

Y Homes Tour:

This Victorian Retains Its Charm In Apartment Living

True to the Victorian tradition, the old Deming home on Cliff Street, to be on the YWCA Homes tour August 20, was created with towers, bays and overhangs in abundance.

The front porch and balcony have lavishly turned balusters and railings; surface treatment includes horizontal siding on the first floor, random shingling on the second floor, with a band of rectangular panels above that.

The gables all have the same random shingling with sawtooth border and kite-shaped insert. These elements of style are even carried out on the carriage house.

The house, now divided into apartments, is gradually being restored by owner Vern Nordby. It was originally built for Arthur Deming, a midwest banker who moved to Santa Cruz with his wife and two daughters in the 1890s. He became president of the First National Bank here.

The home was designed by Edward Van Cleek and was completed in 1899. According to one of the daughters, Josephine Sherwood of Pasatiempo, the granite foundation was laid one

summer and allowed to settle over the winter with the house completed the following year.

Josephine recalls that the large attic was the setting for many dances and parties and always had a pool table in it.

The other daughter was the late Dorothy Deming Wilson who became a celebrated sportswoman and founded Pogonip Polo Club. After going to Alaska with her first husband, where she raced dog teams, she brought back several Huskies and a wolf which she kept in the basement after converting it to kennels.

The Demings sold the house in the early '30s and it then was converted into apartments. Vern Nordby bought it four years ago and says the first thing he did was to take down the neon sign out in front. It since has become home to several family members with Vern's mother, Betty Nordby, and his sister, Vivian Spier and her family, occupying two apartments.

Vern's father restored furniture as a profession so the entire family shares a well-established interest in antiques. Vern and his brother, Kayle, share space



at Arapaho Basin Pharm on Pacific Avenue where Vern specializes in European antiques and Kayle sells handmade leather garments.

According to Vern, the front hall was originally very open but was altered in the '30s. To the left is Betty Nordby's apartment in what was originally the library (now living room), sunporch (now kitchen), and dining room (bedroom). The library has the original fireplace, built-in bookcases and ornate radiators and rich natural wood. In what is now Betty's bedroom, is the original pressed tin ceiling, paneling, parquet floors, fireplace and built-in cupboard.

The long back hall is an unusual feature of the house and was designed that way at Mr. Deming's request, according to his daughter, to separate the kitchen and pantry from the rest of the house because he disliked having cooking smells throughout the house.

The other downstairs unit also has an original parquet floor in what was once the den. The fancy cut-out scroll work in the living room of

this unit was once the entry way into the parlor.

The upstairs hall has a typically Victorian niche with built-in seat and door onto the balcony. This is used as a reading nook by the families.

The living room of the upstairs apartment was originally Mrs. Deming's bedroom, designed with a birdseye maple mantelpiece, complete with hidden cabinet behind the mirror. The ornate pressed picture molding remains throughout the upstairs rooms. The kitchen for this unit was another sunporch.

All windows in the house have the original beaded molding, the doors have the same paneling and hardware, and many of the light fixtures are the original ones.

In her apartment, Betty has combined old family pieces with antiques and artwork from her children. The mantle clock and armchair were her mother's as was the mirrored mahogany dresser in the bedroom.

The sideboard, kitchen set and primitive gothic chair in

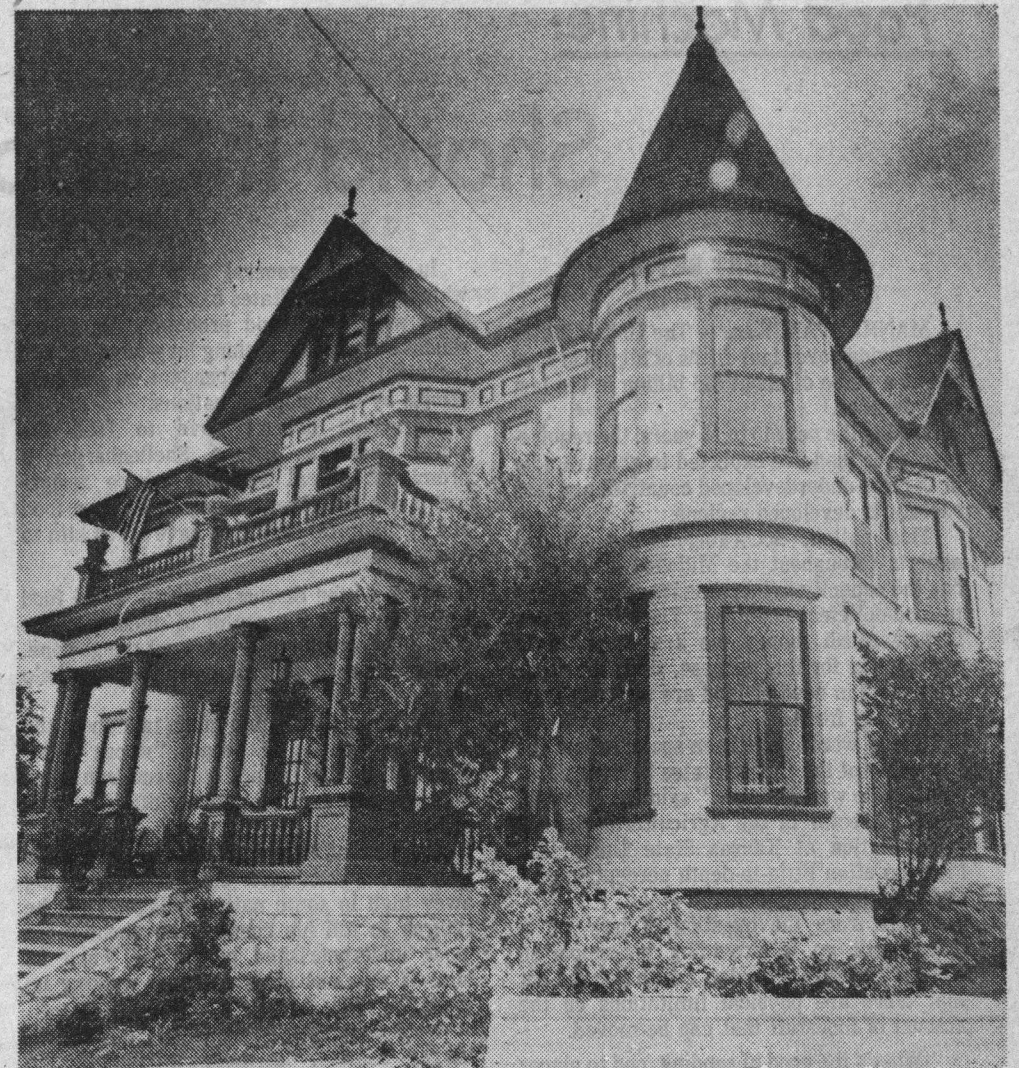
the entry are all old English pieces she recently acquired. Above the mantle is a painting done on a thick board, thought to date from the 1700s.

Vern says artwork throughout the house includes many paintings by his sister, Vivian, "and of course there are frequent migrations of antique furniture between apartments, basement and store. As with any old house, the restoration is continuing." The grounds retain some of their old-fashioned feeling by virtue of the palm tree, cement urns, fountains and pathways.

The carriage house was designed to incorporate a residence from its very beginning and the other sections housed, at various times, wood, feed, hay, horses, carriages and some of the first cars in town. (The first car, bought in 1906 by Mr. Deming, took half an hour to start and required a special mechanic.)

The Y homes tour is a part of its annual antiques show-sale to be August 19-21 at Civic Auditorium.

—CYNTHIA MATHEWS



Edward Van Cleek designed this Victorian for the Arthur Deming family. When it was sold in the early '30s, it was divided into apartments. Current owner is Vern Norby who has been restoring the house. His mother, Betty Nordby, has the former library as her living room, photo at left, and it has the original fireplace and built-in bookcases.

Tickets

Donation of \$3.50 included both the Y Homes tour and its annual antiques show-sale. The show-sale runs from August 19-21 and the tour, which includes four homes, is from 1 to 4 p.m. August 20. Tickets are available at the Y or for more information call 426-3062.

Introducing KATHLEEN

NEW OWNER OF
Capitola House of Beauty
706H Capitola Avenue
Capitola
(408) 475-3981

Special attention to senior citizens
Discount Tues. & Weds.

Weddings

- Invitations
- Decorations
- Personalized Napkins
- Cake Decorating Supplies

Diehms

345 Main St.
Watsonville
724-4061





Getting married?

We grow our own
flowers...over 100
old-fashioned,
fragrant varieties



Featuring
original corsages,
gifts, and
exquisite bouquets
and arrangements

Weddings are our specialty!
Shoppers Corner Flower Ladies
Sat. noon. 423-3288
most reasonable! 427-1893

Elizabeth Spier, left, likes to visit her grandmother, Betty Nordby, in her apartment. Now Betty's living room, it was the former library in the Deming home. Above, Elizabeth's mother, Vivian Spier, uses the reading nook in the upstairs hall.

Open

ANNU