

Y Antiques Show and Tour Next Weekend

The YWCA Antiques Show-Sale marks a big anniversary this year — the 30th production of the colorful event scheduled for July 14-16 in Civic Auditorium.

And for the eighth year the Historic Homes Tour is being planned as a part of the Y's biggest annual fund-raiser.

Every year the character of the tour varies. Some years it's been a walking tour; sometimes homes of a specific decade have been shown; other tours have ranged from an early adobe to a Victorian of the late 1890s.

This year on Saturday, July 15, from 1 to 5, four unique structures will be on view which have not been included previously in a Y tour.

The homes are: The Shelley residence at 1005 Third Street, Santa Cruz (a recent winner of a SCOPE award); the Griess home at 417 Broadway, Santa Cruz; The Depot, owned by Cecil Carnes and located at 250 Monterey Avenue, Capitola, and the Daubenbiss House, owned by Cristina and Jesse Case-Gabbard, 4500 Soquel Drive, Soquel.

A Soquel Landmark

A plaque adorns the Daubenbiss home in Soquel, stating that the home is recognized by the Santa Cruz Historical Society and was built in 1867.

It's almost a miracle that the historic home still stands. It had been used as a halfway house for several years, and while it may not have been unloved, there certainly was no funds to care for it.

The building was in sad shape when along came the miracle workers, Cristina and Jesse Case-Gabbard.

They hadn't set out to work any miracles. All Cristina and Jesse wanted to do was find an old home in which they could live and establish their dream — a bookstore and gallery.

Following an unfruitful search throughout Santa Cruz, the couple finally saw the Daubenbiss house in Soquel. They bought it.

Both are impressed with the history of the house. John Daubenbiss had come to Soquel in the late 1840s and became a grist mill operator, lumberman and community leader. His choice for his home was on the prominent hill above what is now Soquel, where the house would be free of the threat of floods and where the family could enjoy the view of the surrounding farmlands and coastal countryside.

Historians note that the house, started in the 1850s, no longer exists. The present large two-story square structure is credited to architect Thomas Beck and was built in 1867-68.

Through the late 19th and then the 20th Centuries the home was known as The Daubenbiss House, even though after 1915 other families lived there.

As Cristina and Jesse planned the restoration of their home, they sought the help of Al Schadel of Octagon Museum for historical background.

Says Cristina, "We wanted to maintain the integrity of the building as much as possible." And considering the multitude of codes and restrictions under which they had to operate in order to restore the house for their combined commercial and residential needs, they did well.

"The future of the house was undecided until the Case-Gabbards came along," says Octagon Curator Al Schadel, "and I compliment them for what they've accomplished in this restoration."

As plans progressed, the couple realized that they'd taken on a much bigger project than they anticipated.

Says Jesse, "We've never wavered in our enthusiasm for the project; the only misgiving we've had were the unexpected expenses." The "unexpected" led them to spend more than three times what they'd planned.

Under supervision of John Cureton of Cureton Enterprises, a firm that specializes in historical restoration, a new foundation of 12x12-inch redwood girders was installed, the entire back facade of the house was torn off and rebuilt like the original, and stairs were put in to meet fire codes.

All of the plumbing had to be moved upstairs and redone, the rudimentary wiring system was upgraded, paint was stripped from the flooring. Cristina stripped and sanded the floors and stair treads and under the paint found lovely old redwood which now gleams with its own unique coloring. The stair treads have small shiny spots which are the heads of the square nails used in the late 1800s.

In order for the home to look as much as possible like the old photos discovered at the Octagon Museum, the new owners rebricked the fireplaces on the exterior, even though it wasn't practical to put working fireplaces in the original locations.

Y tour-goers will see the entire first floor of the Daubenbiss House, all of which is devoted to the bookstore-gallery, Abreyde Books. (Abreyde is Middle English for "awake.")

This is one of the few commercial or public buildings featured on a Y tour, notes Chairman MJ Vernier, but represents a great achievement in bringing a landmark home back to life.

In the future Cristina and Jesse plan to complete their upstairs living quarters and work on the landscaping.

Capitola's Depot

Over at 250 Monterey Avenue in Capitola, five minutes away from the Daubenbiss House, is The Depot. This unusual home, owned by Cecil Carnes, started out as a railroad depot when it was built on its current site in 1901.

In 1959 the depot building was purchased by Lucina Savoy for the tidy sum of \$1. Mrs. Savoy is credited with great foresight and decorating know-how by both owners who've lived in the house since.

It was Mrs. Savoy who had The Depot moved 90 degrees to bring it from a track-facing angle to face the street. She raised the baggage room floor three feet and made it into the bedroom, and faced the exterior with shingles, each of which she hand-dipped to achieve a weathered gray look.

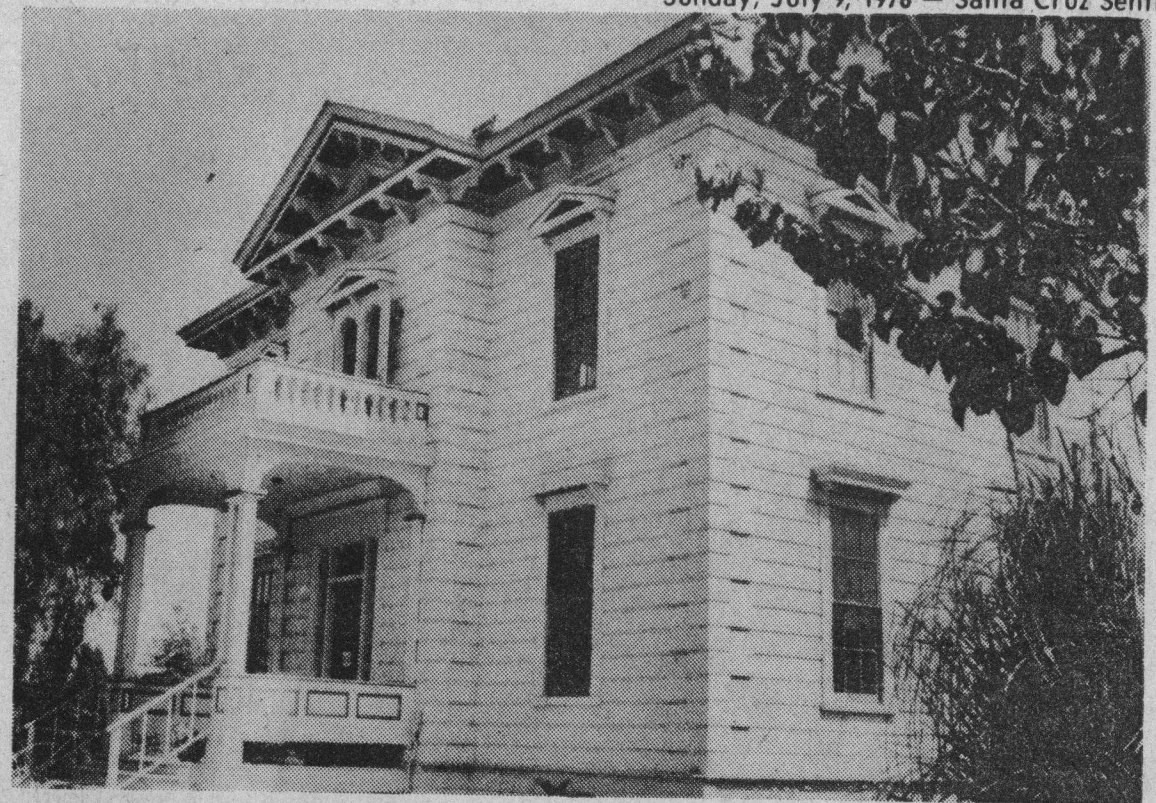
When Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schulz purchased the structure, more pleasing changes were made. The building retained its same general exterior look, but the former ticket window became the window of the family room and a kitchen and bath took shape.

Cecil, who purchased the home in 1974, has made it a showplace.

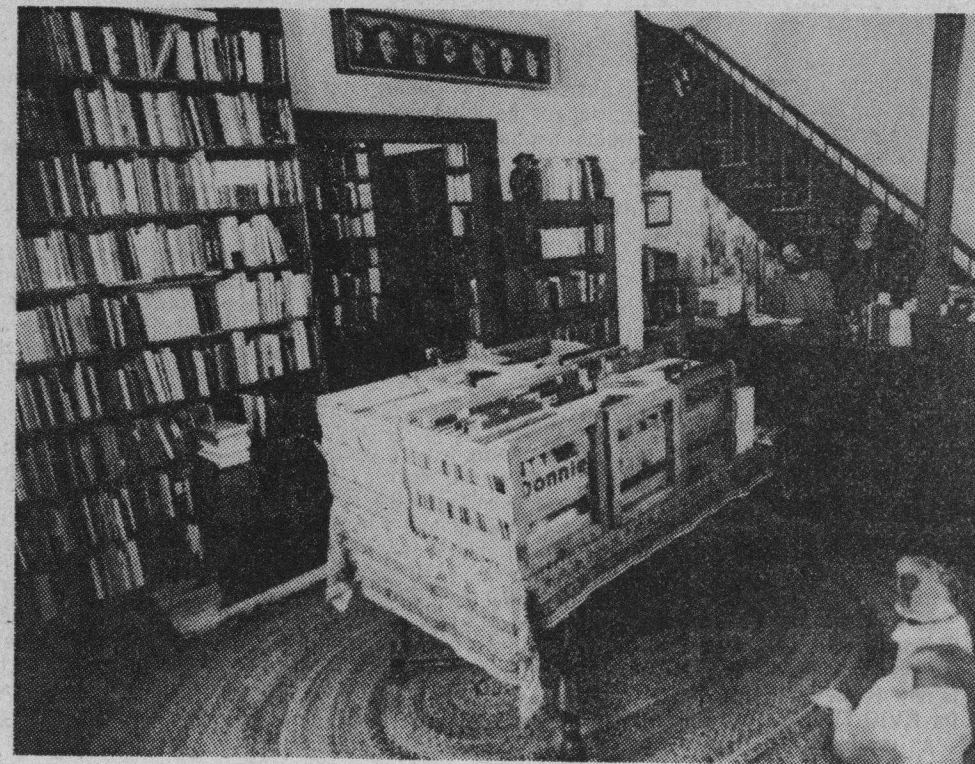
"I've made embellishments and made the house more commodious," she says. In fact, every year she adds more unique touches to her home.

Since The Depot was on the Cabrillo Music Festival Homes Tour early in 1977, Cecil has had all of the carpets removed, the original fir flooring sanded, bleached and refinished, and converted an outdoor room under the portico into a part of the house.

The alteration that Cecil enjoys most is that adaptation of a room, which previously could only be reached from outside, into an office room adjoining her living room. She



The restored Daubenbiss House in Soquel, above, will be on the Y's Historic Homes Tour. At left, owners Jesse and Cristina Case-Gabbard, in their book store-gallery.



installed an oversized paned window which now overlooks a patio previously hidden from view.

It is in the office that Cecil will be spending many of her working hours as manager of the Mitchell Group's new Capitola realty office.

Another "Cecil touch" has been the removal of the iron grillwork which had been installed to make an entry way but which Cecil felt interrupted the flow from the dining-family room to the living room. With the new room added, the exposed fir flooring and the grillwork removed, the house has an entirely new look.

The Depot has achieved distinction as an outstanding adaptation of a historic building into a home, and has been mentioned in many articles, nationwide, and in the book CONVERTED INTO HOMES.

Cecil says living in a home like The Depot becomes part

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The Depot, home to Cecil Carnes, started out as the Capitola railroad depot in 1901.

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The Depot has achieved distinction as an outstanding adaptation of a historic building into a home, and has been mentioned in many articles, nationwide, and in the book **CONVERTED INTO HOMES**.

Cecil says living in a home like The Depot becomes part of one's psyche. She even has the words, The Depot, on the license plate of her small British car.

Tickets for the combined show-sale and homes tour are \$4 and may be obtained at the Y, Walnut at Chestnut, or call 426-3062. The donation for the show-sale alone is \$1.50.

—ROBERTA SOSBEE

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