

3...2...1... MOVE!



Expert House Movers begins the process of taking the former Fishbach home from Riverview to Richardson Monday morning.

The Crains bought the house for \$1, but had to pay plenty to move it. Much of the expense went to utility companies. Power was out in the area for a few hours.



Old house has successful journey to new location

ANN CRAIN WAS A NERVOUS WRECK Monday, watching her \$1 house start on its journey to its new home.

She was so anxious, she thought she might have to start breathing into a paper bag, but the project - moving the house from Riverview - past trees and utility poles, buildings and stop signs to its new spot, two corners and two streets away - went smoothly. By afternoon, Expert House Movers had put the former Fishbach house carefully and neatly in its new spot on Richardson Avenue, and Ann's nerves had calmed.

Originally, the plan had been to move the house from Riverview to Church, and then to Richardson, and its new home, just past Brooklyn.

But careful measuring and planning by ANEC, VDOT, Eastern Shore Broadband, Spectrum and Expert House Movers, the company that pulled the whole thing together, allowed the house to travel a much shorter route, up to Brooklyn, then north, and around the corner and onto the lot on Richardson.

THERESA MATYIKO, in charge of the Virginia Beach house-moving and -raising company, said this was a fairly complicated job, because of the tight spaces and all the entities that had to work together.

Trucks and people began gathering around 8 a.m. By 10 a.m., power lines were down, the 18-wheeler truck was connected, and the house rolled out onto Riverview. The driver and workers had to make some adjustments after the turn onto Brooklyn, but they did this with only minor changes of direction. The house brushed up against a couple trees on its way down Brooklyn, but neither branches nor windows broke.

At the corner of Richardson, the truck - which was pulling from what was and is to be the back of the house, had to back up - but only once.

Workers put boards onto the wet grass and the driver was able to crank the truck around tightly enough to get it nicely into the lot.

Continued on back

Right, the house makes the final turn into its new space.



From there, it was straight back to what will be a 4-foot foundation.

AN ANEC WORKER said the electric company had two trucks and two bucket lifters, and about a dozen workers.

Eastern Shore Broadband and VDOT had at least one truck each. Expert House Movers appeared to have about half a dozen workers.

These days, the company - which is based in Virginia Beach - mostly lifts houses in areas where rising water is endangering them.

Matyiko said her company, including a Maryland branch, was responsible, she said, for moving many of the homes from the barrier islands to the mainland.

Her company just finished a project to raise the Bray School in Colonial Williamsburg, as part of a project to renovate and restore the structure.



Matyiko

MONDAY MORNING, the Crains shared some interesting side notes about the house. Ann remembers going into it as a child, and feeling totally at home.

Ann and Dan Crain now live at 3 Center Street, and the house they've moved will be 3 Riverview.

And, it turns out, one of Ann's ancestors built the house originally.



Above, the house came very close to a couple poles and a few trees. Above, right, an 18-wheeler cab pulled in the front, while big dollies rolled in the back. Right, the house sitting in its new location.



Richard Snyder, VIMS director, says the land where the house sat will become open space for picnics and other gatherings.