



Preserving History

One of the many benefits of living in the city of Rochester is the aesthetic beauty of the old Victorian homes that line so many of our streets. Each has its own unique look and focal point, whether it be a high-pitched roof, grand front porch or textured shingles. Although many new changes have been made to the city over the years, the preservation of these homes keeps Rochester looking and feeling charming instead of industrial.

Charles Buddy and Maxine Gransten of Rochester have the pleasure of owning one of these grand homes, and theirs is full of character and old-world charm. From first glimpse, it's no denying what the focal point is on their 1910 Victorian-style home. A huge enclosed front porch complete with columns faces the street, and yellow brick arches frame the front entrance. The splendors of homes like the Granstens is immense, but ask any Victorian-style homeowner about the maintenance and they'll give you a whole different story.



Buddy and Maxine purchased their home in 1984, and have been residents ever since, but as time went by their project list got bigger and bigger. That's when they decided to give NeighborWorks® Rochester a call and apply for our Home Improvement Loan.

The Granstens' roof was 20 years-old, their driveway 15 years-old and both the front and back porches needed a facelift. The front porch, which is one of the focal points of the home, was enclosed with glass which made it unbearable to enjoy during the hot summer months. The new renovation would include screen windows. The contractors also added glass-block windows to the basement which allows more light into the Granstens' once gloomy laundry and storage room.

Buddy commented that there were a few favorites now that the work is done. "My wife's favorite part is the glass-block windows. She is so happy about the way they turned out." The couple also can't wait for spring so they can enjoy their screened-in porch.

Not only were Buddy and Maxine happy about the outcome, but they were also very pleased with the customer service they received from NeighborWorks® Rochester. "Amy [the Homeownership Coordinator] was so helpful, and the staff was a great bunch to work with . . . it was a good bang for our buck," said Buddy.

Porch-Before



Porch-After

