

bath.

“Pretty much everything is original,” Mabry says. “One of the things we liked about this house was that all the woodwork around all the doors and windows was still intact and amazingly, when [the previous owners] made it into a duplex and they had converted the back, they still had these massive closets in the hallway. Fortunately, they

molding and trims and modernize it. None of that happened here.”

The Brumbachs added the crown molding to the top of the ceilings, and added ceiling medallions in the living and dining rooms. Mabry added a fresh coat of white paint to the wainscoting dominant in the entry way.

“We’ll probably end up painting [the stairway],” she adds. “We would have

loved to have gone back down to bare wood, but it was such a huge project.”

The house includes seven fireplaces, tiled on the outside and faux painted. At one point, the tile in the dining room fireplace had been replaced and Mabry has been on the hunt for its matching Kelly green. Eventually, they plan to convert the fireplaces into gas.

The Brumbachs’ d o w n - t o - e a r t h , eclectic style is revealed further in each room that boasts of bold color. The living room’s rich red walls lend nicely to the warm, inviting appeal. Brown paint, used as a base under the coats of red, allows the color to keep its warm tone, David explains.

A 1929 M. Schulz (Chicago) player piano that belonged to Mabry’s great-grandmother sits in the corner waiting to add its charm to the party.

The spare bedroom is even brighter and bolder with its vibrant blue, called Peacock Tail, painted on its walls. The fireplace and tall windows, prominent

throughout the home, add to its charm. They had their house decorated originally in Victorian style, but decided it was not a style that worked for them. Some furniture taken with them from their modern Chicago home, mixed with antique Eastlake style furniture, gives the Brumbachs a style of their own that lends itself kindly to the old Victorian residence.

One of the oldest pieces the Brumbachs own is a hall tree that greets visitors in the entry way. Originally given to David’s great-great Aunt Hettie, it has been handed down through the family for the last 125 years, still in pristine condition.

But the Victorian charm is still rampant throughout the home. The dining room, for example, is the only room with wallpaper — a floral black toile on an ivory background.

“I just liked it,” Mabry explains of choosing the design. “We saw the Victorian patterns and they were all the toiles, and I just didn’t really want it to be too fussy.” David is pleased they can put anything with the design.

The ornately carved detailing on the ceiling medallions in each of the rooms further add to the home’s charm. The high ceilings are another unique feature of the Victorian homes, and although the walls have been dropped a couple of inches in the Brumbach’s dwelling, typical in modernization, they still lend to the stately appearance of a Victorian home.

While there is still much to do in the Victorian, the Brumbachs are not overwhelmed and take each project in stride. To them, being good stewards of the home and having the responsibility to maintain it is important.

“I love the whole house in general,” says David. “It just keeps taking on more of our personality and becoming more of a really nice place to be.” ■



didn’t take down the stair railing. They took down just one tiny section which we had replicated, but realistically, everything is still here.”

“It really wasn’t taken apart, like some other homes,” David adds. “Unfortunately, people go in and strip out the light fixtures, tear out the