

VOICES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Tom & Sue Deet

We have had more than one experience with Heritage Home ProgramSM loans. The first was many years ago and the latest two were in the last four or five years.

Our home is a shingle style home built in 1904. It does have several newer additions. A bathroom, breakfast room and screened porch, called the summer

house, were added in 1918. While we updated the kitchen in 1977 to make it more manageable for a family with five children, we did not change the basic architecture. We still have the food pantry and butler's pantry with the original pass through to the work space of the kitchen. The ice room has the original square window through

which the ice was delivered. However, it now houses a washer and dryer and has become the laundry room.

Probably our biggest challenge has been to keep the original 1904 and 1918 bathroom fixtures. We have the huge clawfoot tubs and wall-hung toilets. When we've needed help, most plumbers want



Photos courtesy of Tom and Sue Deet

to replace it all. We have used loan money to keep everything in those bathrooms working correctly! We have managed to replace many of the cracked subway tiles and a few floor tiles.

We have the original barn, meant for housing the horses, and the carriage. We have rebuilt the barn doors to match the originals when we had to. The hay hook and grain feeders are intact.

Some loan money has been used for basic maintenance such as staining the shingles or taking

care of the windows by keeping the paint in good condition. Some has been used for decorating and painting the interior. We have tried to keep the general appearance of the kind of décor which may have been used in that era. We did hire a plumber to turn off the gas that was present behind every light fixture in the house in case electricity didn't work that well. The fixtures are there, but not the gas. We are lucky enough to have the original plans so we knew which rooms were meant to be natural oak and which ones were painted.

For those of us who really appreciate the older homes – the distinct architecture, fixtures, and the history – having resources to help us restore or maintain these homes is so much appreciated. We, of course, want to thank those people who have helped us to continue to preserve our home since we purchased it in 1977. The Heritage Home ProgramSM has not only helped us financially, but has provided us a way to meet people with thoughts similar to ours. We appreciate their encouragement! We hope that this program continues to maintain the integrity of the homes in our community and others.

Congratulations on twenty-five years of preservation work! ♦



Original butler's pantry

Program Note: Since purchasing this property in 1977, the Deets have spent almost 40 years carefully restoring every aspect of their historic home, taking extra care to preserve all of its unique features. In 2016, the couple received an award from the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission for their outstanding stewardship of the house.

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