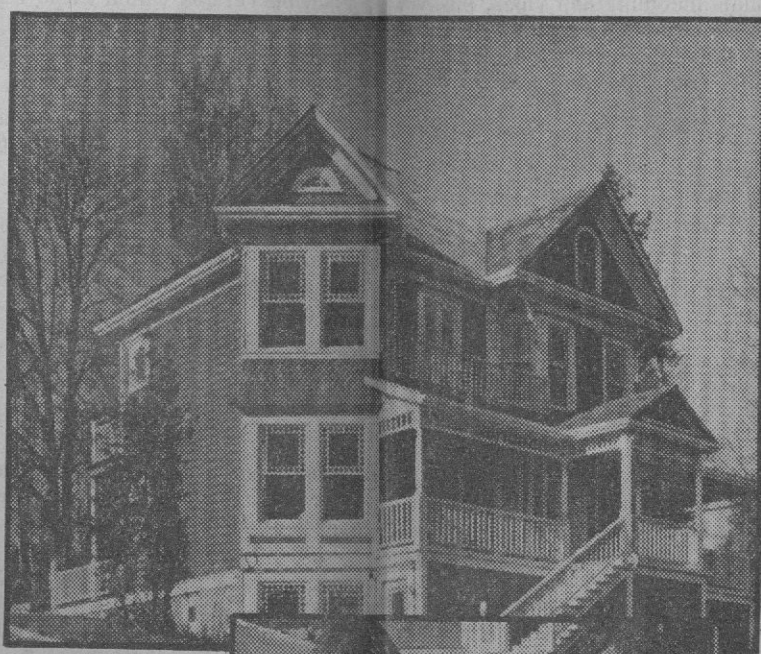


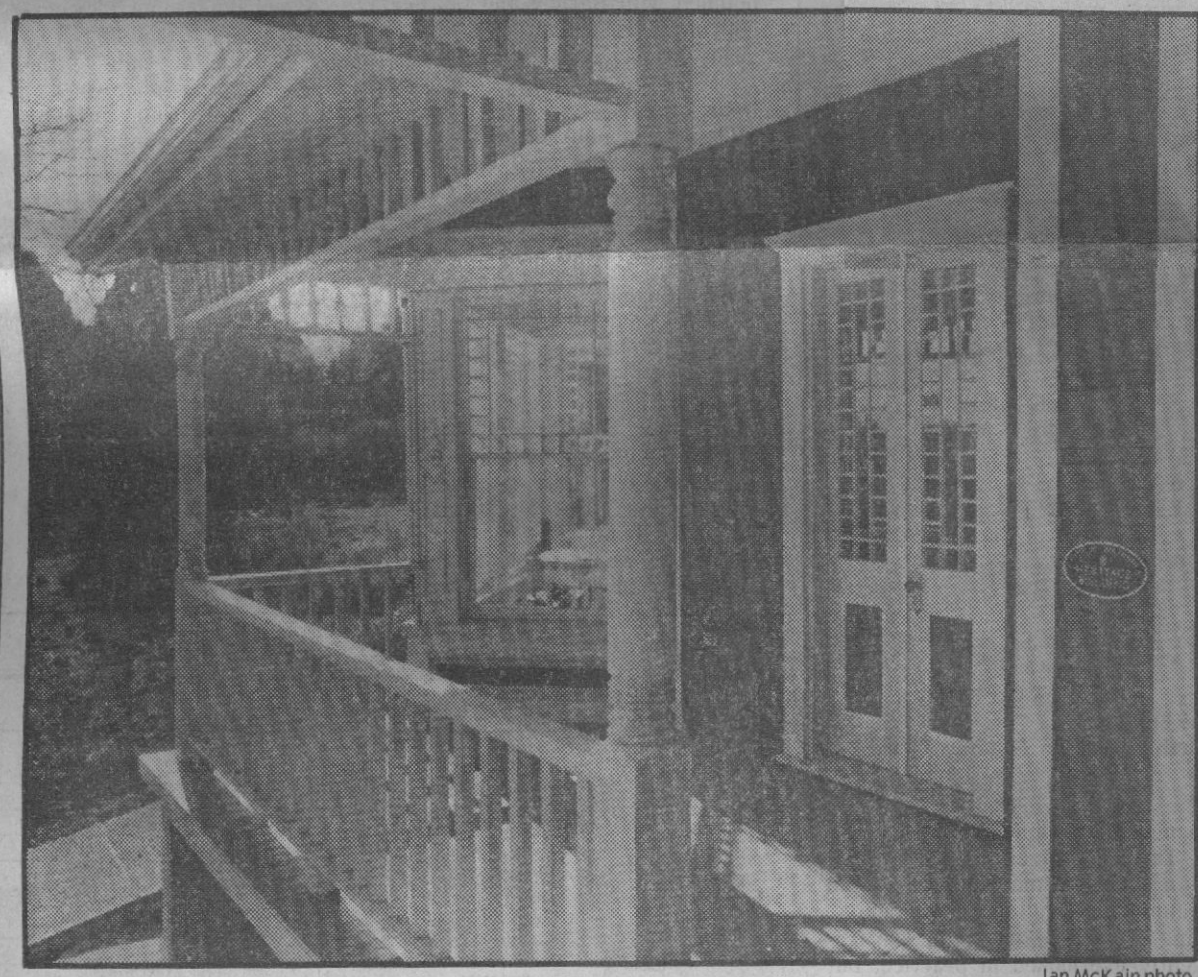
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HOUSE:
Maplewood
OWNERS:
Hugh Peet,
Martin
Whitehead



For 12 years, the Hallmark Society has made awards to people who have done skilful restorations in Greater Victoria. Past awards have recognized work done on the Legislative Buildings and the synagogue. Monday night, the private volunteer society gave seven awards. Its Louis award — named after Louis the parrot, of Parrot

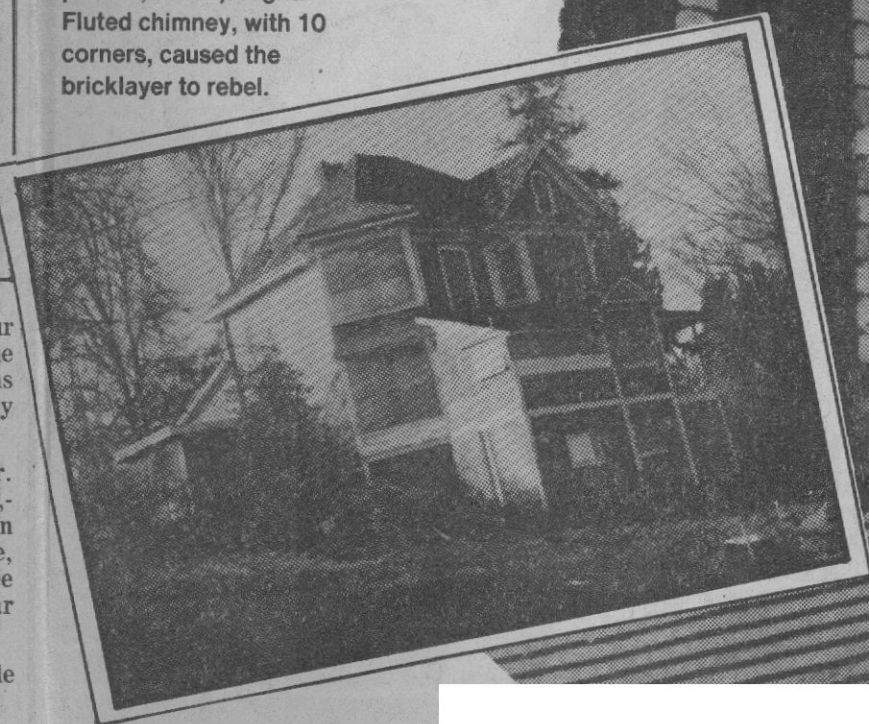


Ian McKain photo

MAPLEWOOD

‘Basically, we rebuilt the whole house’

■ ELEGANT railings, left, pale against plum-colored paint, were reproduced, since vandals had stripped the house of everything worth stealing (‘before’ picture, below). Right: Fluted chimney, with 10 corners, caused the bricklayer to rebel.



BEAUMONT BOGGS gave his life a handsome setting when he built Maplewood in 1891. The tall gabled Queen Anne house overlooked the Selkirk Water, whose shores were dotted with picnickers on summer afternoons.

The windows, each rimmed with a filigree of small panes, gave it stateliness, while inside, the staircase drew

gasps of admiration with its sweepingly curved mahogany rail.

Today, Maplewood no longer has languorous surroundings. Its windows afford a view of B.C. Forest Products — a not-unpleasant industrial view, with cranes and barges and tugs, but an industrial view all the same.

Hugh Peet and Martin Whitehead,

who own the house at 1140 Arthur Currie Lane in Vic West, enjoy the same attractive high-ceilinged rooms the Boggs family did almost a century ago.

But they didn't walk into splendor. When they bought the house for \$35,000 in December, 1984, it was an abject wreck. To bring it back to life, they poured in \$150,000 and, with three employees, powered through a year of back-breaking work.

“Basically, we rebuilt the whole house,” said Whitehead.

He and Peet weren't faced with simple wear and tear. The house, which they bought from the City of Victoria, had been extensively vandalized. Every windowpane had been smashed, every exterior and interior door removed. A hot-water radiator had been heaved down the stairs; campfires had been lit on the floor.

“The first thing we did was gut the whole house,” said Whitehead, who, because he does restoration work for a living, could see past the boarded windows and lowered ceilings to Boggs's original dream.

Peet, who had restored old cars but never houses, soon learned how much niggling work is called for. Fixing the windows meant sanding, reglazing, puttying and three coats of paint — “just hours and hours and hours put into one window.”

The partners jacked up the house, replacing two-thirds of the foundation. They rebuilt the chimneys, which had been condemned, Peet taking over as bricklayer when the man he had hired rebelled at the ornate design he wanted.

They reframed, rewired, replumbed. They insulated and sound-

proofed. They replaced the lath and plaster with wallboard.

Vandalism continued during the work. Tools were stolen, and windows broken.

They went over and over decisions, which Whitehead calls “a series of compromises.” At one point, the exterior looked uproarious: Not knowing which scheme to choose, they painted all three floors in different colors.

Said Whitehead: “We asked people what they thought. Everyone gave us a different answer, so we finally had to decide ourselves.” They settled on a deep plum color, with cream and pale grey trim.

Whitehead now lives in one of the four suites they built, and Peet is planning to move into another. Looking back over their experience, which is nearly over except for landscaping and minor work, they often wonder whether it was worth it.

It cheers them to think they have built a new house within an aging shell. But they think that, next time, they might really start from scratch and build an old-fashioned-looking house from the ground up.