Gundlachs bring 1920s home into the 21st century

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Janie and Rick Gundlach know how to bring an old house back to life.

The Gundlachs have restored several older homes. They recently worked on a 1920s "aris and crafts" brick bungalow on Farmington Road, two houses north of the Masonic Temple. The house is now for sale.

Their daughter Kate Stewart and her husband Kevin live next door, in a house built in 1910.

"We bought it because we are committed to the neighborhood, to preserving these houses as siednees," said Janie Gundlach of the couple's current home. "It has a lot of character, a lot of features that needed to be brought back."

They updated it to improve its

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"Our goal was to restore the benutiful old part and, what wasn't very pretty, we ripped out." Janie said. "It's updated and very livable for somebody teday."

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"We've been in the neighborhood a long time, 30 years,"
Janie said. "We purchased our first home on Shiawassee. It was a 1910 square house. We lived in it for seven years."

They then moved to the 1860s Victorian house on Warner, where they continue to reside. "We put a big addition on that and raised our three children there," she said.

They also moved an 1860s Victorian house, which sat on Grand River near the Jo-Ann Fabrics parking lot Jo-Ann Fabrics parking lot Jo-Ann Shiuwasse.

"We were given the house," Jonie said. That was the least expensive part."

The Gundlachs can't estimate the hours they worked on the Farmington Road house. Support came from friends and neighbors.

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"It's gratifying to hear people generously tell us how much they like what we do," said Rick, a former Farmington Historic Commission member.

"It was costly because we did-n't skimp," said Janie, a homemaker. "It was costly to hire professionals. It was more than cosmetics and aesthetics. The structure of the house is really good. We do have some 'before' pictures but we really don't care to remember it that way."

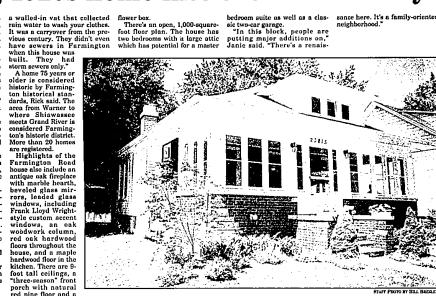
Among the features removed was a cistern.

"Most people don't remember what a cistern was," said Rick, a metallurgical engineer. "It was

Let the sun shine: High-lights of the Gundlachs Farmington Road house include leaded glass windows, hardwood floors and nine-foot-tall ceilings. The couple says they have invested quite a bit into the project, because they haven't skimped'on materials or workmanship in their effort to restore the his-toric home.

More than 20 homes are registered.

Highlights of the Farmington Road house also include an antique oak fireplace with marble hearth, beveled glass mirrors, leaded glass windows, including Frank Lloyd Wrightstyle custom accent windows, an oak woodwork column, rod oak hardwood floors throughout the house, and a maple hardwood floor in the kitchen. There are 9-foot tall ceilings, a foot tall ceilings, a
"three-season" front
porch with natural
red pine floor and a
back porch with a



History in the remaking: Janie and Rich Gundlach are restoring this 1920s era home.

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