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Ginter Park home goes from dilapidated to gorgeous—and for sale

When Greta Harris moved into her home in Ginter Park in North Richmond 14 years ago, the house next door was in serious disrepair.

It had no kitchen or heating system. Part of the porch was missing.

But it was in even worse shape when Harris and her partner, Evette Roots, put down \$140,000 in July 2008 to rescue the structure.

Pipes had burst. The roof had holes. The owner, a Vietnam veteran, died about five years ago. Two raccoons occupied the house.

Yet, Harris had more than an appreciation for the house next door, an American foursquare built in 1918. She had an affinity.

She had learned through talks with her late neighbor, Jessie Jeffress, that her grandparents and his grandparents lived on neighboring farms in Red Oak.

"He knew my father, my uncles and aunts," she said.

Harris said she and Roots were not interested in flipping the house and making a tidy profit. They wanted to restore the house to its former glory and help the neighborhood, because a vacant home pulls down property values.

The totally gutted and redone 3,000-square-foot house, at 3607 Noble Ave., goes on the market this weekend.

It is listed with Roots, an associate broker with Keller/Williams, for \$485,000.

"Our goal is to find a great neighbor and breathe financially," Harris said. "I am proud of what we have done. Architecturally, the house is very beautiful."

She and Roots will hold a neighborhood block party and open house tomorrow from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to show how it's possible to transform a neighborhood liability into an asset.

"Watching that house that had such beautiful bones and beautiful structure sit for so many years was sad," said Carol O'Brochta, who lives on the block. "The house that has so much character now has integrity."

The three-story house is energy efficient with three zones for heating and cooling. It has a chef's kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Some original maple floors were redone; unsalvageable ones were re-covered in oak.

The house has two pocket doors, a new roof, recessed lights and 39 windows.