

MADE FROM USED LUMBER

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New House Is Already Old

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Staff Writer

APTOS — Seasoned 100-year-old redwood lumber from an old, dismantled railroad station is living again in a unique house being fitted into the maple, oak and madone trees far up Redwood Drive at the edge of Nisene Marks State Park.

Two young men, Rick Hall and

Peter Carr, paid \$50 for the old railroad station building at Firebaugh, buying it from the Southern Pacific Company, along with lumber from two other old buildings, which they carefully dismantled and preserved. The railroad station lumber has been cleaned up with wire brushes and recycled into an oddly shaped and oddly conceived house.

It has truncated corners in what

otherwise would be rectangular rooms. There are resulting peaked roofs which mount toward a common point, rough with red rafters still showing. Balconies have railings supported by carved and curved pillasters.

Walls are made with 2x6 studs instead of the conventional 2x4's—mostly because that was what was available in the lumber pile. But the extra space simply leaves

room for more insulation—which helps in the concept of conservation of heat.

It is the integration with the environment which makes the house more distinctive than most—and which is due mostly to the efforts of Hall, who has a degree in environmental studies and "ecotecture," a combination of ecology and architecture.

The house was designed to include energy conserving elements. In addition to the extra thick walls which are expected to provide warmth in the winter and coolness in the summer, a solar panel on the roof will heat water, with a back-up water heater installed for periods when there isn't much sunshine.

Hall and Carr said they are using the recycled wood for two reasons: the beauty of the recycled wood, and the elimination of the necessity for cutting down more trees to get that much lumber.

The two men said there is no resemblance at all between the old railroad station and the new house they are building, because they have built it to blend in with the surrounding area.

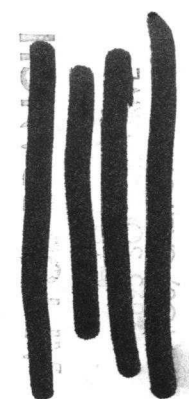
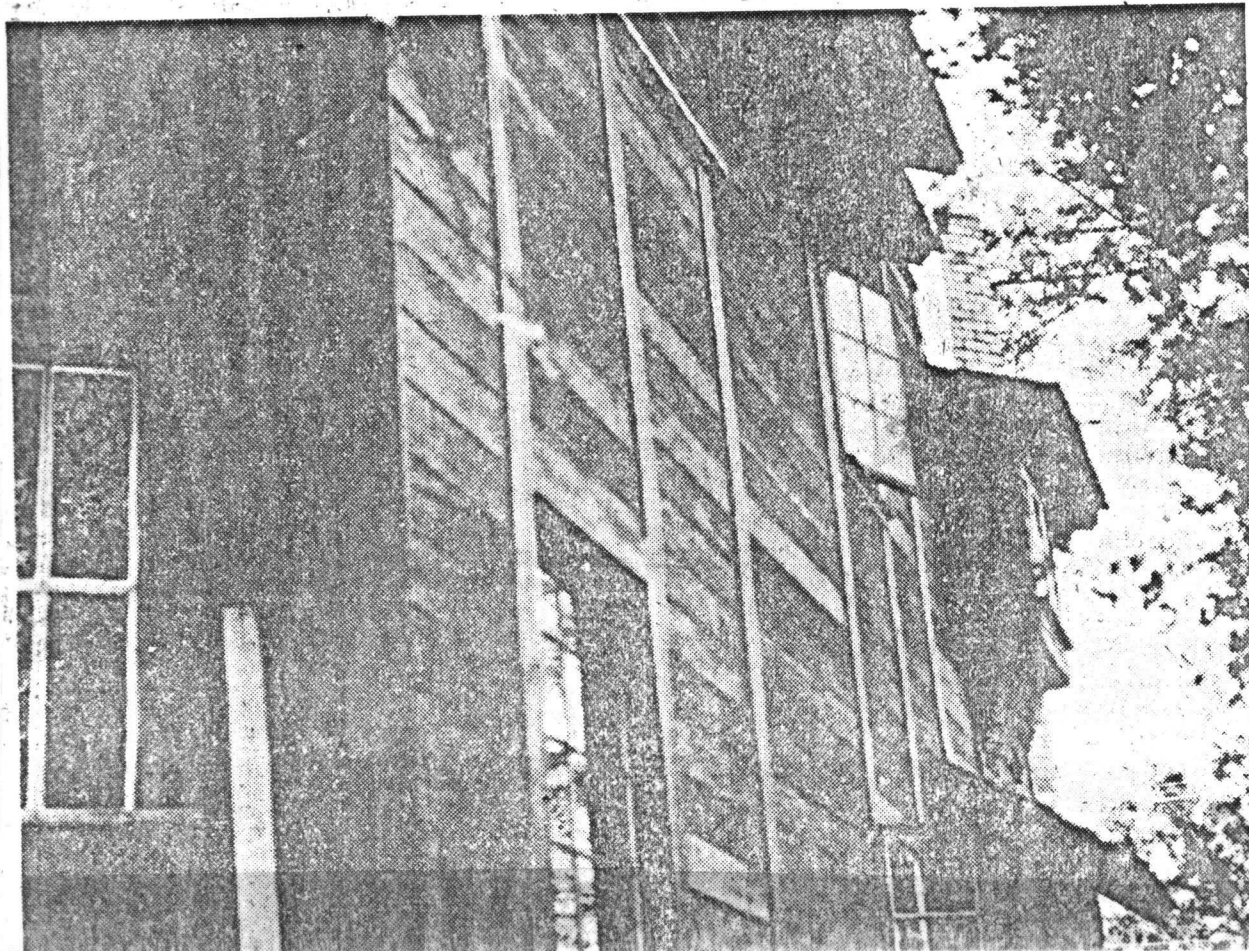
Carr and Hall said they expect the construction to take about eight months altogether, and then they may sell the house and use the money to buy more materials for future work.

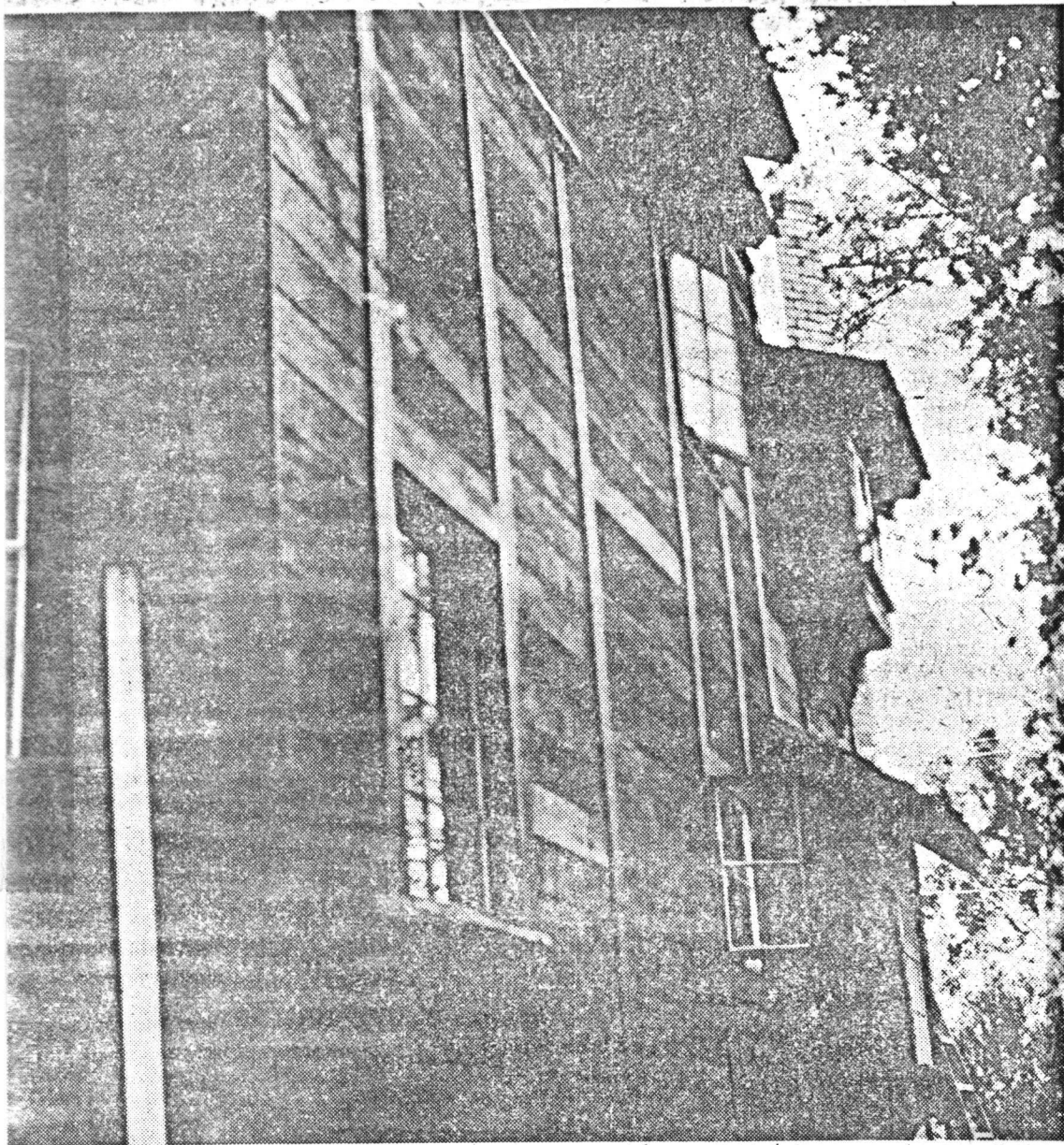
They say they expect to pass on the savings of using the recycled material by having the house sell for less than a similar house might sell otherwise.

The house actually is in two parts. One side has the living room and the bedrooms and stands two stories tall. Adjoining it through a Victorian doorway is a kitchen and dining area.

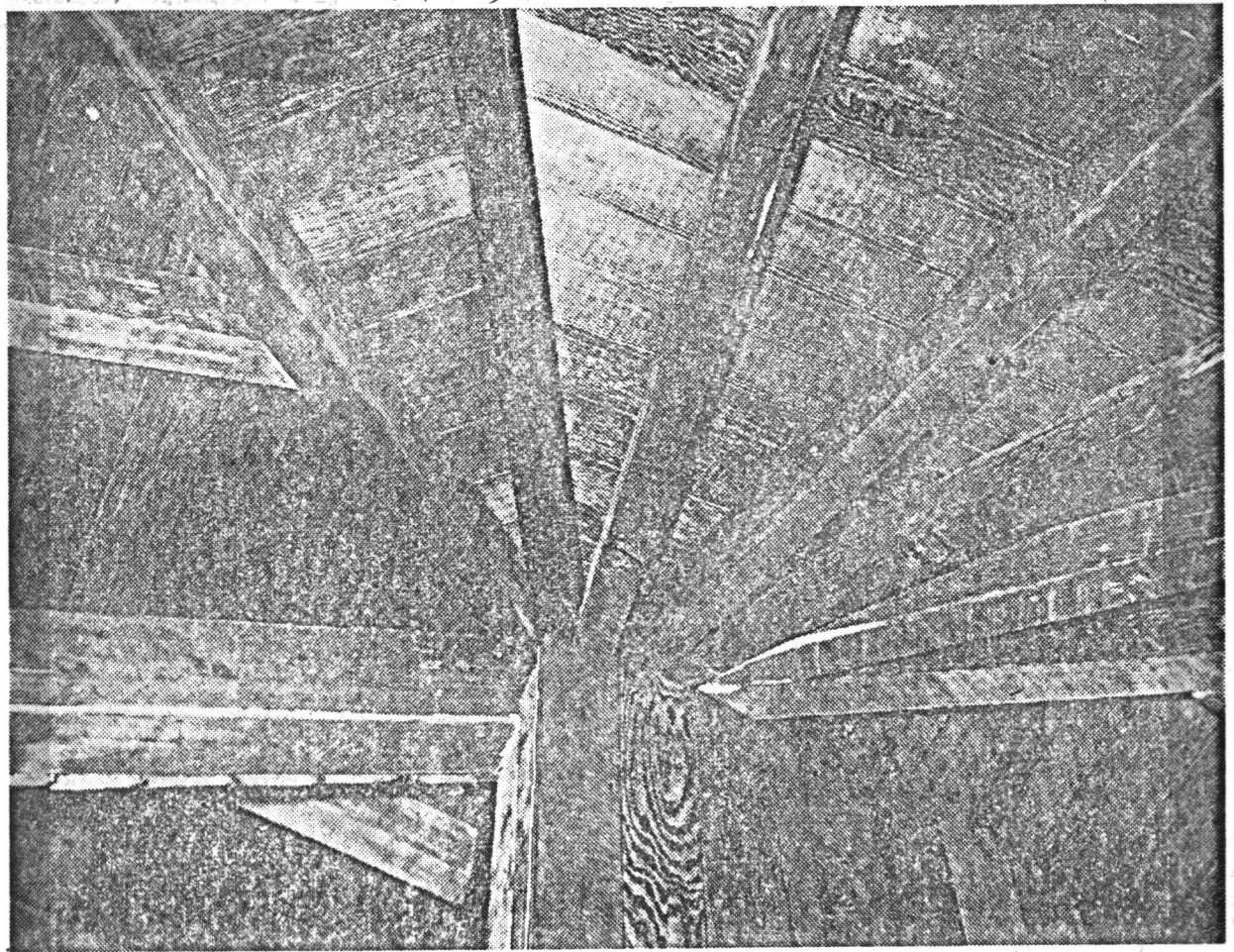
The two-story section has a bedroom and bathroom downstairs with a sleeping loft in an upstairs bedroom.

The two builders said they carefully placed their windows in order to catch the sunlight to aid in heating and in lighting the house.





Aptos home is being built with 100-year-old lumber



Rafters in bedroom come to a common point