



Right, this marble fireplace, a focal point of the living room in the Donald and Catherine Krail home, was commissioned by the Rev. T. G. Smith, who enlarged the home in 1871. Smith, a native of Scotland, had the fireplace designed with Scotland's national symbol, the thistle, in the center.

Rick Danz/ The Reporter

Beauty and the county's Best

Early Fond du Lac home is 1 of 8 Beautification Award winners

By Sherri Gysbers/ Of The Reporter Staff

PATTERNEED after a Scottish home, the 1871 historic home at 665 Rienzi Road still catches the passerby's attention.

The home, owned by Donald and Catherine M. Krail, also caught the attention of the Fond du Lac Natural Beauty Council, which awarded it one of the council's 1994 Beautification Awards.

The 1871 simple-styled brick Italianate home, located near the junction of Rienzi Road, National and Fond du Lac Avenues was purchased by Catherine Krail's grandparents, Forrest and Charlotte Colladay in the early 1900s and passed to her mother, Florence Meekin. The Krails assumed ownership following World War II.

The oldest part of the home was built in 1847. In 1871, the Rev. T.G. Smith, one of the first Presbyterian ministers who came from Scotland, enlarged the home, patterning it after his ancestral home. Calling his new residence "Castle Gowrey," he had local craftsmen create a marble fireplace accented with Scotland's national symbol, the thistle, in his 27-foot living room.

The home illustrates a different interpretation of the Italianate style popular in Wisconsin from 1850 to the 1880s.

Its large, side gables have wide overhanging eaves decorated with classical brackets decorating a simple frieze. Simple flat stone lintels at the windows accent its regular fenestration. According to Carol Cart-

wright, author of Fond du Lac's 1992 Survey of Architectural Resources Survey, the home is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of its high level of preservation and different interpretation of the Italianate style.

"We live on the porch since we enclosed it," said Catherine. "There once was another matching open porch on the back of the house. And from an old photograph, we know there was a high wrought iron driveway gate with Castle Gowrey inscribed on it."

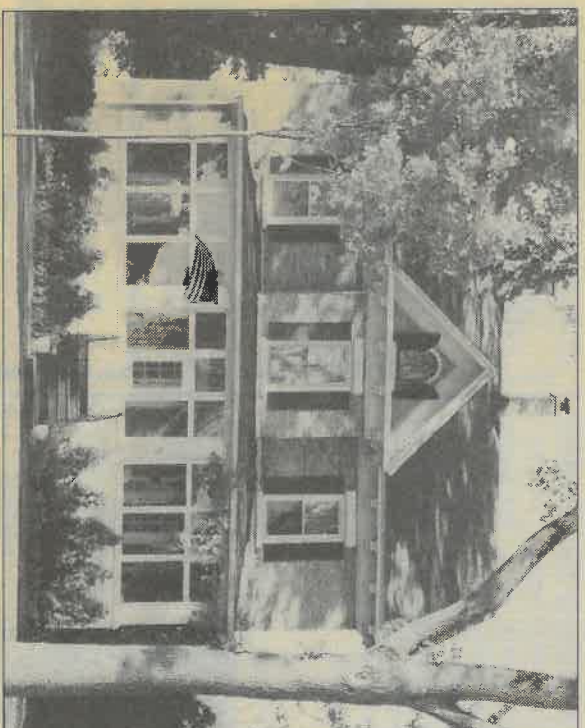
The Krails annually plan their landscape to accentuate the home's simplicity. Using varying shades of one color, they plant petunias and geraniums contrasted by dusty millers and other greenery.

"With 26 maples on the property, we rake almost a ton and a half of leaves every fall," she explained. "An old butchering kettle on a tripod from Don's family holds a variety of impatiens, too. This is really the only place I have ever called home," she said.



Rick Danz/ The Reporter

▲ Donald and Catherine Krail have received a 1994 Beautification Award from the Fond du Lac County Natural Beauty Council for their home, **left**, at 665 Rienzi Road. Seven other sites in the county also received awards and two county 4-H chapters were recognized by the Council.



Each year, the Fond du Lac Natural Beauty Council sponsors a county Beautification Award program to encourage community improvement. Nominations are received in several categories each year for awards.

In addition to the Donald and Catherine Krail residence, the winning sites include:

- Galloway House and Village, 336 Pioneer Road.
- Marie and Tom Roberts farm, N9587 County Trunk C, Eldorado.
- Charlene and Donald Strook farm, N4562

Road, Malone

- Historic home of Kathy and Lance McClellan, N7268 County Trunk K, Taycheedah.
- St. Mary's Springs High School, 255 County Trunk K.
- All About Life Rehabilitation Center, 115 E.

of Eden and the Weeping Willow 4-H Club of Oakfield.

Alice Schmitz, chairwoman of the Natural Beauty Council, presented awards earlier this month at a meeting of the Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors.