

'Downtown Homes' Included on Tour

Two of the four homes on Saturday's YWCA Homes Tour are in the downtown area of Santa Cruz.

The cottage at 511 Lincoln Street is probably a late 1880s, of a style that was popular through the late 1890s. Several versions, each differing slightly, can be seen on the same block.

According to Richard Cutts, local authority on the city's older homes, the wide siding boards and vertical strips at the corners of the bays, distinguish this as an earlier building than its neighbors.

This style cottage provided from four to six rooms with bay windows and a porch, and was quite economical to build, probably costing from \$500 to \$750 at that time, Cutts notes.

The house has been owned by Joan and Gilbert Nordquist for several years and they enjoy collecting period pieces for their home. The dining room, located in the former front parlor, is the most complete room in the home with oak furniture, red velvet drapes and an Oriental design rug. Family portraits are on all the walls of the house, including Gilbert's great-grandparents, the McKinseys, who settled in the Salinas Valley in the 1800s. Gil is currently serving as president of the local Downtown Neighbors Association.

The second "downtown" house is that of Linda and Paul Niebanck, a large, airy, brown-shingled California bungalow.

It was built in 1915 for the late Henry and Rose Harris of Harris Brothers Clothing Store on Pacific Avenue.

A small Eastlake style cottage was torn down on the site at 615 Washington Street, to make way for the Harris' new home, and much of the wood from the cottage was carefully saved for use in the Harris structure.

"Ninety per cent of the plans were originated by my parents," explains Earl Harris, a son, who was a teenager when the house was built. "Hamilton and Church built the house."

His parents lived in it for years, then Earl and his bride, Arlette Hughes, were married

in the living room in October of 1922.

The house has had two other owners before the Niebancks acquired it. Paul is the vice chancellor for student affairs at UCSC and he and Linda have two children.

Last week the Niebancks and the Earl Harris met in the old homestead to look it over, reminisce and note the changes that have been made during the intervening years.

The home was designed with lots of wood, and Douglas fir was used as wainscoting, for beams, window seats and framing. At first it was left natural, but in the 1930s it was stained redwood color. Floors are oak and have remained bare and unpainted.

The Niebancks have removed walls that were added in later years to convert the home into a duplex, and Peter Hahn, a woodworker who specializes in Victorian homes, did the remodeling. Unusual project he completed is a row of windows in the upstairs master bedroom, all brand new but exact copies of the originals used downstairs, according to Linda Niebanck

In commenting on the house, Richard Cutts notes that the California bungalow was one of the first post-Victorian styles and featured large dormers, exposed ceiling beams and built-ins such as bookcases, window seats etc.



The Nordquist home, above, dates from about 1880s. Below, dining room as re-furnished by Joan and Gilbert Nordquist with oak furniture.

Around the Town



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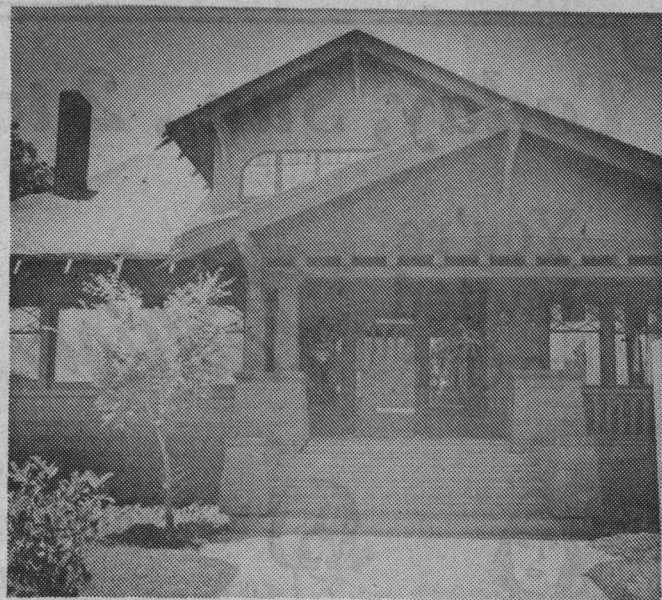
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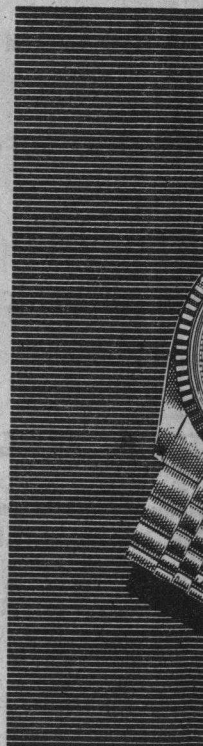
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FASHION FABRICS

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Top photo, Earl and Arlette Harris were married in the living room of this home, which was built for his parents in 1915. California Bungalow style, it has an airy feeling of space.

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