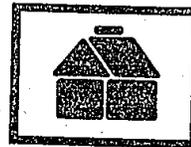


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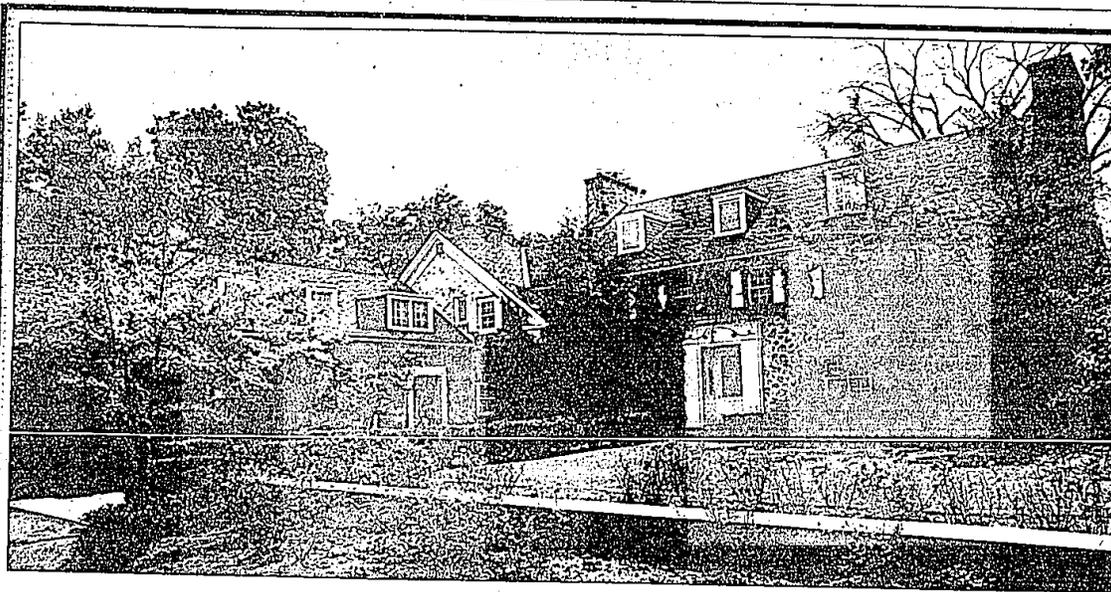
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The classic, country home, worked on by two of the country's finest architects, Wallace Frost and Albert Kahn, has a timeless look that the present owners, John and Carole Ogurek, respect. They spend much of their time and effort preserving the original look, and maintaining both the inside and outside in keeping with the original intent. To them it is a treasure to be loved, lived in and enjoyed.

House warms to their love, respect



By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

THEIR HOUSE is more than a home to John and Carole Ogurek of Bingham Farms. For them, it's a commitment, a way of life, a never-ending source of pleasure, a hobby and a sometimes awesome responsibility.

In the late '70s, they found and bought the house of their dreams, a one-owner classic country home, built in 1929, designed in the beginning by Wallace Frost and then completed by Albert Kahn. These two fine architects left a mark of quality and charm that is as attractive today as it was 54 years ago.

The original owners, Mr. and Mrs. George Kennedy (now a widower, he is a welcome visitor), liked antiques and rather formal Early American furnishings. She was from Maryland and the house seems to reflect the fine country architecture of that region. The landscape plan tends toward the formal without being stiff.

There are two front doors, but no back door — one at the driveway entrance, the other faces west and opens onto terrace, lawn and gardens which back up to the river.

The Ogureks had a gazebo built on the north side this past summer for a garden wedding they hosted — and it's a natural for the setting.

ESSENTIALLY the house remains true to its origins — the Ogureks found no reason to make changes for the sake of change. In fact, they rather pride themselves on keeping it

as close as possible to the original intent. Much of the wallpaper which the Kennedy's chose is still up and looking as fresh as ever.

They have made some changes in the large kitchen.

"It was pretty institutional because of the servants," said Carole Ogurek adding they wanted to make it more of a pleasant family gathering place. And as chief cook, she wanted something more modern and friendly looking and a natural wood floor helped.

The approximately 8,000-square-foot house with five fireplaces has quarters over the garage wing for servants and a sitting room off the kitchen for the servants (both now used by the family), four bedrooms in the main wing, a formal dining room, large living room, library, large front hall, sunroom, breakfast room and all kinds of storage space.

"It felt homey when I saw it," said

Carole Ogurek adding, "what I really love here is Christmas."

John Ogurek said, "It's a lotta work, but Carole and I always wanted a house like this. . . . And we enjoy it."

WHAT they particularly enjoy is finding the furnishings. They share a love of antiques and history and they have taken many trips to visit village homes of the south and east to see how they were furnished.

"We started collecting once we moved in," said Ogurek. And while they inevitably buy at least one piece on every trip to Savannah or Charleston, S.C., they happily point out — a great many of their purchases have been made locally.

"We've bought from Hampton House, Madeline, Dorothy Murphy and the auction houses," said Ogurek, "especially Dorothy Murphy."

"We really have a lot of fun," said Carole Ogurek, "of course this could put you in the poor house."

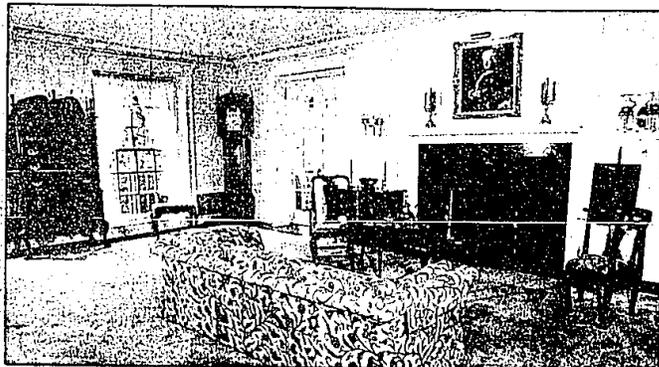
They have stayed pretty much with American and English 18th-century furniture, mostly Queen Anne and Chippendale. When they don't have an original piece, they may use a quality reproduction with hope of being able to someday replace it with the real thing.

Since they moved into the house they've acquired some 15 portraits whose subjects seem completely at home in the refined, country ambience.

The Ogureks like talking to George Kennedy about the history of the house. They savor his approval of the small changes they make. They delight in bringing this house alive, well and beautiful into the future without compromising its original character.

Carole and John Ogurek, an attorney whose offices are only minutes from home, wanted to raise their sons in a traditional American atmosphere with beautiful, memorable holiday celebrations. They wanted a place where friends, relatives and family could all gather and enjoy.

Staff photos by
Mindy Saunders



The large living room, with the original carpeting in a soft beige, is furnished with antiques and period furniture that the Ogureks have been col-

lecting steadily ever since they acquired the home. The quest will never be complete, they admit, which is part of the fun.



Carole Ogurek said the first time she saw a large group of Brother Rice High School students gathered in the breakfast room to eat, she won-

dered if her prize Windsor chairs would be equal to the challenge. That they were spoaks well for antique furniture makers.