacrifice. “I love this house,” she says. “I wouldn’t want to live in a new one.”

The work involved a great deal of change to rooms on the south side of the building, where Tony routed out the trim to match the original woodwork on the north side. A hallway was created on the north side, and walls between the master bedroom and the front room were replaced.

“We removed all the horsehair and lattice, and installed insulation and wallboard,” Sheila says. “That’s when we found the fireplace.”

Although the fireplace was not in functional condition, the family made it usable with a gas log and added a wood mantle. The kitchen, which previously “was not user-friendly,” became a convenient place to work and a hub of family life.

The family changed the entrance from the dining room, opened a closet and pantry, installed cabinets and a breakfast bar, and created an adjacent laundry room.

“Before we couldn’t even open the oven all the way,” Emily recalls with a laugh.

The kitchen is now a favorite room “where everyone gathers,” so a neighbor suggested that the family swap the living room with the dining room to bring the entertainment area closer to the kitchen.

Now the front room is the elegant dining area, with dramatic red walls contrasting with the white marble fireplace, white woodwork and lace curtains.

The living room is spring green, and a darker color for the ceiling “gives an optical illusion of lowering it, making the room more homey,” Sheila says. “There’s so much you can do with paint.”

She notes that daughter Angie suggested red for the dining area, and Tony and Emily chose the vivid shade of Ladybug Red.

“I told myself, ‘Sheila, it’s only paint,’ and now I like it. Red is dramatic, green is relaxing, but yellow is my favorite. My favorite room is my bright, cheery yellow kitchen.”

Color plays an important role on the second floor too, where the girls have chosen shades of blue and mauve to define their own spaces.

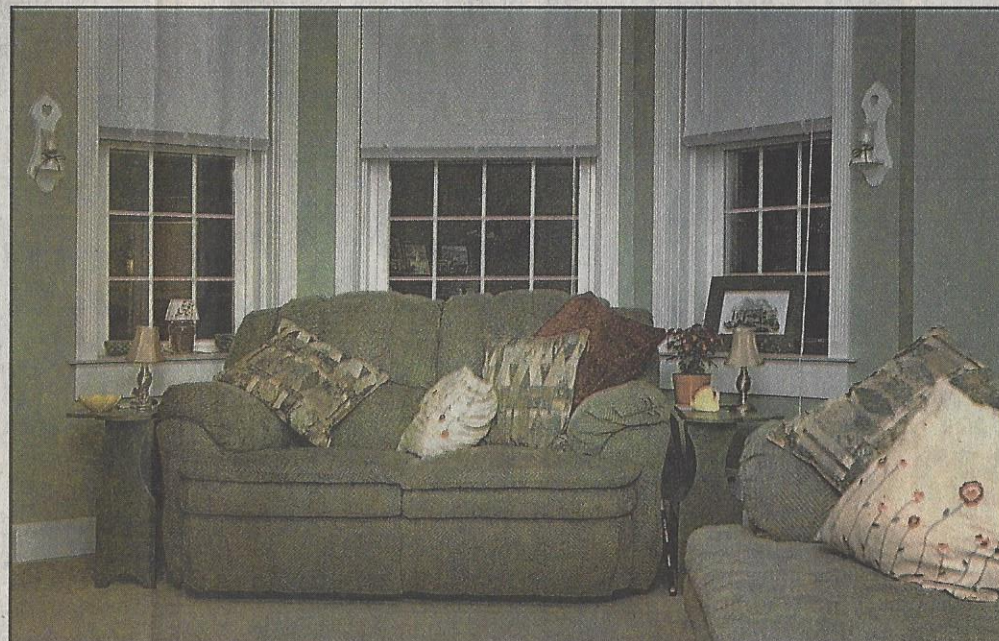
“Upstairs had only one room,” Sheila says, “so we added Angie’s room.”

The girls have given their rooms individuality, and have used imagination in decorating a common area, for instance framing antique sheet music that belonged to Sheila’s great-aunt.

In the future, Tony plans to finish a fence running down the south side of the house and to add bricks complementing the patio and deck.

“This is a house to live in,” he and Sheila agree.

And it’s a house that can grow and change to suit the life of a family.



Tony and Sheila Hermesmeyer have had a lot of changes in their life, but none of them have caused the family to move from their home at 406 S. 16th, far left. Above, the white marble fireplace in the dining room is a striking contrast to the red walls. At left, the living room features a large bay window.