

Geoff Scurfield of Scurfield Construction sizes up the massive job of spearheading the renovation of the 1897 Redman House on Lee Road Thursday.

Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Redman renovation is slow going

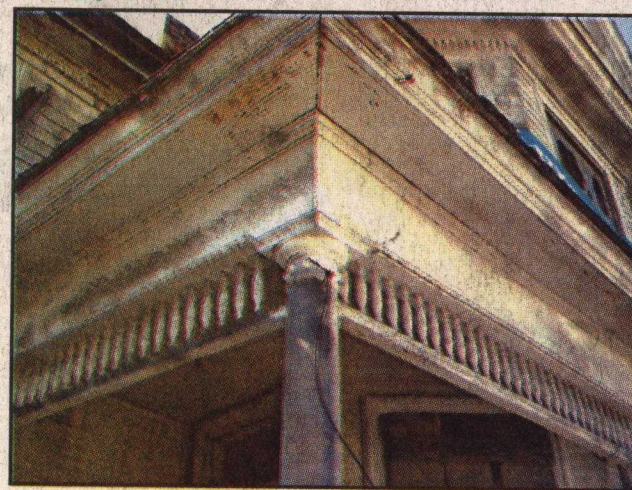
Community group seeks more funds for big repair bill

By KATHRYN GILICK
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

The progress may be slow, but at least it's progress.

Fences have been put up around the Redman House, an 1890s William Weeks-designed Victorian-style house on Lee Road next to Highway 1, to secure the property for long-awaited renovations.

A group of community members have come together to repair the house, but have been struggling since forming an official organization, Redman House Committee, in 1998 to raise money. And they are still looking for donations, said Geoff Scurfield of Scurfield Com-



Famed architect William Weeks designed the Redman House with plenty of ornate detail such as the trim work on the smoking porch shown here.

pany, which is spearheading the construction part of the project.

"We're holding a pumpkin sale on Oct. 11 from 12 noon to 7 p.m.," Scurfield said. The sale runs at the same time every day through Oct. 31.

The house was built for James Red-

man in 1897. The Redman family occupied the house until the 1930s, when it was sold to the Hirahara family, who were able to maintain ownership of the 4,000 square-foot house and surrounding property despite being sent to de-

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tention camp during WWII. The family sold the home to Green Farm, an investment partnership, but lived there up until the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Green Farm had hoped to develop the property, but local government was not happy with the plans, so the house stood empty and the land stayed undeveloped.

According to the project's business plan, which was finished earlier this year, the renovation will include at least three years of phased restoration and construction. The group hopes to recreate the 1890s farmhouse atmosphere, restoring the house and creating a Victorian-style garden and small working farm on the surrounding 14 acres.

For more information about the house, or to volunteer at the pumpkin sale, call 724-4162 or visit www.redmanhouse.org.