

Stately Victorian To Be On Marelo Homes Tour

This stately residence at 245 Ocean View Avenue has changed hands about 14 times in the past 100 years or so... and the economic prosperity or "slump" of the period was reflected in the selling price, according to Mrs. Raymond Lowe.

The Lowes own the house now. They bought it from Jim Noren who acquired it in 1971 from Dan and Stewart Hurt.

Over the years, certain things have been done to "modernize" the huse. These, the Norens felt, detracted from its original elegance. They started the restoration of the house, to as near its original state as possible.

"At one time the second story balcony had been closed in and the ornate trim removed," Mrs. Lowe notes. "The Norens found the railing and trim from the balcony and put them back. Luckily they had been stored under the house."

Noren also had the old gazebo in the garden restored as a gift for his wife's birthday.

The Lowes bought the house after they answered an ad when the Norens were selling antique furniture. The Lowes bought the huge Chickering grand piano, and fell in love with the house at the same time.

Linda Lowe laughs and says that Ray bought the house so he wouldn't have to move the piano!

The house is a landmark in Santa Cruz to those who love the fine old Victorians. The massive double doors with stained glass windows open into a large entry hall which can be closed off from the front parlor and the dining room with large redwood sliding doors.

The staircase bannister is a fine example of intricately carved spindles and has never been painted, a fact for which Mrs. Lowe is grateful she says. The wood is mellow and beautiful with its years.

The entry is lined with a wainscoting that was pressed into designs and is believed to be a special kind of paper material that was pressed from molds of zinc and lead, then shellacked in the rich Chinese red tones of its era. The wainscoting is in remarkably good condition for its age and here again, Mrs. Lowe feels extremely for-

tunate that it has not been painted over.

The front entry also has two little "coachmen's doors" on either side of the main door. They are used for flower arrangements today, but originally the coachmen sat in them to keep warm while waiting for their employers to come out.

The home has five bedrooms, four baths, front and back parlors, formal dining room, kitchen and library.

The Lowes have started to restore the interior of the house. They have three small sons and each has a bedroom decorated especially for him: Jason's room has tigers, Justin's bed belonged to his great-grandparents.

The 12-foot ceilings were redecorated where necessary by a master craftsman, Larry Brandt. Tile trim was selected for two of the four fireplaces, and Mrs. Lowe carefully chose velvet upholstery fabrics to complement their collection of Oriental rugs for the formal rooms downstairs.

Mr. Lowe claims the study and Mrs. Lowe says "The rear parlor is mine." She has decorated it in bright yellows and greens, and furnished it with white Victorian wicker. Plants thrive in the sunny room she says.

The kitchen, which was mainly remodeled by the Hurts, has modern double ovens, stove and bright yellow tile.

The old bath tub from the one original bathroom in the house when it was built, has been painted with a design of peacock feathers and the legs have been gilded.

The house stands on property that was sold in 1871 by Miguel Sorio to Martha Wilson — known as the "Widow Wilson." She built several homes, including one that stood at the corner of Broadway and Ocean which was demolished to make way to make way for a gasoline station.

Mrs. Lowe believes Mrs. Wilson built the Lowe home in about 1877. It has Italianate lines with large bay windows. The ornate balcony and cupola were added in later years, she says.

In May of 1917, the house sold at public auction for \$6000. Successful bidder was Annie C. Wilson of Stockton. —

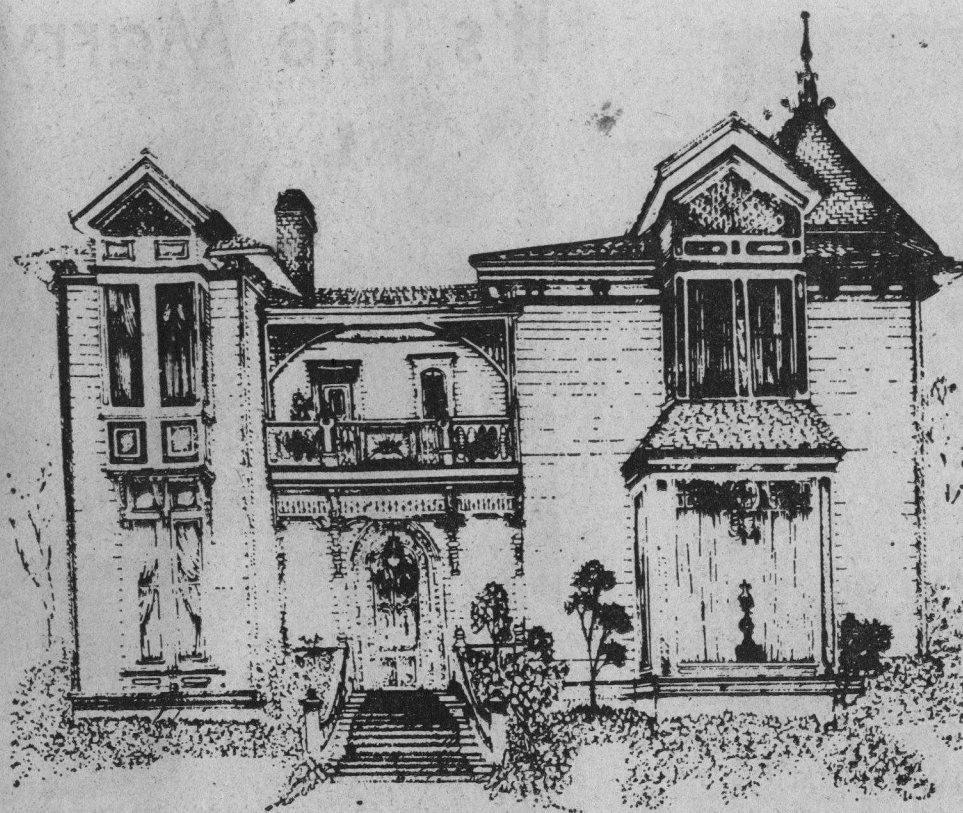
MARGARET KOCH

Marelo Homes Tour Is Saturday

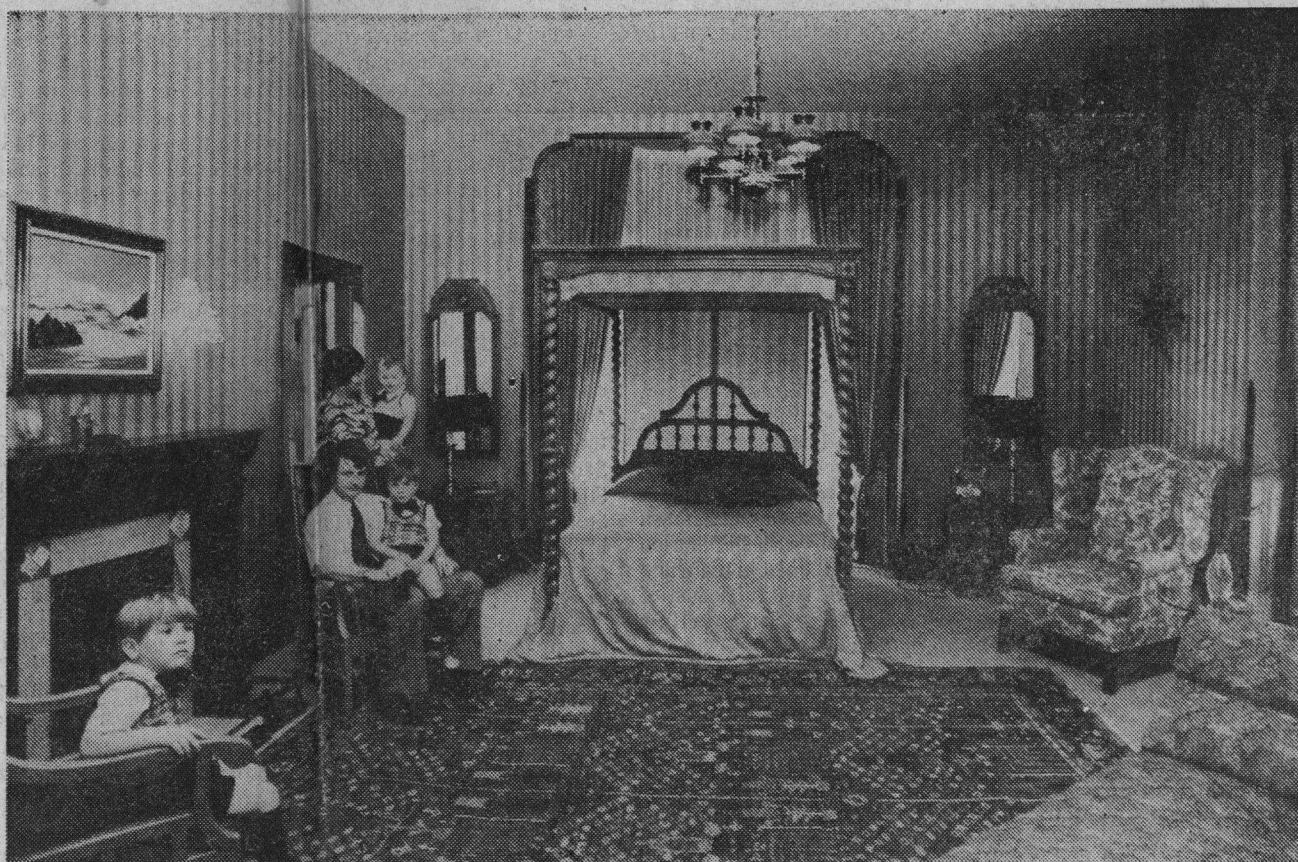
The home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymone Lowe on Ocean View Avenue, Santa Cruz, will be one of the five homes shown in Marelo's "A Touch of Elegance" homes tour and reception Saturday, May 17.

Homes will be open from 5 p.m. with the reception at Hollins House to be from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. Donation is \$7.50 with all proceeds to go to the private high school.

For tour tickets call Rosemary Tambellini, days at 423-7659 or Mrs. Harold Laurendine, evenings at 423-7819.



Line drawing of the Raymond Lowe home, believed to have been built by Martha Wilson in 1877. The ornate balcony is believed to have been added in later years.



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lowe and their sons pose in the master bedroom. Fireplace is focal point of interest.

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The Lowes have retained the Victorian decor in one of their four bathrooms. The legs of the tub have been gilded and the tub has been painted with a design of peacock feathers.

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