

# A jilted Victorian house finds love

By Lora Lee Watson  
Staff Writer

"There's a big difference between restoring an old house and refurbishing it," John Vetrano said. "It's easy enough to just make a place look nice, but to really restore it is a long-term project."

John and Pat Vetrano have launched such a project in the house at 1601 Park Av. Its Victorian architecture has been modified and impaired over the years since it was built in 1887 and they propose to return it as nearly as possible to its original state.

They see it as an effort that may take 10 years, certainly at least five. They anticipate that they will have completed enough of the work so they can move in in two or three years.

"We got the house the first of August," Vetrano said, "and we figure we've done about a year's work in these last five months." That's because of help from friends and help

they've hired.

The Vetranos share a fondness for Victorian decor and design and it took them two years to find the house they wanted — one worth all the time and energy they're prepared to spend on it.

But, oh, the defacements the house has suffered! Linoleum had been laid over all the parquet floors. Three of the four fireplaces had been cemented up and their mantels sold. Only one of the stained-glass windows remained. A wide, curtained archway had been replaced by a narrow door. Some of the wainscot had been paneled over. A window and door from the kitchen to a now-nonexistent porch had been concealed by slapdash carpentry on the inside, although no effort was made to remove or conceal the outside frames.

And those are just some of the changes that had been made deliberately. Years of oc-

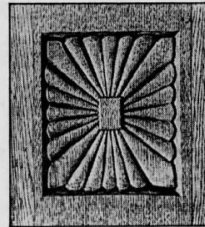
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Staff Photos by Earl Seubert



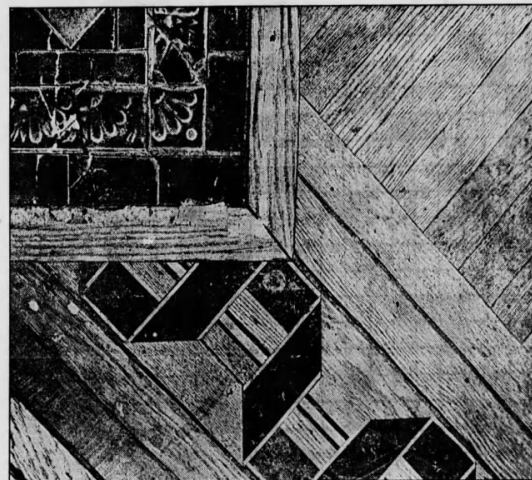
John and Pat Vetrano on foyer staircase in Victorian house.



Detail of newel post.



Original doorknob.



Detail of dining-room-floor parquet beside the hearth.