

100 years of history: Scraping away the past

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One hundred years of paint is what Jim and Barbara Reding were up against when they decided to paint their building at 201 Monterey Avenue in Capitola Village.

The house, now offices and shops, is one of the oldest and most historical in Capitola.

Built around 1883, it was the superintendent's office of Camp Capitola, the first seaside resort in California. It served as the headquarters for the camp until 1930.

When the Redings bought the building in 1972, the city wanted to tear the building down because of all the structural deficiencies.

But the Redings decided to preserve the building and cor-

rect the deficiencies of the structure because of its charm — not knowing its historical significance. Both school teachers at the time, they used their own labor and funds to restore the building.

"As we began working on the house," Jim Reding said, "people started to tell us stories about this building."

The stories were of such interest that the Redings were prompted to research the building's history.

When they found the building served as the headquarters for Camp Capitola, they were able to get it registered in the National Register of Historic Buildings. Even more difficult, but the Redings did it, was getting the structure listed as a California State Landmark.

Now, 14 years after they bought the building, the Redings have decided to give the building a major exterior face lift.

For the first time in possibly 100 years, the house will be stripped down to the wood and given a first-class paint job.

Stripping off a century of paint is no easy task.

The paint on the building is

now a pale green, but beneath that color, the Redings have found various shades of lighter green, beige, and even pink.

The paint is so thick, Barbara Reding explained, that it must be heated and softened with a blow-dryer type instrument and scraped off with an old-fashioned scraper and lots of elbow grease.

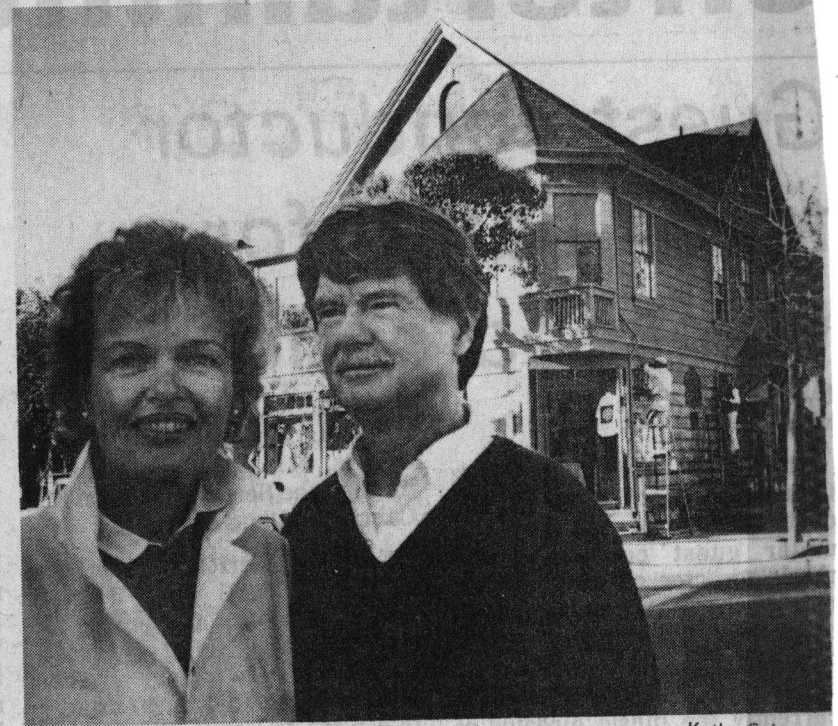
Jim Reding gets the elbow grease by calling the Employment Office every morning and hiring several strong-armed people who want to work.

This scraping process, the Redings estimated, will take about another two weeks. Then, it will take another month or so to have the building sanded and professionally painted.

As for the new color, the Redings haven't decided yet. They've experimented with a number of colors and combinations on one of the back walls of the building, creating a collage affect.

"We've gotten lots of comments from people just passing by on what colors they like," Barbara Reding said. "We're open to suggestions."

"But I think we'll go with this combination," she added,



Kathy Salamon

Barbara and Jim Reding

pointing to a mixture of greys, white, and a violet. "We want something nice, but we also wanted to stay in touch with the Victorian period."

The painting will be done by Tony and Wayne Fontes, who have painted many of the Victo-

rians in Capitola.

"This house has been a community project ever since we bought it," Jim Reding said. "We have gotten lots of help from friends and neighbors — it has been a labor of love for all of us."