



Hegewald Family Restores Historic McGrath Home

By: Kelli Froslic

When you move to a small town, people are always curious which house you moved in to. But how you answer, makes all the difference in that location knowing what house that is.

You can give an address, tell what color it is, you can even tell who your neighbors are, but until you say who the original owners are, people will not really know which house you are talking about.

In the case of Jim and Lisa Hegewald, the house they purchased is well-known within the Barnesville community.

The house, located in the northwest portion of town, sat empty for years. It was hidden behind some overgrown trees, almost in hiding, just off Highway 9. The mismatched paint and plastic covering the outside of the home was screaming for the right person, or family to come in and pour some love into the home.

But one night, while out for a drive with her family, Lisa saw the run down house and knew her family could make it a home.

"We were renting a house while we looked for a permanent home," explained Lisa. "Jim had been living

here for a short while and was giving us a tour of the town. He said, 'you have to see the castle.'"

So the Hegewalds, Jim, Lisa and daughters Jasmine and Alexandria drove across town to Barnesville's popular castle.

But while Jim and the girls were looking at the castle, Lisa had her eye on the house across the street.

"I said, 'yeah that's cool, but I want that house,'" said Lisa.

The McGrath home, or Milligan home, depending on which generation you ask, has gone from a run down eyesore, to a beautifully restored home that is a major piece of Barnesville's history.

The John McGrath mansion was the first home built on the west side of the railroad tracks in 1897. The land on which this house stands was originally part of 40 acres which first came into the possession of McGrath in 1896.

Over the years, the house has had very few owners.

John McGrath and his family owned the house until late 1946 when it was then sold to Vern and Julia Terry.

Vern was well-known around town as he was the chief of police



Within a three year time frame, Jim and Lisa Hegewald have turned this run down house into a gorgeous home on Barnesville's northwest side of town. Buying a 120-year old home is not for the novice carpenters. The old John McGrath home is the fourth home the Hegewalds have restored.

kitchen that was moved about 10 feet to the south.

"The kitchen was originally here," explained Jim as he motioned to the back entry. The staircase to the basement was in the middle of the original kitchen, which got moved to the dining room.

"The stairs to the basement were interesting to say the least," laughed Jim. "The first two steps were about 18 inches each, then there was a landing to the next set, which curved as you went deeper into the basement. Those stairs looked a little scary but they were as solid as could be."

The kitchen, dining room and back entry are all in an open layout. "There were walls with doorways everywhere," said Lisa. "So we opened the space up."

The dining room takes you back through a small hallway which brings you back to the front entry and staircase upstairs.

The house is filled with details that one wouldn't find in a home built today.

The original hardwood floors in the front room were laid down in

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from 1947-1952 and the Barnesville Liquor Store manager from 1951 to 1968.

The Terry's added a rental apartment to the huge old home which they owned until the end of 1973 when they sold it to Robert and Toni Simonson.

Mr. Simonson was a shop teacher and did some restoration in the home. But they did not live their long as in November of '77, they sold the home to Steven and Susan Severson.

Living in the large home was short-lived as the Severson's only lived their for a year.

In 1978, they sold the property to Clifford and Alice Milligan Jr.

In 2017, the Hegewalds signed the papers and the work began.

At the March 2017 Barnesville City Council meeting, Jim informed the council they were ready to begin renovation. Then Mayor Gene Prim thanked Jim for taking on a project to save a historic property and wished him luck.

"It will be interesting to say the least," replied Hegewald.

The first step was clean up. The roof had quite a few spots that let in moisture and nature to the attic.

The entire house was brought down to the studs and beams and built back up.

Starting at the front entry of the house, a wall was knocked out to make an archway to the left that leads into the front sitting room. That leads into the living room with a refurbished faux fireplace.

"We can't use the fireplace so for now, we have redone the woodwork around it," commented Jim.

A small hallway leads into the brand new kitchen. "I kind of had to make this hall way as years ago, a furnace was installed in the basement. That of course needed a chimney which was built on the outside of this wall," explained Jim. But because there was a gap between the chimney and the wall, moisture got in there and ruined the wood and plaster.

"Because it was put in in that manor, it created a mess guessing where the wall started in the basement. So I took a shot, built the wall and lucked out."

That leads you into the new



Pocket doors add to the integrity of the house. These doors lead from the front room to the living room. Off to the north end of the room is another pair of pocket doors that takes you into the living room.



Gorgeous detail was put into every aspect of this house when it was built over 100 years ago. In every corner in the front room, the wood was installed in a different pattern to add personality to the room.



While helping a friend with renovations to a different home, Jim found this interesting wall piece in the rubble. "I asked if I could take him home and was given the go-ahead," said Hegewald. Cortez, as the family has named him, was brought back to life after some renovation and love from Alexandria.

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10:00-8:00 Street Fair	7:00-11:00 Potato Pancake Feed
10:00 Kiddie Parade	8:00 Jaynie (Herbranson) Halvorson 10K/5K/Fun Run
1:00 National Lefse Cookoff	9:00-4:00 Street Fair
5:30 Mashed Potato Wrestling	9:30 Potato Picking Contest
6:00 Miss Tator Tot Pageant	10:00-4:30 Car Show
7:00 Potato Car Races	10:45 Kids Scramble/Adult Scramble
7:00-9:00 French Fry Feed	12:00 Potato Peeling Contest
<i>Food Court Hours: Fri. 10:00-10:00 • Sat. 9:00-10:00</i>	
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	12:30 Nick Manston Strong Man Competition
	2:30 Mashed Potato Eating Contest
	5:30 Potato Days Parade
	9:00 Street Dance