



Tour Stop # 2 - the Home of Jeff and Katie Dornbos – 891 Beech Street

Home Coordinator: Marian Johnson

The colonial style home of Jeff and Katie Dornbos, located at 891 Beech Street, was built in 1997, by Greg Parker of Parker Built Homes of Charlotte. The home was chosen from a floor plan book and taken to Alternative Design of Lansing for a bit of customizing.

In 1999, the sun room and the pole barn were added. 2001 brought the addition of the swimming pool, which has been great for gathering the neighborhood kids. The boy's Grandpa Grace built them a fort and play set in 2002, which has come in handy for camp outs.

Join us as we enter the home, you will find a two story foyer painted in a warm, dark maroon with hardwood floors. To the right is a formal living room that has been decorated more as a traditional parlor with Queen Anne chairs and an old writing desk that has been an antique white washing. The wallpaper was the same as that which was used when Katie decorated her parent's Victorian home on Seminary where she grew up. She loved it so much she decided to use it here, too.

On the left of the entry is a den where a river rock technique is used on the walls and is decorated in a much more masculine style complete with antique swords and muskets.

Straight ahead is the formal dining room. Here grass cloth wallpaper graces the walls and you will notice an antique server and hutch in keeping with the traditional flow of the home.

From the dining room, step down through pocket French doors. Here you will find the great room that was added in 2007. It has been terrific for hosting their rather large holiday and family get togethers. The room is rather large, but the Dornbos's wanted a cozy feeling room so on the ten-foot ceilings a darker tone of the creamy yellow wall color was used to bring down the scale a bit. Several of Katie's family items are used in this room... Two sliding glass doors overlook the pool area, as well as a covered porch which is wonderful on rainy days.

The stacked stone, gas fireplace is the family's favorite addition to the room. On chilly winter nights with the pocket doors closed, that cozy atmosphere has been accomplished as it warms the room very nicely.

In August of this year, the kitchen was upgraded with new cabinets by Amish cabinet maker, Rudy Byler of Valley Cabinets. When designing the new kitchen modern touches were brought in to the traditional theme with the addition of darker maple cabinetry with some top-hinge cabinets as well as some open shelving, granite counters and a glass mosaic backsplash. The hard wood floors have been refinished in a lighter tone to offset the dark cabinetry. It is also an eat-in kitchen with a breakfast nook in the bay window.

To the left of the kitchen is a powder room and the sunroom, that is perfect for morning coffee and favorite hangout for the dog and two cats.

Upstairs you'll find the master suite with attached bathroom; three bedrooms done with each child's specific interests in mind; and another full bath.

Jeff and Katie say that this has been a wonderful home and neighborhood to raise our boys; we hope to stay here well into our retirement years.

