

Ingenuity Triumphs In Suburban Renewal

By ANN WARWICK

ALLENDALE — An over-run farmhouse on Franklin Turnpike, dating back to 1807 was deserted a few years ago, when its proprietor, Ransom Duncan, left, after receiving a considerable inheritance. The lights, it is said, were left blazing and the doors wide open.

This sounds like the opening paragraph to a mystery novel, but instead it is the beginning to a story of redecorating ingenuity.

A year ago, a young couple, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ardia moved into the ramshackle eyesore and over the past 12 months have revitalized it with imagination and creativity.

"Trying to keep its authenticity," the Ardias have redone the interior of their home with 18th century antiques and reproductions. Its restoration is a mutual effort — Dick Ardia has done all the wallpapering, carpentry and landscaping, while his wife, Eve, manages the interior decorating and their ten month old daughter, Allison.

The dining room, done in Early American Country, uses an attractive fieldstone fireplace as the fo-

cal point, offset by an antique dry sink and redone blue table and matching chairs. The furniture artistically blends with the reproduced 18th century wallpaper and chandelier.

Williamsburg decor enhances the living room with its high-mantled fireplace, desk and Queen Anne chair. A red and white print couch enlivens the entire room.

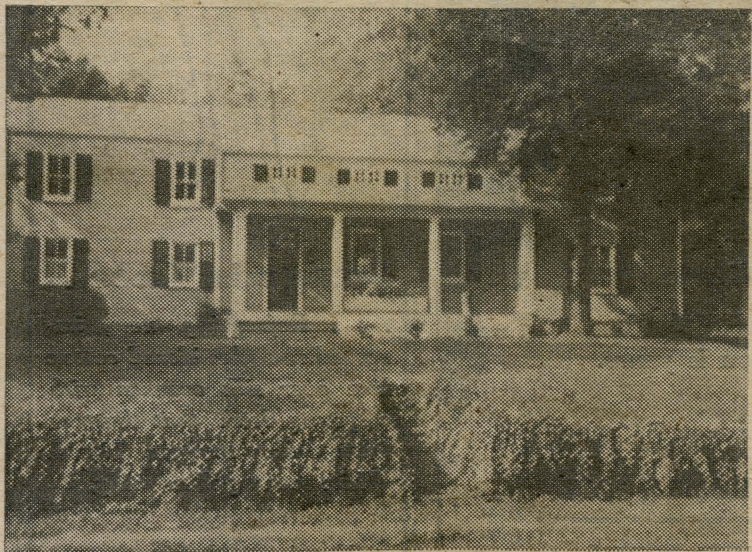
The first floor is unified by a blue color theme bringing together the living room, foyer and dining area into an expansive expression of Early America.

The kitchen painted with a warm

yellow and accented with black fixtures overlooks the acre and a half backyard. Gigantic Birch trees, formal gardens, and blooming lilac bushes place this unique home in a rural and picturesque setting — an unusual scene in these days of fast rising housing developments.

The challenge of renovating this home, while simultaneously retaining its historic authenticity was met with maximum enthusiasm and design and minimum expense. The Ardias are representative of that quality inherent in American inventiveness.

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Today, the Ardia's home at 555 Franklin Turnpike is transformed from a deserted farmhouse into this attractive touch of early America.