

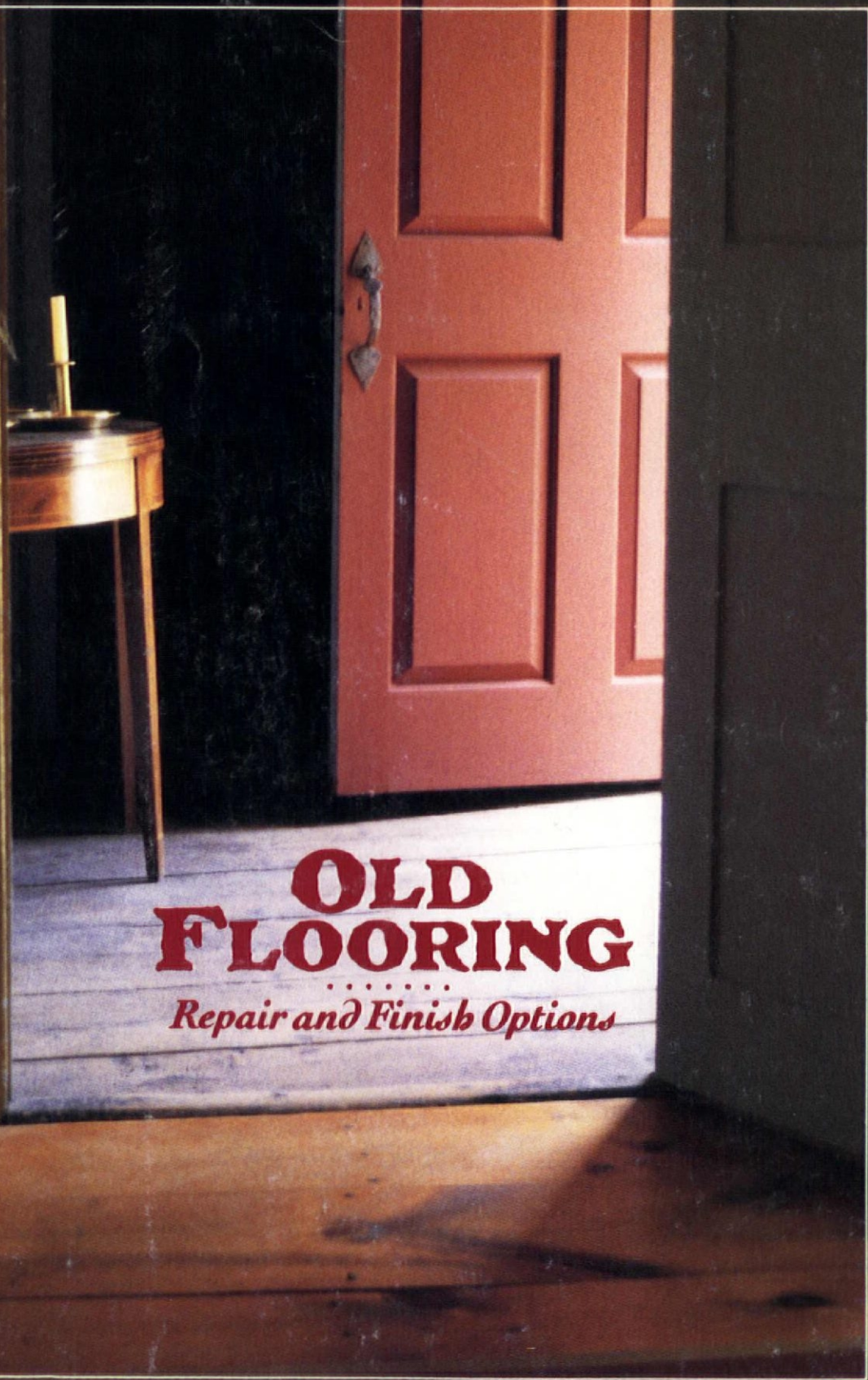
\$3.95/\$4.95 Canada



Old-House Journal

RESTORATION TECHNIQUES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1990



OLD FLOORING *Repair and Finish Options*



**Something old ...
Something new ...
from Vande Hey-Raleigh.**



In response to customer demand, the cold weather tile experts have developed a startling new architectural roof tile guaranteed to perform as admirably now as it has since its introduction many years ago.

The new STAGGERED roof tile perfected by us is a replication of a tile used way back when . . . only much better because of our unique manufacturing and installation procedures.

The STAGGERED roof tile is available in our shake, slate or brush tile series in any of 20

standard colors or custom colors to match ANY REQUEST . . . no matter the age of the tile.

Our roof tiles are like NO other. NO maintenance. NO growth. NO creatures or bugs can live on/among them. And NO fire. Ever. Concrete can't burn.

The mid-west's tough weather is easily tamed by our tiles. No worries — ever — about freeze/thaw cycles. And, only our roofs complete any building statement. We are perfection.

Call or write for free catalogs and installation manuals.

VANDE HEY  **RALEIGH**

1665 Bohm Drive

Little Chute, WI 54140

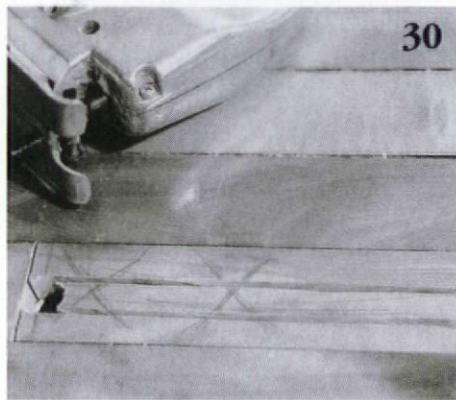
414-766-1181



Old-House Journal

Vol. XVIII No. 6

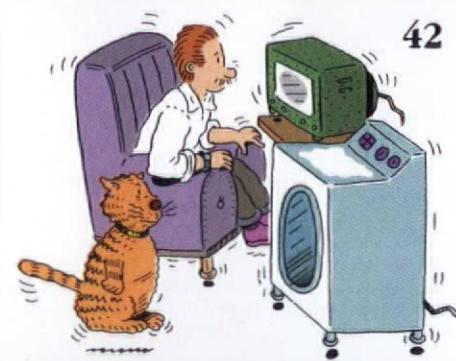
November/December 1990



30



26



42



36

Old Flooring

Floor-Finish Options 22
by Gordon Bock

A review of the historical approaches to finishing wood floors

Create a Floor Cloth 26
by James Jansen

How to handcraft a decorative, period-look floor cloth for your home

Fixing Hardwood Floors 30
by John Leeke

Techniques for repairing tongue-and-groove flooring

Those ?*X!☆!?*#! Cracks 34
by Gordon Bock

As they widen, you wonder: What can I do? Here's help

Features

Pre-Cut Houses 36
by James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell

In the early-20th century, an expanding population put mail-order companies and their ready-to-assemble houses on the map

Beyond the Mushroom Factor 42
by Bill Houghton

Old-house living made one man an expert on the EBS Rule

The OHJ 1990 Index 50
A guide to all the articles featured in the past year of OHJ

continued on page 2

Cover: Wide-pine flooring in the Bates-Scofield House (c. 1736), Darien, Conn. Photo by Jeff Wilkinson, courtesy of the Darien Historical Society.

Editor's Page <i>On old bookcases and new babies</i>	4
Letters <i>A word on lead legislation and impatiens overlooked</i>	6
Restorer's Notebook <i>Anaglypta patching and more tips on light bulbs</i>	14
Ask OHJ <i>Old parquet and the facts about 'fainting rooms'</i>	16
Who They Were <i>George Palliser, master of mail-order design</i>	18
Old-House Mechanic <i>Floor tools</i>	46
Good Books <i>On porch preservation and a history of fanlights</i>	48
Restoration Products <i>Floor-cloth sources and newsletters to note</i>	54
Historic House Plans <i>An antebellum cottage and a three-part house</i>	58
Restoration Services	68
Emporium	70
Products Network	76
Advertisers' Index	79
Remuddling <i>Subtractive additions to an Iowa Victorian</i>	80
Vernacular Houses <i>Board-Frame Houses of Arkansas</i>	82



EDITOR AND PUBLISHER	Patricia Poore
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR	Suzanne La Rosa
SENIOR EDITOR	Gordon H. Bock
PRODUCTION EDITOR	Cole Gagne
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	Jeffrey Wilkinson
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT	Lynn Elliott
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS	John Leeke Sanford, Maine
	J. Randall Cotton Philadelphia, Pa.
CONTRIBUTORS	James C. Massey & Shirley Maxwell Strasburg, Virginia
	Scott Kunst Ann Arbor, Michigan
ART DIRECTOR	Marshall Moseley
ART INTERN	Dolores Elliott
GENERAL MANAGER	Julie E. Stocker
CUSTOMER SERVICE	Jeanne Baldwin
ASST. TO THE PUBLISHER	Brian Jacobsmeyer
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR	Rosalie E. Bruno
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR	William J. O'Donnell
NATIONAL SALES MGR.	Becky Bernie
ADV. PRODUCTION MGR.	Ellen M. Higgins
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Joanne Orlando
SALES ASSISTANT	Annemarie Whilton

OLD-HOUSE JOURNAL
 ISSN 0094-0178 Published bimonthly for \$21 per year by Old House Journal Corporation, 435 Ninth Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215.
 Telephone (718) 788-1700. Subscriptions in Canada \$29 per year, payable in US funds.

Subscriptions	800-888-9070
Subscription service	800-234-3797
Back issues	718-788-1700
	(\$4.95 per copy if available)
Advertising	508-283-4721

Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, New York, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Old-House Journal, P.O. Box 58017, Boulder, CO 80322-8017.

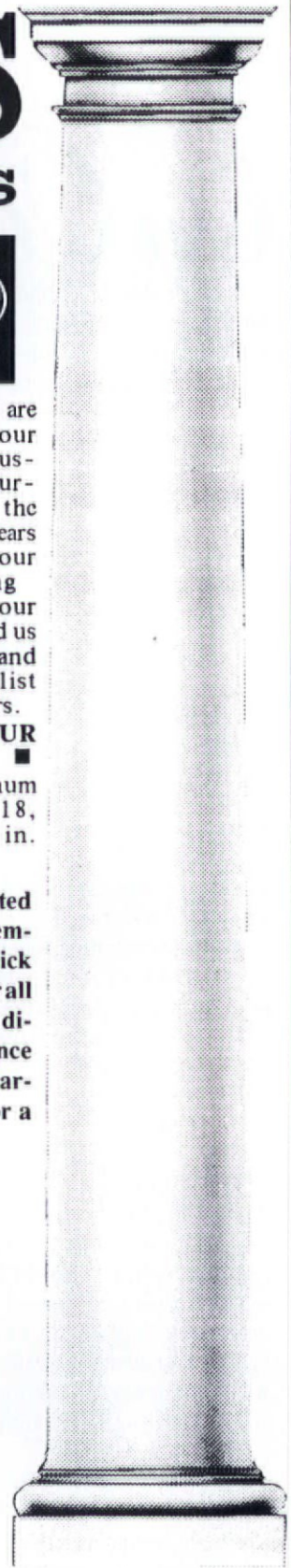
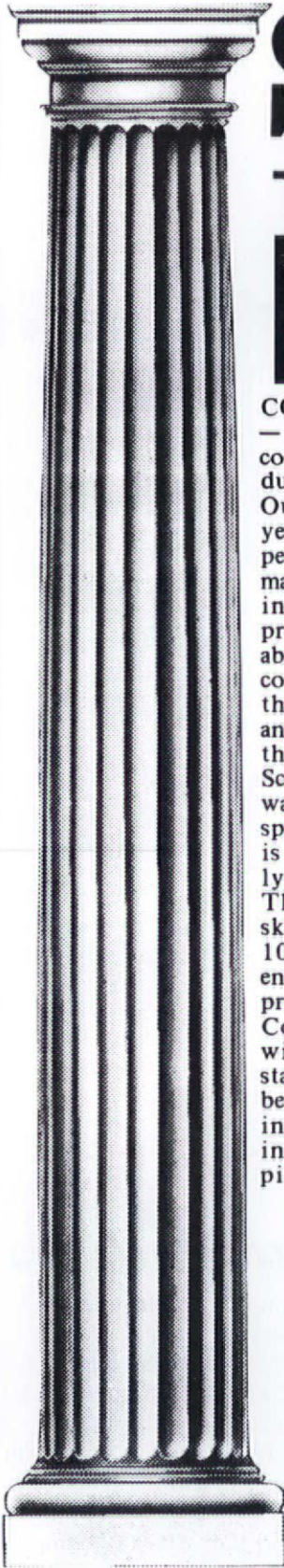
We are happy to accept editorial contributions to the Old-House Journal. Query letters that include an outline of the proposed article are preferred. All manuscripts will be reviewed, and returned if unacceptable. However, we cannot be responsible for non-receipt or loss - please keep copies of all materials sent.

Printed at the Lane Press, South Burlington, Vermont

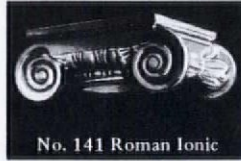
© Copyright 1990 by Old House Journal Corporation.
 All rights reserved.

the standard of quality since 1860

SCHWERD'S wood columns



No. 140 Scamozzi



No. 141 Roman Ionic

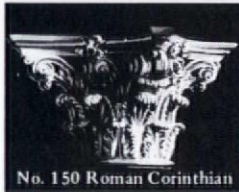


No. 142 Greek Ionic

COLUMNS
— Schwerd columns are durable. Our 100+ years of experience in manufacturing wood columns has

proven that the durability of a wood column depends upon the strength of the joint and the quality and thickness of the wood.

Schwerd column construction was developed to meet each specific requirement. The wood is the highest quality, thoroughly seasoned Northern White Pine. The pride of craftsmanship and skilled techniques acquired by 100 years of specialized experience is applied. The resulting product is a "Schwerd Quality Column" specified by architects with complete confidence. Both standard and detail columns can be furnished from 4 in. to 50 in. in diameter and up to 35 ft. in length with matching pilasters.



No. 150 Roman Corinthian



No. 152 Temple of Winds



No. 144 Modern Ionic

If you are one of our old customers during the many years since our beginning

in 1860, you know our product; if not, send us your inquiries and orders and join our list of satisfied customers.

■ SEND FOR OUR FREE CATALOG ■

Schwerd's complete aluminum bases for 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30 in. dia. columns.

Schwerd's - Aluminum ventilated plinth and aluminum turned member base are manufactured of thick metal and are recommended for all exterior columns in the above diameters to provide a maintenance free, seamless base which is guaranteed against deterioration for a lifetime.



A. F. SCHWERD MANUFACTURING COMPANY
telephone: 412-766-6322
3215 McClure Avenue Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212

On Old Bookcases

The other day, two dear friends of mine phoned, desperation in their voices, to ask me to meet them after work at an antique store. The purpose: to discuss the restoration job being done on their newly purchased Biedermeier bookcase, work that had stalled out on a disagreement about how *much* refinishing actually needed to be done.

Now I know a bit about early-19th-century furniture, enough to recognize that the problem at hand wasn't so much the finish as the start: John and Jaye hadn't expected to be confronted by so many imperfections in the piece itself — imperfections which I knew the intended high-gloss finish would play up. And the limitations on how the restorer could improve things pleased them not. We discussed whether they should repaint the decorative black pilasters on each side of the bookcase (I voted for just a touch up) and whether a high-gloss finish was best. In the end, though, they realized that you can visually disguise that crack in the veneer (and even at that, only temporarily), but you can't undo it.

This was an important first step. Upon leaving the shop, I shared stories about my beloved Louis-Philippe armoire, which suffered visibly each winter in my overheated pre-war apartment, and which caused me to cringe late at night to hear the widening cracks creak ever so softly (but loudly enough to wake me up).

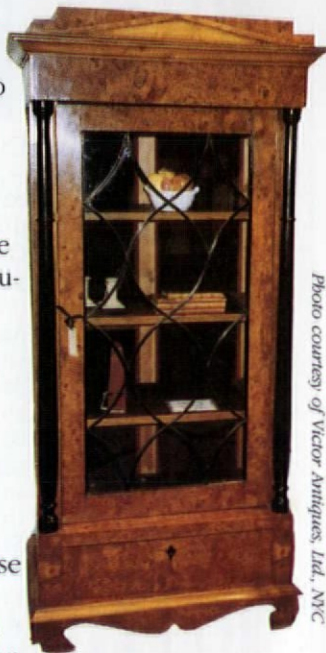
And that's just the beginning with old houses, I added half in jest, half in warning, knowing that my friends were contemplating the even bigger commitment to an old house. With an old house as with old furniture, the first thing you must

learn is that you've got to love it — but not too much. Otherwise, it can drive you to distraction with worry and hard work. Most important, I told them, you must have an appreciation for irony, because most of us become old-house owners because of our love of beautiful old things — things that gleam with the patina of age, things that have character, things that have survived longer than we will. Yet we're forced to settle for the less than beautiful (perhaps less than perfect is the more accurate way to phrase it) in the course of the restoration work that we do.

In the case of my friends, the first close-up look at their bookcase — after the cash exchanged hands — was a frightening one. It implied responsibility, which I think is ultimately the scariest aspect of the whole old-house/old-furniture experience. It's the owner's call on how much so-called restoration is enough. And sometimes the issue is complicated by the question of not how far to go, but which way to go, as Gordon Bock makes clear in his article

on the historical approaches to finishing floors (see page 22).

Don't over-restore was, unfortunately, the sum of my advice to John and Jaye, as I reminded them that they liked the bookcase upon first seeing it in its somewhat care-worn state. And I left them with a few parting words about "learning how to relax." But I hurried home in the winter twilight to check on my armoire — just in case.



Above: the beauty of a restored Biedermeier bookcase.

Photo courtesy of Victor Antiques, Ltd., NYC



...and New Babies

"New" isn't a word in common usage at the *Old-House Journal*. But there's no other way to describe the baby boy born to Patricia Poore (except maybe impossibly adorable or cute!). Our Publisher and Editor delivered William Carl Thomsen just days before we went to press with this issue and, I'm happy to report, a few weeks after Patty finished restoring the baby's room. Congratulations, Patty and Carl. Here's hoping the little one will be a source of great joy in the years to come.

Suzanne LaRosa
Editorial Director

TO THINK WE USED TO COME UP HERE ONLY TWICE A YEAR.



©1998 Copyright © Andersen Corporation, Inc. 1998
All rights reserved. Grilles shown furnished by others.

A forgotten attic can really take shape with the help of a few windows.

Especially when you start with our 128-page book, "Enlightened Remodeling with Andersen® Windows & Patio Doors." It covers everything from the basics to the finishing touches.

Like attic and garage conversions. Split-level and ranch

expansions. Five ways to enlarge a two-story and five more to expand a story and a half.

To get your copy, see your Andersen window dealer, call 1-800-426-4261, or send \$6.95 with the coupon.

That old attic may have more in store for you than you think.

Come home to quality.
Come home to Andersen.®



- Enclosed is \$6.95 for "Enlightened Remodeling."
- Send me free literature on Andersen® windows and patio doors with High-Performance insulating glass. I plan to build remodel replace.

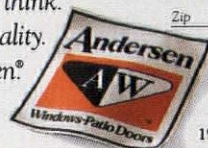
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Send to Andersen Corporation,
Box 12, Bayport, MN 55003.



196-1190

Jacks For All Trades

Dear OHJ,

We at Templeton, Kenly & Co. enjoyed reading Gordon Bock's article, "Heavy-Duty Jacks," in the July/August 1990 issue. We thought it was very well written and were particularly impressed with the part that dealt with the safe use of jacks.

We have one safety-related comment that your readers should be aware of concerning ratchet jacks. There are two distinct types of ratchet jacks manufactured:

1. A general-purpose jack that will ratchet a load up and ratchet a load down when the reversing lever is shifted. This type of ratchet jack finds widespread use in mines, railroads,

utilities, industrial maintenance, house moving, and with heavy-equipment riggers. It is designed to accept round level bars, and is the appropriate jack for the applications your readers would encounter.

2. A ratchet jack that is designed specifically and only for railroad-track-work use. This type of jack cannot gradually lower a load by the reverse-ratchet action. It is a quick-release jack that will drop a load instantly when it is tripped. These jacks can be readily identified by a socket that is designed to accept a square lever bar.

Unfortunately, the ratchet jack featured in two of the article's photos was of the second type, which would

be inappropriate for your readers to use.

— Peter Coster

President, Templeton, Kenly & Co.
Broadview, Ill.

Gordon Bock replies:

"Your comments are well taken. The difference between the lowering mechanisms found in these two types of ratchet jacks — those that only lever down and those with a quick release or speed-trip mode — was one of the first safety points I mentioned in the article. However, this distinction cannot be overstressed. The extra margin of safety provided by jacks that only lever down makes them the only ratchet jacks that should be considered for old-house work, and these should have been shown in the photos as well. The identifying shape of the bar socket is also an important point."

Spare the Lead

Dear OHJ,

Here's an item of interest to *OHJ* (and *GARBAGE*) readers: A U.S. Senate bill, #2637, now under consideration in the subcommittee, proposes to reduce the presence of lead in various building products, including paint, plumbing fixtures, and roofing and siding materials. Although the intent of the bill is laudable, it would have a devastating impact on the restoration field by eliminating lead came, solder, and enamel paints from use in the fabrication and repair of stained glass.

There is no acceptable substitute for lead came in stained-glass windows. Furthermore, stained-glass windows pose no known environmental danger, and the use of lead products necessary in their manufacture or repair is done with great care. Anyone concerned with preserving this material should write Sen. Harry Reid, Chairman of the

continued on page 8



A fantasy has come true within these stuccoed walls. . . .

Rare Company

Dear OHJ,

A fantasy came true when I opened the May/June 1990 issue and found a photo of my home in the article on Arts and Crafts houses (and alongside Stickley's Craftsman Farms home — and that's rare com-

pany indeed).

We have been loyal *OHJ* subscribers for many years, back to the three-ring-binder days, and it's been a pleasure to watch the magazine grow. Keep up the good work.

— William F. Reichenbach
Madison, N.J.

Architectural CaricaturesSM

Pen and ink originals
Capture a memory, forever.



An intimate and personalized portrait of your residence, business, or historic building drawn from photographs. Ready for framing or printable as cards.

Post Office Box 7917 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

Michael Klement 313-769-9784

Restoration Glass will change your view of history.



Why are architects specifying authentic Restoration Glass? Because it's *imperfect*.

Each sheet is made by craftsmen, using the original cylinder method. Yet this glass easily meets today's building codes. And it's available in two levels of distortion.

Once you've seen the difference Restoration Glass makes, no true restoration will look authentic without it.

For details call toll-free 800-221-7379.

In New Jersey: 201-471-1733.

Fax: 201-471-3475.

S.A. Bendheim Co., Inc.

61 Willett Street

Passaic, NJ 07055.

Bendheim



The Beauty Of Recycling



These weather-worn timbers are a reminder of an era gone by, when Southern Longleaf Heart Pine forests flourished. Once the "wood of choice" for Colonial craftsmen and English royalty alike, Heart Pine is now being recycled from early American structures, and transformed into beautiful flooring, doors, stair parts and cabinetry.

Send \$5.00 for our color portfolio and price list or \$25, refundable with your order, for actual samples of 16 fine woods and the portfolio. Credit card orders accepted by phone. We'll tell you more about Heart Pine, our recycling expertise and the attention to detail we give every job.

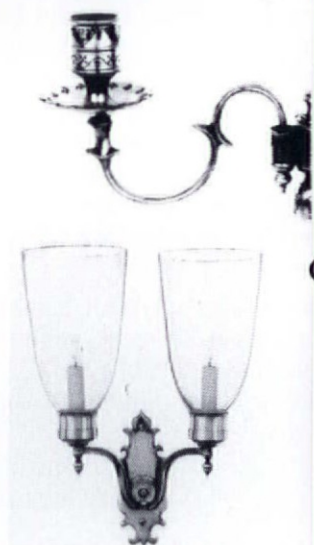
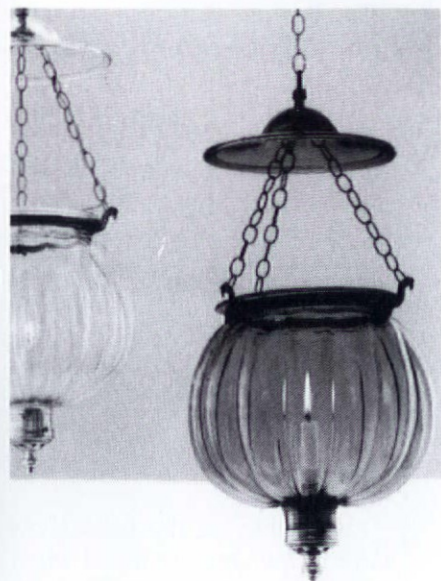
THE JOINERY CO.

Antique Heart Pine Flooring

P.O. Box 518 • Tarboro, NC 27886 • (919) 823-3306

HISTORIC LIGHTING

REPRODUCTIONS FOR ALL RESTORATIONS



REPAIRS TO, OR COPIES OF, YOUR METAL ORIGINALS.

Call or write for details and our FREE MINI-CATALOG. Or send \$5.00 for our complete catalog.

BALL and BALL

Finest Quality Reproductions
463 W. Lincoln Hwy.
Exton, PA 19341
(215) 363-7330

continued from page 6



Avoid standing in your fireplace — unless it's as big as this one.

One Big Fireplace

Dear OHJ,

Inasmuch as your publication has run articles on historic kitchens, this photograph may be of interest. It was taken during the 1930s Historic American Buildings Survey, and depicts the cooking fireplace in the circa-1840 Borders-Blackman house near Anniston, Alabama. Note that the lady in the photo is standing *inside* the fireplace, which measures about 5'3" high by 9'3" wide by 3'8" deep. Note the sunlight coming down on the fireplace brick: Even with a fire, this must have been a cold place in winter. Perhaps after the "Royal Baker"

stove was installed, the unused flue would be covered in the winter.

The Borders-Blackman house is not a mansion but a six-room, late-Federal farmhouse. There are no theories as to why the cooking fireplace for this average-size house is so large. Perhaps the Borders family previously had a small one, and overdid it on their new 1840 house.

The Borders-Blackman house is currently being restored by Dr. and Mrs. George Gibbins of Anniston, with a compatible addition to the rear, tenuously connected by a narrow glazed colonnade.

— Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
Huntsville, Ala.

group which has taken over The Mount is doing a lot of restoration on the 1902 house, including a garden renovation.

— Norma Davenport
Maplewood, N.J.

New Bathroom Woes

Dear OHJ,

After reading Patricia Poore's editorial in the Sept/Oct *OHJ* ["*Old Bathroom Woes*"], I just had to zip off a letter to you.

I also had those thoughts on how nice to have some of those "modern" things to enjoy. Well, this summer I had the chance when we visited my brother in his new, upscale house in a yuppie community. There was the spacious bathroom suite, just like a model home: walk-in tiled shower, sunken tub, double vanity, and full 12-foot-wide mirror — all with proper lighting and stained-glass window behind the garden tub. The only thing wrong with this "magazine picture" was that the bathroom *desperately* needed a good cleaning. My brother admitted he was glad I was there, as house cleaning just wasn't his area. So before we could enjoy these features, I went to work. Let me tell you, that 17-square-foot room and floor of tile is a lot to clean. Then I proceeded to do the garden tub. Well, my arms aren't long enough to reach across, so I had to climb in to scrub it. But another thing no one tells you is that after these tubs are a few months old, their shiny finish seems to disappear; even with special cleansers it didn't look like it should for being only nine months old.

I was so grateful to that visit because now, when I see a magazine ad for an upscale bathroom, I can look at it more realistically — now all I see is work.

I was so glad to get home to our small 1920s bathroom with its porce-

continued on page 10

Subcommittee on Toxic Substances, United States Senate, Committee on Environment & Public Works, 458 Dirkson Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510.

— J. Randall Cotton
Philadelphia, Penn.

Back in Print

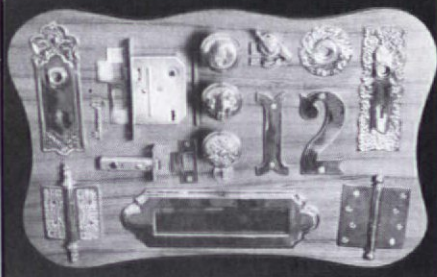
Dear OHJ,

On page 64 of the Sept/Oct issue ["*Good Books*"], you state that Codman and Wharton's *The Decoration of Houses* is out of print. In fact, a

new edition, in both hardback (\$14.95) and paper (\$10.95), is available at The Mount, Wharton's home in Lenox, Massachusetts. (Wharton also wrote *Italian Villas and Their Gardens*, which they also sell at The Mount.)

I wanted to see this book for years and was delighted to find it when I last visited Wharton's home, which, according to her biographer, was not designed by Codman but by another architect, because Codman's asking price was too high. The historic

VICTORIAN
DOOR
AND CABINET
HARDWARE



Our Victorian Door and Cabinet Hardware Catalogue has what we have found to be the most asked for hardware plus many hard-to-find items such as floor registers, bar rails, towel bars, stair rods and ice box hardware.

Classic Brass & Hard-To-Find Parts
Send \$3 For Complete Color Catalogue

BATHROOM MACHINERIES
BOX 1020-OH • MURPHYS, CA 95247
(209) 728-2031

Also- Victorian Plumbing Catalogue, send \$3.



Since 1916

**WE WERE MAKING FINE WOOD FLOOR FINISHES
WHEN YOUR HOME WAS BUILT . . .
WE STILL ARE TODAY.**

Since 1916, our original tung oil formula and its siblings have enjoyed a heavy demand. From tung oil to urethane to waterborne wood finishes, our products have proven themselves for over 70 years. It is this kind of experience which dedicates us to satisfying our customers with quality, reliability, value and knowledge. And it is this kind of dedication which allows us to guarantee our products.

For a complete product list, call or write

WATERLOX CORPORATION

9808 Meech Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44105

1-800-321-0377 • 216-641-4877 (in Ohio)

VAUGHAN

**For people who take pride in their work
...tools to be proud of.**



Call your Vaughan Representative for literature and prices.

VAUGHAN

VAUGHAN & BUSHNELL MFG. CO.
11414 Maple Ave. • Hebron, IL 60034
815 648-2446 FAX: 815 648-4300

continued from page 8

lain footed tub. This is a bathroom I can clean in a minute and not be a slave to it. So Patricia, I hope this will help put your longings in perspective, as mine were.

— Linda Coolich
Flint, Mich.

Another Opinion

Dear OHJ,

This is in reference to your opinion [*"Remuddling," July/August, p. 88*]. We are the proud owners of the house depicted as having the victimized verandah. Since we did not ask for your opinion, personal or professional, we are sure you will grant us the same unsolicited opportunity to express ours, in print, so that our neighbors will know that you have a fair editorial policy.

First of all, we are a small island

community recovering from *the* major hurricane of the century, and what we don't need is non-constructive criticism and more personal duress. We are sure that Charles Kellner, the Island resident whom you allege submitted the pictures for whatever his reasons, and you, obviously a self-appointed "authority" to restoration enthusiasts, did *not* see that piece of worthless diatribe as an invasion of privacy, but we do.

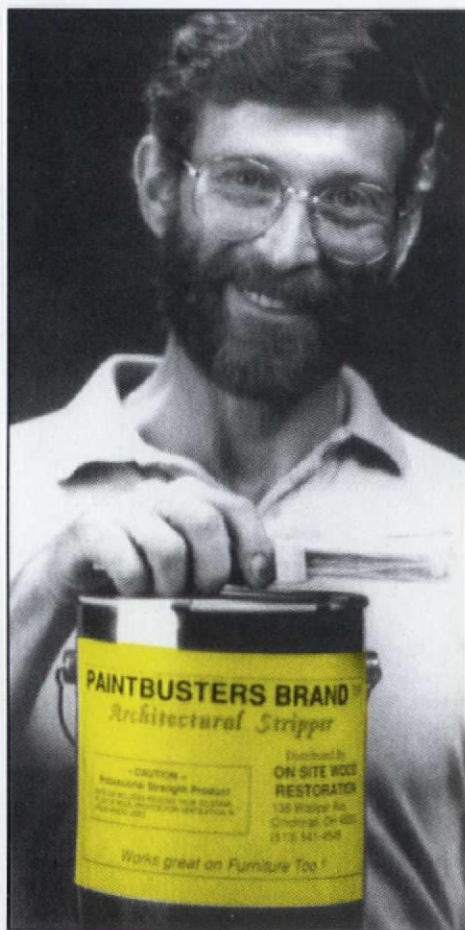
Secondly, I don't know what the charter of your magazine is, but one would think that striving to educate and inform readers on restoration techniques using the products of your advertisers would be preferable to ridicule of those with a different view — certainly not the best business approach to increased sales or circulation. It certainly would be

more profitable to mind the business of suppliers instead of trashing customers. Even us "remuddlers" buy good stuff.

Lastly, included in what we view as a cheap attempt at tabloidism, are several incorrect assessments which causes one to question your supposed knowledge and subject-matter expertise. The scaffolding shown in the picture is misleading as exterior remodeling, including the porch, was done approximately 20 years ago — probably long before Dr. Kellner even thought of living on the Island or analyzing people. Also, the house has vinyl — not aluminum — siding. And, so you no longer need to muse about the brick columns, the house withstood unprecedented winds.

(Many did not.) The porches you

continued on page 12



"I Guarantee Architectural Brand Stripper Or Your Money Back."

I believe my quick, thick Architectural Brand woodwork stripper is the best. It lifts paint, dissolves varnish, pulls-out stain and removes white haze. It's water soluble, non-caustic and non-flammable — it won't damage the wood.

► Starter Kit:

1 gallon, brush, samples and book

\$35.00

► Professional Kit:

5 gallons, application and scrub brushes, tape, samples and book.

\$145.00

A unique system for stripping large areas of woodwork.

On-Site Wood Restoration

138 Woolper Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220



513•541•4545

Gary Fierman, president

Push Button Light Switches

In Single and Three Way
Solid Brass Cover Plates



Decorative
and
Plain

Also In

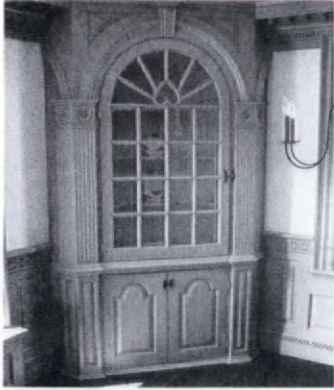
- Chrome
 - Brown
 - Ivory
- Finishes

For Color Brochure
Send \$1.00 to:

Classic Accents

**Dept. OH, P.O. Box 1181
Southgate, MI 48195**

Authentic Colonial Woodworking



Windows, Doors and Entryways
Old Glass, Moldings
Raised Panel Walls

Please send \$2 for brochure.

**Maurer & Shepherd
Joiners Inc.**

122 Naubuc Avenue
Glastonbury, CT 06033
(203) 633-2383

WOOD MANTLES
CAPITALS
BRACKETS
MEDALLIONS
PLASTER CORNICES
WOOD MOULDINGS
COMPOSITION & WOOD FIBER ORNAMENTS

Established 1893 312/847-6300
DECORATORS SUPPLY CORPORATION
3610 S. MORGAN ST. • CHICAGO, IL 60609

RUTLAND Makes Plaster Repairs With Confidence

These two easy-to-use trusted products assure that you can do the job right..

Kwik-Patch

The easiest-to-use patching plaster available. Contains expanded mica to reduce weight and eliminate shrinking and cracking even when nailed. This sound deadening plaster applies in one coat instead of the usual three. Twice the coverage of traditional patching plaster.



Our Original Patching Plaster

True white marble based, non burning, non bleed formula for when you need to duplicate existing work and demand the quality of the original plaster.



Ask for Rutland by name at your hardware, home center or building supply dealer.

**RUTLAND
PRODUCTS**

RUTLAND PRODUCTS
P.O. Box 340
Rutland, VT 05702-0340
(802) 775-5519

Suppliers of fine HOME REPAIR & CARE Products
since your grandfather was a boy.

SIMPLICITY
REQUIRES
PERFECTION
IN ALL
DETAILS
THE
VULPIANI
WORKSHOP

11 Field Court
Kingston, N.Y. 12401
914-339-6146
Fax 914-331-2807

continued from page 10

find exemplary in structure on the other house have been falling down for years and were declared unsafe after the storm. If this is your idea of preservation, one of us is mistaken.

For your further enlightenment, the historical district is in downtown Charleston, and people who want to live "preserved" follow the rules of BAR. Some individualists choose to live on barrier islands with standards that allow the freedom of diversity in taste. Until now, that has been part of its charm.

In closing, we would remind you that some people are "preservationists" simply because they cannot envision anything other than repairing and repainting something that someone else thought of and accomplished.

— The Harts
Sullivans Island, S.C.

Correction

Dear OHJ:

We very much appreciate the review of our book *Park & Recreation Structures* on page 64 of the Sept/Oct *OHJ*. The review is quite nice, but unfortunately you listed the wrong price for the book: The cost is not \$80.25 but \$59.50.

We are hoping that the \$80.25 price does not inhibit too many prospective buyers of this book. We would appreciate a correction in your next issue.

— Carol Park-Hill
Production Manager, Graybooks
Boulder, Colo.

Impatiens for the Facts

Dear OHJ,

In your May/June 1990 article "Neo-Antique Hanging Baskets," the

impression is given that impatiens are not authentic to the old house. However, they were offered as a new plant in the *1888 Burpee's Farm Annual*.

I am the gardener at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, and have done extensive research to find what would have been available to Mrs. Kohrs. Although a pioneer woman, she had both a conservatory and an elaborate outdoor flower garden.

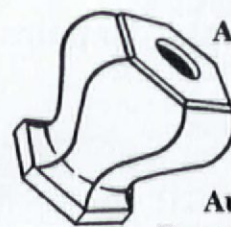
Although I agree that a New Guinea impatiens would be less than authentic, a simple, old-time impatiens would be quite acceptable. I hope this has helped relieve any impatiens-lover's dilemma over choosing between authentic and aesthetic.

— Lanette King
Deer Lodge, Mont.

**VICTORIAN
WALLPAPERS**

- Handprinted Borders, Friezes, Ceiling Papers & Coordinated Wall Fills.
- Available Directly from our Studio by Mail Order.
- In-house Design Service.
- Color Catalog with Binder: \$10.00

**BRADBURY & BRADBURY
WALLPAPERS**
P.O. BOX 155-C • BENICIA, CA. 94510
(707) 746-1900



At Last!

**Authentic
Reproductions**

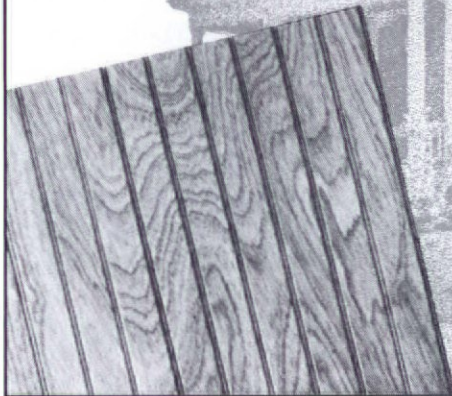
Our classical hardware collection features hard-to-find crystal, brass, iron, and porcelain Olde Worlde Restoration Hardware for cabinets, furniture, doors and windows. Send \$3.50 for our catalog or SASE for crystal knob brochure.

Crown City **HARDWARE CO.**

SINCE  1916

1047 N. ALLEN AVE. DEPT. J90
PASADENA, CA 91104

A classic American pattern in fine hardwoods



The ceiling bead pattern is well over a century old, yet it remains a popular choice for remodeling and restoration. States Industries has reproduced this pattern in panel form, reducing the cost of material and the labor required to install it. Hardwood construction throughout maintains the look and texture of the original lumber product. These panels are available in Birch, Oak, and knot free imported Kaudamu, in finished or unfinished form.



These panels are particularly well suited for use as wainscoting. Full wall applications, interior soffits, and even ceiling installations, add interest and detail to any room. Available at building material suppliers nationally. For the source nearest you call **503-688-7871**.

states
INDUSTRIES, INC.

HAVE A CEILING YOU CAN LOOK UP TO

21 PATTERNS AVAILABLE
VICTORIAN TO ART DECO
2'x4' Sheets For Easy Handling
Shipped Anywhere



TIN CEILINGS

Send \$1.00 for Catalog to:
CHELSEA DECORATIVE METAL CO.
9603 Moonlight Dr., Dept. O-A
Houston, Texas 77096
Questions: 713-721-9200

The professional answer to your toughest restoration problems.

Wood Restoration System



This rotted - and irreplaceable - woodwork...

An unprecedented advancement in the regeneration of rotted, damaged or even missing wood. Not a wood putty, but unique, specially formulated compounds that consolidate and replace rotted or missing wood with unmatched workability and performance.

LiquidWood® deep-penetrating consolidant rebuilds and waterproofs wood by hardening after penetration. Brush or pour on. Renews crumbling, rotted wood to original strength and hardness.



...can be easily and permanently restored.

WoodEpoxy®, the most versatile, high-strength, no-shrink adhesive paste, filler and wood substitute. Can be shaped, sanded, colored, stained, painted, sawed and even nailed. Far more durable than any other wood repair method. The new standard in wood restoration.

Widely used by national restoration centers, museums, architects and contractors, the Abatron system is ideal for building and antique restoration. Irreplaceable structural and decorative parts can be easily restored. Requires only simple hand tools to apply. Packaged in 5-can kits consisting of **LiquidWood** A and B, **WoodEpoxy** A and B, and **Abosolv** solvent, in 5 pint, 5 quart and 5 gallon sizes. For a free brochure, contact:



ABATRON, INC.

33 Center Drive, Dept. OHJ
Gilberts, IL 60136
(708) 426-2200 Fax (708) 426-5966

More Bright Ideas

I would like to expand upon Roger Apted's suggestions on light-bulb replacement ("Restorer's Notebook," July/August 1990 *OHJ*).

Among the long-lasting bulbs on the market are compact fluorescent bulbs. They're usually rated for 10,000 hours — about 10 times longer than a standard incandescent bulb, which makes them perfect for hard-to-reach fixtures.

These bulbs also use only about one-fourth the electricity of incandescent bulbs, which will not only help you save substantially on electric bills, but also makes the bulbs safer for use in old houses that need wiring improvements. I found them especially valuable when I moved into an old house in which most of the outlets and fixtures were run off a single, 60-year-old, 15-amp service.

The Alliance to Save Energy has

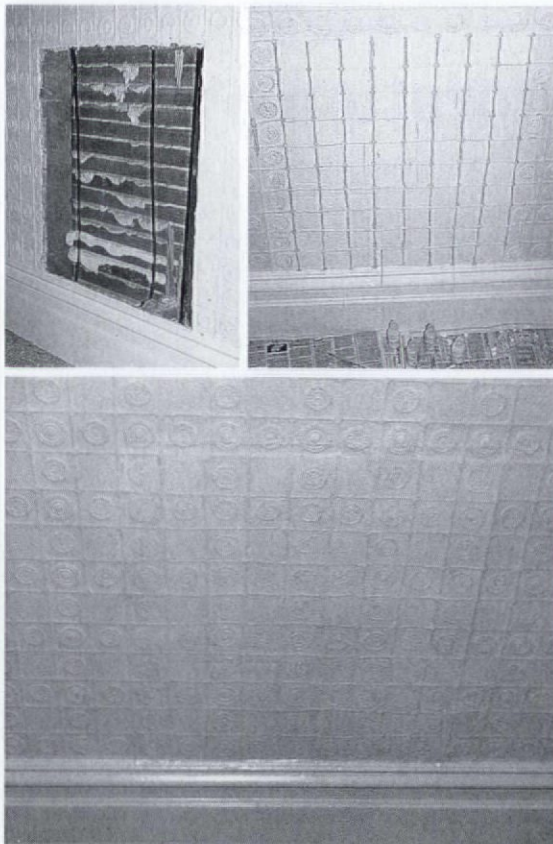
published a consumer brochure outlining different types of fluorescent bulbs; it also includes toll-free phone numbers for manufacturers, who can direct you to the stores that stock their bulbs. For further information, contact the Alliance at 1725 K Street, NW, Suite 914, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 857-0666.

— Mary Beth Zimmerman
Arlington, Va.

Patching Anaglypta

The hallway in our 1901 Victorian originally had a wall-mounted gas-heater fixture. When the defunct fixture was removed, the old Anaglypta pattern was dreadfully interrupted in a 2- \times -2½-foot area. I searched San Francisco's many res-

Below: Damaged Anaglypta (left) was patched and its pattern re-created with acrylic paint (right). Bottom: the completed repair.



toration-supply houses for a possible match, but with no luck. For months my husband and I pondered the various possibilities: a mini built-in bookshelf? a see-through panel so we could have our very own lath-and-plaster exhibit? the application of new Ana-

glypta on this one wall or throughout the entire hall? Then I devised a patching system that really did the job.

I studded in the opening, drywalled it over, and mudded in the seams. After the mud dried, I primed it. Using a pencil, I then traced the original Anaglypta pattern directly onto the section. Next I drew in the design, using small tubes of acrylic paints (available at most craft stores for fabric painting). Afterwards, I topped the fake embossing with two heavy coats of primer and the final wall color. Up close, the patch is discernible, but from a distance, it's impossible to see. The total cost was \$20, plus a few Saturday mornings' labor.

— Suzanne Dumont
San Francisco, Calif.

Clean Up Made Easy

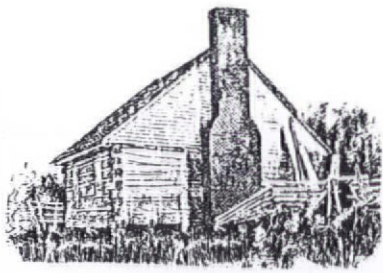
After making two huge messes in our yard, I've found a better way to clean up and preserve a lawn during an exterior restoration project: First, I lay down a large tarp to make sure all of the little stuff (bits of roofing and stucco, in our case) doesn't get into the lawn. I then put sheets of plywood over the tarp, which makes shovelling up the stuff a breeze. Don't leave the covering down for more than a couple of days, however, or it will kill the grass.

— Dan Miller
Elgin, Ill.

Stripping Strategy

When I found that my local "strip joint" wanted almost \$600 to strip the spindles on my wrap-around porch, desperation became the mother of invention. I discovered that the galvanized liner from a wicker planter (about 8" \times 28" \times 7") was the perfect size for a dip tank. I was able to do eight or nine spindles at a time, loosely covering the top with a length of heavy-duty aluminum foil to avoid the more rapid evaporation of the relatively large surface area. This was much easier than the more traditional method of putting the spindles into a pail filled with stripper to half their height, and then turning them over to do the other half. With the porch restored, the planter has its liner back (at least until we tackle the interior stairs).

— Alisa Bearov Landrum
Norfolk, Va.



LOG HOUSES. . .and other 18th & 19th century building materials salvaged from old houses, grist mills, and barns:

- hand hewn logs •
- flooring •
- windows •
- doors •
- hardware •

Sylvan Brandt

653 Main Street Lititz, PA 17543
(717) 626-4520



**"When I think of elegant
woodwork, I think of
BLUE OX."**

Not only elegant, but historically accurate, too. We can copy any style of woodwork you may desire including (but certainly not limited to):

- Mouldings
- Columns
- Balusters
- Spindles
- Finials
- Gutters
- Handrails
- Carved Appliques

*Specializing in handling
Redwood with Reverence*



Blue Ox Millworks

The Giant of the Custom Woodshops

Free Brochure, \$6.00 informational pattern book

(800)24-VICKY Foot of X Street Eureka, CA 95501 FAX (707)444-0918

FAST, FAST PANE RELIEF.



Whether you're remodeling or just looking to replace a drafty old double-hung, the only name you need to know is Marvin. Our windows are available in virtually any size, shape or style because all Marvin windows are made to your exact specifications. If you want to improve the look, efficiency and style of your home, our full-color replacement and remodeling book has all the answers. For your free copy, return the coupon below or call toll-free **1-800-346-5128** (MN, 1-800-552-1167; In Canada, 1-800-263-6161).



Our Tilt-Pac is a perfect replacement for a worn-out double-hung sash.

Send to: Marvin Windows, Warroad, MN 56763

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

I plan to: Build Remodel Replace

MARVIN WINDOWS
ARE MADE TO ORDER.



OHJ-9074-11



Mr. Whitman's house, pictured above, features an array of concrete-block effects, from smooth quoins to imitation stone; even the columns are concrete. The detail photo at left highlights the rock-face and cobblestone-face blocks.

Matching Concrete Block

Q I own a post-Victorian concrete-block home onto which I would like to build a garage where one previously stood. My problem is finding block to match that of the existing house. Can you put me in touch with a supplier for this?

— Harvey E. Whitman II
Haslett, Mich.

A The concrete block with which your house was built would have been cast on site, block by block, with a hand-operated machine (see "Ornamental Concrete-Block Houses," October 1984 *OHJ*). Constructing your garage out of matching block is a laudable idea, but obtaining the materials won't be easy.

Finding an actual blockmaking machine or source for salvaged block would provide the most historically accurate results, but these are both long shots. Making moulds from ex-

isting blocks and casting new ones has been done for spot repairs (see "Repairing Ornamental Concrete Block," November 1984 *OHJ*), but would be a big job for an entire garage. A more practical — but by no means sure-fire or inexpensive — option would be to consult firms that manufacture cast stone or ornamental cast concrete (such as for garden statuary), in the hope that one may be willing to duplicate blocks for you. Another possibility would be to use a suitable variety of stock, modern concrete block with a patterned face (such as a brick design), which would be a nod to the "faux stone" nature of the original cast block.

The "Fainting Room"

Q We recently ran across an ad for an old house, which included a "fainting room." In this particular house, it was at the end of a hallway between two bedrooms,

with no access to either of them. Next to the door was a half wall and an open space where a window (transom?) had been mounted. This opening overlooked the stairs. Can you tell us anything about such a room?

— Anthony C. Hill
Yorba Linda, Calif.

A We consulted Judy Snyder of the Victorian Society in America, and she explained that anterooms adjacent to second-floor bedrooms such as you describe existed in some upper- or upper-middle-class Victorian houses. These small antechambers were most common in the deep South (particularly New Orleans) up to the turn of the century, and were "a place where ladies could retire" on a day bed or an armless piece of furniture called a "fainting couch" or "swooning couch." (It was also known as a *chaise longue*, after the French.) In an era when one did not formally go back to bed until nightfall, these small rooms provided a spot for taking a nap without disarranging the big bed or having to disrobe.

If not a localism, the term "fainting room" may be more a product of

"Wilhemina has succumbed! We must remove her to the fainting room!"



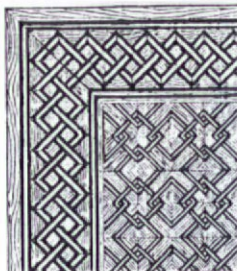
Victorian mythology, as we could find no primary source in which that name is used. Victorian women were reportedly big fainters, and indeed tight corsets made for shallow breathing, and physical exertion could cause one to blank out. Frequent births in rapid succession also left many women with generally frail constitutions, as did the use of laudanum, an opium preparation included in many patent medicines. It is doubtful, however, that these rooms actually were designed as a place for women to fall unconscious, as the name might suggest.

In Search of Parquet

Q *I am a wood-floor refinisher who's come across some very unique flooring in a two-storey house built in the 1930s. There, oak/rosewood/maple parquet runs throughout the house, with a different pattern in each room. The construction and variety of designs seem to indicate a production-type of wood flooring, not something custom made.*

Here's my question: Is there, or was

A Manufactured ornamental hardwood floors grew steadily in intricacy and appeal throughout the 1800s; by the turn of the century, these floors rivalled carpeting as impressive floor coverings. Many were true, solid parquet, in which the wood is at least $\frac{7}{8}$ " thick and installed on a subfloor as primary flooring. Other products, such as parquet veneer or "wood carpet," how-



This parquet pattern was one of many offered by the Interior Hardwood Co. back in 1894.

ever, were only $\frac{5}{16}$ " or so thick and were applied over an existing plain floor for a decorative upgrade. Borders for true parquet were often shipped in preassembled lengths several feet long; the field came in blocks or sheets, especially if a strong mosaic pattern was used. Wood carpet, frequently the most elaborate of these floors, was at-

tached to a cloth backing and arrived in a roll to be fitted and nailed to the old floor with small brads.

At one time, stock or custom ornamental wood floors could be ordered from catalogs or direct from the manufacturer — the

complex designs you found are by no means unique. A good source for parquet and other fine hardwood floors is Juell Floors, Inc., 13161 Merchandise Mart, Dept. OHJ, Chicago, IL 60654; (312) 527-WOOD.



The intricate, interlocking patterns of this old parquet floor are still available for today's homeowners.

there, any company that produced this type of wood flooring? If so, I would like to contact them.

— Dean G. Glattling
Sawyer Creek Incorporated
Osbkosh, Wis.

Plaques



Erie Landmark Co. offers custom-lettered bronze markers for indoor-outdoor use.

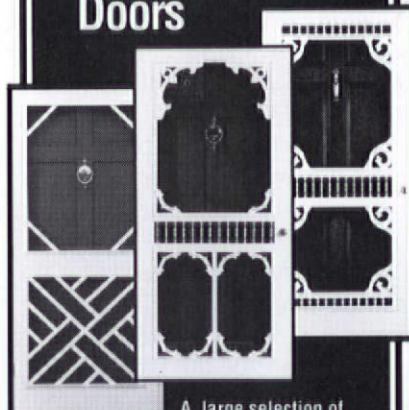
- National Register Plaques: starting from \$ 50.00
- Custom wording: starting from \$ 90.00
- All sizes from Medallions to Roadside Markers
- Graphics & Logos Reproduced
- Metal Photo Images
- Discounts to Historical Societies

Call or send for FREE brochure:

Erie Landmark Company
4449 Brookfield Corporate Dr.
Chantilly VA 22021-1642
Toll Free: 1-800-874-7848
Fax: 703-818-2157

Satisfaction guaranteed
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery

Victorian And Chippendale Storm-Screen Doors



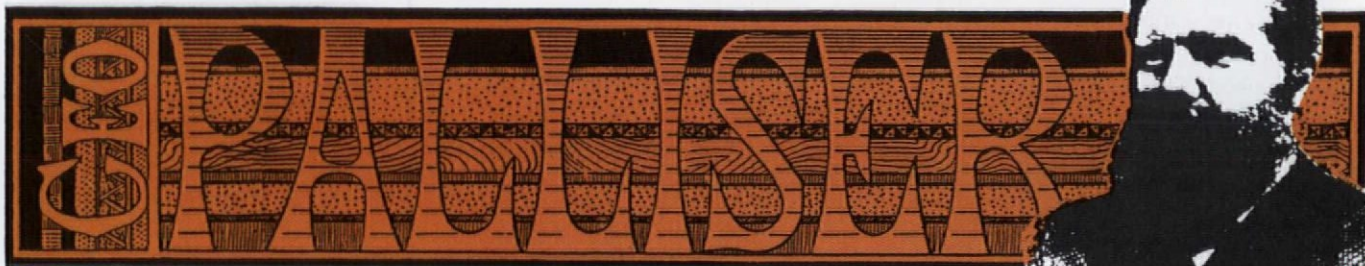
A large selection of hand-crafted wooden doors in all sizes. Victorian brackets, running trim, cornices, spandrels, corbels, and gable decorations. Also included are Chippendale railing, gates, porch furniture, and much more. For your copy of our 16 page catalog send \$2.00 to:



The Old Wagon Factory
P.O. Box 1427
Dept. OJBO
Clarksville, VA 23927
(804) 374-5787

WHO THEY WERE

by Jeff Wilkinson



George Palliser wrote or co-wrote over 20 books on architecture, and designed hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of buildings, yet he remains one of the 19th century's most obscure personalities. Very little is known of the man who created a systematic approach to mail-order architecture. Not even an accurate birthdate has survived. We only know that somewhere around 1849, Mr. Palliser was born at Thirsh, in Yorkshire, England.

Few traces are left of his life in England, and we do not hear of him until 1868, the year he arrived in Newark, New Jersey, where he worked as a master carpenter and later opened a millwork business. Newark at this time was a busy industrial center and full of competition. A better city for an ambitious young man was Bridgeport, Connecticut, which is where Palliser relocated in 1873.

Bridgeport was also the home of world-renowned entrepreneur Phineas Taylor Barnum. Barnum greatly appreciated the work of English architects, and he soon became Palliser's most important client. Today, from the windows of the commuter train, one can see the blocks and blocks of houses that Barnum and Palliser developed. We can only guess that between Palliser's millwork business and his move to Connecticut, he began to assume the title of architect. In those days, any person with a reasonable knowledge of building technique and the ability to draw could hang out a shingle. These skills Palliser possessed, and to-

gether with his brother Charles, who arrived in Bridgeport a few months after George, the firm of Palliser, Palliser & Co. was established.

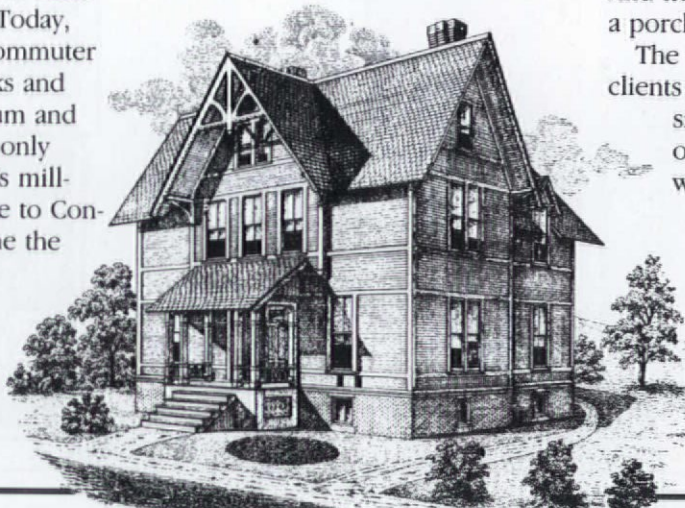
Between the years 1873 and 1875, the two brothers designed scores of houses for Barnum. Quite possibly, it was Barnum's influence as an entrepreneur, together with Palliser's own knowledge of the millwork business, that led to Palliser's most original idea, that of conducting architectural design by mail. Architectural style books had been sold for some years by such people as A.J. Downing, Calvert Vaux, Gervase Wheeler, and A.J. Davis. What was unique to Palliser was his development of a mail-order architectural practice, providing not stock plans but design services. Palliser's method was simple and practical. Using a fairly comprehensive questionnaire that examined the client's site, budget, materials de-

sired, and space needs, an initial design would be drawn. The client would then make any revisions necessary, at which point the Pallisers would proceed with the final working drawings. Mail-order design may seem quite risky today, but amazingly the system worked very well, as attested by the thousands of Palliser houses erected across the country.

Palliser's designs were very much in the Victorian Gothic mode and drew stylistically from the work of Richard Norman Shaw, William Eden Nesfield, and other English architects working in the Queen Anne style. A typical Palliser house was built of wood with steeply pitched gables, outlined with bold chimneys and iron cresting; these differ from their English cousins built of brick. Decorative wood shingles often appeared on the second storey, with plain horizontal siding on the lower. Windows were almost always grouped in pairs or in threes. Bays were commonly used to highlight important rooms. And no home was complete without a porch or verandah.

The Pallisers' method for attracting clients was to publish books of designs. Between 1876 and 1908, over 20 books appeared on a wide range of subjects, from *Palliser's Memorials and Headstones* to *Selected Details of Interior and Exterior Finish for Architects, Carpenters and Builders*. Their most popular book, *Useful Details*, is said to have sold over 50,000 copies. The Palliser brothers'

Advertised in Palliser's American Cottage Homes (1878) as a Southern cottage, this \$1,500 design easily could be modified to look at home in almost any part of the country.



Plaster Washers



Now you can save and restore your plaster ceilings and walls for just pennies, as described in the October 1980 Old-House Journal.



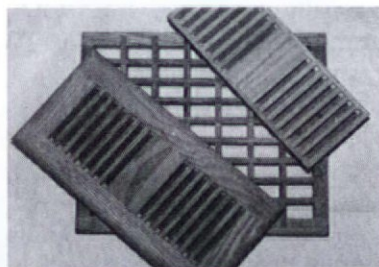
Charles St. Supply Co.
54 Charles Street
Boston Ma. 02114



CALL: (617) 367-9046

Low prices - Fast delivery
Free screw tip with every order
Call in your order today!
Orders shipped within 24 hours
Next day delivery available
VISA and MasterCard accepted
10 doz. for \$10 - 21 doz. for \$20
Complete starter kits \$15.00 & up.

Wood Air



These strong durable vents are made from over 40 different select woods in 57 standard sizes in 6 different style configurations.

**Decra-
Led**® 

Transform ordinary glass into elegant leaded glass...in minutes — Do-It-Yourself available in 3 colors and various widths.

Dealer inquiries invited. Send \$3.00 for catalog to (refundable with purchase):

TRIARCO, INC.
317 E. Adrian Street PO Box 66
Blissfield, MI 49228

Great Art For All Who Love It!

On-canvas replicas that recreate exactly the colors, details and textures of original oil painting Masterpieces.

The very best - at affordable prices.

Select from more than 370 Impressionists, Portraits, Hunt Scenes, Landscapes and more. Elegantly framed. Each a "Masterpiece Reborn". See for yourself!

The Masters' Collection
our 92-page, full color catalogue - \$5.00

Call FREE Now! 1-800-2-CANVAS, ext. 262
(MC/Visa/Discover/AmEx). Or, write to:

The Masters' Collection P.O. Box 317540 • Dept. 262 • Newington, CT • 06131-7540



"My Daughter Elizabeth"
Frank W. Benson

ANTIQUE WIDE PINE FLOORING

Antique Oak & Chestnut Available

Widths to 22" Wide

Antique Wide Pine and Hard Long Leaf Yellow Pine
Lengths up to 18' Long - Widths up to 14" Wide
Planed and ready to Install

For price info, call Mark Phillips: (508) 948-2722
North Fields Restorations, Rowley, Mass.



Cartouches
Friezes
Centerpieces
Brackets

Niches
Cornice
Grilles
Mouldings



We offer over 1500 handcrafted plaster ornaments for the building industry. Custom reproduction is also available.

The Fischer & Jirouch Co.
4821 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44103



Bus. Tel. (216) 361-3840
FAX Tel. (216) 361-0650

continued from page 18
impact was tremendous, and for the first time architecture was being served to the middle class. Houses, however, made up only half of the firm's work; they also designed many schools, churches, and public buildings.

The popularity of the firm grew, and in the summer of 1883 the brothers moved their offices to 42nd Street in New York City. This move also marks a divergence between the brothers, both professionally and personally, with Charles

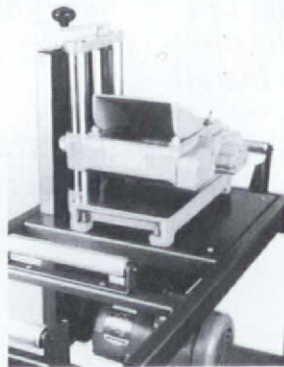


The Pallisers designed many urban and public buildings, as this city brick house (1887) demonstrates.

growing more interested in the area of building materials, publishing several works on concrete. Another possible source of friction may have been a mail-fraud charge against Charles, who enlisted the help of Connecticut postmasters to solicit new business. As a result, Charles was fined and spent a day in jail.

George Palliser has never been regarded as an important architect but rather as a disseminator of design. One point is certain: He produced buildable designs and raised the standard of house construction. His books with their worthy details and specifications are a commendable legacy. George Palliser died at his home in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., on April 3, 1903, survived by his wife and ten children.

Special thanks to Michael Tomlan of Cornell University.



ANYTIME ANYWHERE ANYWOOD

mold plane and edge

Professionals and hobbyists alike know the strengths of the W&H molder-planer. Superior US-made construction and quick two-minute cutter changes make it a snap to cut moldings and plane hardwoods. It's fast, easy, and super-smooth.

Picture frames. Crown moldings. Raised panels. And more. Our three models offer the best value in your shop or on the job site!

Our five-year warranty and free 30-day trial are your assurance that W&H goes the distance.

Mail this ad or call us toll-free today.
1-800-258-1380 In NH 603-654-6828
Williams & Hussey Dept. 560KM
Riverview Mill, P.O. Box 1149, Wilton, NH 03086



YES! Send your free information kit today.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am a professional I am a hobbyist
 I am also interested in your 12" lathe

Butcher's Wax

Since 1880



We know, when your customers ask for quality in wood care products, they ask for Butcher's. Butcher's has remained, for over 100 years, the most trusted name in polishes and waxes for fine furniture, hardwood floors, antiques and all wood surfaces.

NOW AVAILABLE DIRECT TO YOUR SHOP
for resale & shop use

**BUTCHER'S
BOWLING ALLEY PASTE WAX
BOSTON POLISH PASTE WAX
FINE FURNITURE WAX**

For Detailed Dealer Offering:
The Butcher Company
Dept. OH, 120 Bartlett St.
Marlborough, MA 01752

Halls of Fame.

The grandeur of authentic heart pine.

Pre-1900 Longleaf Heart Pine. Retrieved and re-milled to exacting standards. Lumber unmatched in strength and beauty.

Superior millwork, kiln-drying, and strict grading yield a remarkable record of customer satisfaction for flooring, stairs, paneling, mouldings, mantels, cabinetry and doors.

Over 40,000 board feet ready for immediate shipment at discounted freight rates. Available through architects and builders, or by calling (912) 634-1300.

COASTAL MILLWORKS

112 Plantation Chase, St. Simons Island
Georgia 31522 FAX: (912) 638-2778

Antique Brass Telephone

Rewired and guaranteed to work in your home, office or shop!



They're back! Classic SOLID BRASS "candlestick", original was circa 1920's, approx. 11" high, ours include new frame w/old style dial, cloth cord. Comes with plug-in jack and rotary dial which works on push button service, just \$195. **SAVE MORE!** Buy two as gifts for \$365. (SAVE \$25).

Satisfaction Guaranteed

Your phone(s) come with a one year working guarantee and you have a 15 day return privilege. Now in our 7th year, we are members of Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce. Add \$5. per phone UPS S/H. Visa/MC accepted.

To Order Call
802-479-3645

or mail your order to:
Sweet Antiques Gallery, Dept. RS2, 131 S. Main, POB 563, Barre, Vermont 05641. **FREE Brochure.**

Wholesale Inquiries Invited

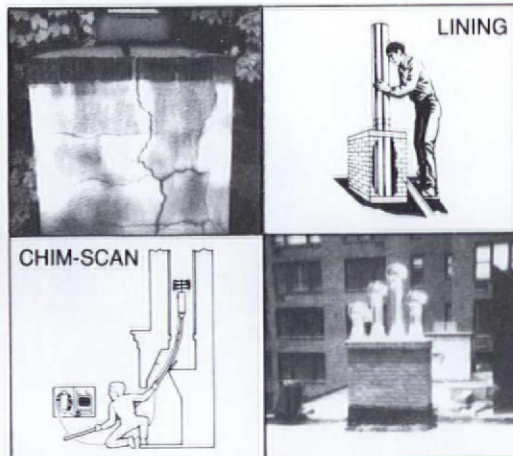
© SAG 1990

Residential • Commercial • Industrial CERTIFIED CHIMNEY SWEEPS IN TRI-STATE AREA

10 First St., Lodi, NJ 07644

NY (212) 724-9411 • NJ (201) 478-7718 • (800) 479-7722

"Complete" Fireplace and Chimney Restoration Specialists



- Fireplaces Cleaned
- Violations Corrected
- Lining (all types)
- Rebuilding • Repairs
- New Construction-Fireplaces
- Chimneys • Fire Boxes
- "Chim-Scan"-Close Circuit TV Inspection Systems
- Dampers • Chimney Caps
- Consultations & Planning
- All Work Guaranteed
- Fully Insured

TRI-STATE CHIMNEY SWEEPS

10 First St., Lodi, NJ 07644

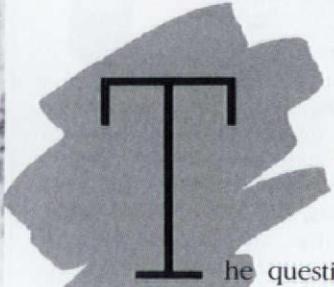
NY: (212) 724-9411 • NJ: (201) 478-7718 or (800) 479-7722

Member National Chimney Sweep Guild Over 30 Years Serving the Tri-State Area

by Gordon Bock

"The primary trouble with floors is that people walk on them. If they did not, there would be no trouble at all."

— Cyclopedia of Architecture, Carpentry, and Building, 1917



The question eventually surfaces in every house restoration: How do you finish an old-house floor? The history of floor finishes in the last 200 years has been a steady evolution toward harder films, from nothing at all to today's all-purpose clear coating: polyurethane. Because it is the near-universal pick to finish new floors, many old-house restorers wonder, *is polyurethane the right finish choice for an old or antique floor?* For that matter, *is it the only choice? What finish is historically appropriate for an old-house floor? What will preserve an old floor best in the face of 20th-century traffic?*

Answers are not always clear-cut, and sometimes they contradict each other. But after hearing this question many times over the years, we can

FLOOR-FINISH OPTIONS

An opulent Victorian interior and its floor finish: varnish.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1990

offer this guidance: As with any project, it is important to first establish what the goals are. This means deciding how strongly your choice of new finish will be influenced by 1) historical accuracy, and being true to the original floor finish (or what could have been the original finish), and 2) the practical service or level of maintenance you will expect to get from and give to the finish. Also, it never hurts to test several finishes on a piece of scrap flooring to aid with visualizing their look in an entire room. In the end, the choice is up to the restorer; in the beginning, it's helpful to know what the options are.

Bare Wood

Prior to roughly the middle of the 19th century, the floors in many houses at all economic levels were bare wood. Occasionally hand-planed and matched boards, but usually wide planks, these floors were kept clean by frequent washings with sand and mild alkaline solutions (either lime- or lye-based). For those with colonial- and post-colonial-era houses who feel very strongly about being historically appropriate, no finish would be the way to go. High-traffic areas can be protected with runners, floor cloths, or carpets, which may be then removed when it's time to show off the floor.

Paint

Contrary to some notions, paint has a noteworthy history as a floor finish. There are painted floors on record dating back to the mid 1700s in New England, and tongue-and-groove floors continued to be painted into the 20th century in the workaday rooms of simple or rural houses. Floors were likely to be painted in shades that hid dirt, such as brick or "Indian" red, grey, brown, or green. Light blue, yellow, ochre, and other light colors also were surprisingly popular in colonial America. Painting floors in decorative designs continued to be a fashionable — if somewhat "high end" — practice well into the mid 1800s. Stencilling was one technique that could be used to decorate just the border or the entire field of the floor. Geometric patterns such as checkerboards, diamonds, and zig-zags all had their heyday, as did floral motifs, marbled, and designs imitating carpet patterns.

Paint, of course, is a durable, low-maintenance finish, even under heavy traffic conditions. Oil-based paints specifically made for floor and deck use still stand up best; these should be applied in two or more coats. Their moderate gloss either equals or comes close to the look of earlier floor paint.

Wax

Wax has always had a mixed appeal as the sole finish for wood floors. Although popular for centuries as one of the most beautiful, easy to maintain, and easily repaired finishes for woodwork, wax on floors wears quickly in traffic spots, and offers the wood little protection from abrasion. As hard finishes came into vogue in the latter half of the 19th century, wax frequently was applied over shellac and

varnish, both to give an added, easily renewable lustre to the floor, and to protect the finish itself. Wax also was recommended to be applied over penetrating oils in the 1920s and '30s, to enhance their look and protect the wood.

In a modern household, wax alone is still a qualified choice for a floor finish. Though it has been popular for tongue-and-groove hardwood floors off and on in the last 100 years, there is little indication that it was used in earlier decades on wide-plank floors. Still, wax may be an acceptable compromise between a hard finish and no finish at all. Though it builds up in low-wear areas and can be slippery under rugs, it does help flooring somewhat by repelling potential stains like spilled food long enough for them to be wiped up. Relatively hard paste waxes (such as Tre-wax or Butcher's wax) are used for floors, and can be cut with alum if a reduced shine is desired. Although dirty or built-up wax can be dissolved with turpentine or mineral spirits, once applied to bare wood it effectively closes the door to other finishes unless radical measures (such as sand-

Sheen or gloss — the reflective quality of a finish — is pictured here in three different kinds of oil varnishes (shown top to bottom): traditional spar varnish on fir flooring (very high gloss); tung-oil varnish on maple flooring (moderate gloss); satin tung-oil varnish on oak flooring (minimum gloss).



Photos: Gordon Beck

ing) are used. In addition, it is not compatible with every hard or oil finish (polyurethanes are often a problem).

Oils

Oils create a finish by penetrating the wood rather than laying on top and hardening like paint. At the turn of the century, commercially sold floor oils made from crude petroleum, kerosine, or paraffin wax were available for use over varnished floors. Warmed paraffin or drying oils, such as linseed oil, which polymerize into a film when they react with oxygen, also were applied over bare wood. Penetrating sealers and finishes appeared later and are still popular for strip hardwood and parquet floors.

Oils have their own peculiarities as floor finishes. Generally, they require at least two coats for an adequate finish and sufficient drying time between coats (typically at least a week). Because they are not surface film-forming finishes, oils tend to hold dirt, making it imperative to keep an oiled floor clean. They also wear in traffic areas, with touch-ups usually being a fact of life, and give the wood only marginal protection from spills or abrasion. Most oils also significantly darken a floor and some (notably linseed oil) continue to darken as they age. Oils generally are not a reversible finish, but if a change of look is desired down the road, many will accept a traditional varnish over them once they have dried thoroughly. Still, penetrating oils are a favorite choice for many old floors because they are easy to apply and repair (new oil blends well with old), and,

The practice of decorative floor painting with the use of pattern stencils was a familiar one in the early 1800s, and is stylish again today for many floors.



From: Paint Magic by Jocasta Irms

particularly for soft woods, they are an attractive, low-gloss alternative to no finish at all. Penetrating oils are available as generic oils and proprietary products (Watco, Minwax, and Daly's are some national brands).

Shellac

Shellac saw widespread use as a woodwork and floor finish in the Victorian era, when shine and a strong visual impression became a highly desirable quality in finishes. Shellac is a *spirit varnish* composed simply of a natural resin (secreted by the lac beetle) dissolved in a solvent: alcohol. Once the solvent evaporates, it leaves behind a coating of resin. Shellac gained early popularity because it is easy to work with, dries quickly, repairs well (touch-ups are almost invisible) and, when more sophisticated varnishes were still being perfected, it was reliable and fairly durable. Its natural amber color also gave wood a beautiful warm tone.

Shellac has several shortcomings that led to its decline as a floor finish and make it an unlikely choice for a modern home. First, water will spot and mar a shellacked surface by turning it white. Second, alcohol completely lifts the finish, causing it to be easily disfigured by accidents such as a spilled cocktail. Added to this, shellac is a relatively brittle finish that performs better on hardwoods (which are fairly stable) than softwoods. For those willing to put up with its limitations, shellac can be an attractive and authentic finish for a late-19th-century floor. Sold in either dry (to be mixed with alcohol) or liquid form, it should be purchased in the original orange (rather than bleached-white) versions. Shellac has a shelf life, and using the

Wax wears away fast on a floor that's subjected to heavy traffic, but it will add a subtle lustre (and limited protection for the wood) for as long as it lasts.



Photo: Gordon Boke

freshest product minimizes drying problems.

Oil Varnishes

Like shellac, oil varnishes, with their incomparable “depth” and shine, came into their own as floor finishes in the latter half of the 19th century. Oil varnishes, however, differ from shellac (or some quick-drying varnishes sold today) in that they do not form a film simply through the evaporation of a solvent. Instead, these varnishes, which are made by cooking drying oils with hard resins, harden slowly into a film through oxidation. Oil varnishes are manufactured in different oil-to-resin ratios — referred to as long-, medium-, or short-oil — which also affect the drying time and eventual hardness of the finish. Medium-oil varnishes have been a favored floor finish because they remain relatively soft (like oil-based paint) and can flex and adapt to the movements of both hardwoods and softwoods, yet are hard enough to wear well.

Although regarded as obsolete by some, oil varnishes are still a very viable finish that protects and beautifies a floor. Besides being historically appropriate for many houses built in the last 100 years or so, these finishes bond well to older woods and do not show scratches as readily as some modern synthetic coatings. The common objections — that they require care to apply and 24 hours or more between coats to dry — may be overlooked if you regard the application problem as a one-time investment. Very soft oil varnishes, however, are vulnerable to embedded dirt, and none are as durable as their space-age counterparts. In the past, many oil varnishes were domestic versions of marine products (such as spar varnish) and produced a very reflective sheen. Modern versions are sold in a variety of sheens, although a glossy finish still resists dirt and scuffing the best.

“Swedish” Finishes & Polyurethanes

These recently developed, synthetic resin varnishes are not original to any pre-1940 houses. They are, however, popular for new floors and cannot be overlooked.

“Swedish” Finishes These coatings, based on urea-formaldehyde chemistry, share many traits with polyurethanes. They are easier than oil varnishes to apply and are noted for their scuff resistance. They are temperamental, though, when it comes to application on old floors, and work best on new or freshly sanded wood. (Consult manufacturer’s recommendation for specific directions.) Also, “Swedish” finishes have a very high VOC (volatile organic compound) content which, coupled with their formaldehyde ingredient, makes them controversial for health and environmental reasons.

Polyurethanes Of the several different classes of polyurethane coatings, three are commonly sold as floor finishes: **Moisture-Cured:** One of the first polyurethanes on the market, these varnishes cure through the action of water in the air. Moisture-cured polyurethanes are noted for their incredible toughness, and are often chosen for industrial

and heavy-traffic floors such as gymnasiums. They also contain a high percentage of solvents, making proper ventilation important when they are applied, and currently putting them under VOC restrictions in some areas.

Oil-Modified: These polyurethanes cure through the action of oxygen, much like traditional varnishes, largely due to the addition of drying oils. These oils also make it possible to produce them in a variety of sheens, while still retaining the advantages of polyurethane resins.

Water-Based: Also called *water-borne* polyurethanes, these finishes employ water as a major component of the coating, and are just starting to become regularly available. Developed in part to meet the increasing regulation of organic solvents in finishes, water-based polyurethanes have the added consumer advantage of cleaning up with water.

Polyurethanes are a dream finish for many homeowners, but they have proved less than ideal for some old-house restorers. First, they have a “plastic” look to some eyes, which clashes with aged or traditional finishes in the same room. Second, polyurethanes are hard, un-supple coatings that have been known to delaminate from softwoods or floors that move a lot. They also do not bond well to poorly prepared

floors or those previously coated with wax, shellac, or the stearate compounds that are sometimes found in stains and fillers. They don’t even bond well to themselves, which can cause difficulty in making repairs and touch-ups. Third, in some households, the hardness of polyurethanes also makes them highlight scratches in floors.

Some of these objections may be chalked up to the chemistry of this type of finish, and ruled out upon considering polyurethane’s advantages. Self-leveling (for a smooth finish) and quick drying, it is easy to apply. Its legendary toughness also makes it easy to maintain — a boon in buildings where everything demands maintenance. It can even help hold splinter-prone floors together. Choosing the right product helps, too. Moisture-cured polyurethanes were often designed for a thick, “industrial” look, but oil-modified products, already akin in makeup to oil varnishes, are sold in satin and matte sheens. Applying these finishes in thin coats also minimizes the plastic look and improves their flexibility.



Some new water-based finishes brush on milky (top), but dry clear (above).

Photos: Gordon Brock

Create a FLOOR CLOTH

Throughout the 18th and early-19th centuries, painted or stencilled canvas floor cloths were a popular way to decorate a room in American homes of comfortable means. These cloths were less expensive than wool carpeting and, since they were washable, were more practical as well.

Perhaps the earliest record of a floor cloth was in the 1728 household inventory of the Governor of New York and Massachusetts, which listed "two old checkered canvas' to lay under a table." In addition to this early use as "crumb cloths," floor cloths commonly were placed in parlors as area rugs, where they were enjoyed for their beauty. In winter months, floor cloths were left in place and covered by wool carpets, thereby providing additional warmth and insulation. Records also show that in the mid 1800s, cloths were increasingly laid wall to wall in hallways and vestibules and up stairways, where their ability to withstand traffic and dirt was particularly appreciated; not surprisingly, heavy use caused a secondary industry of repainting and restoring worn cloths to crop up.

Floor cloths were fashioned in a variety of designs. The earliest cloths, manufactured in England, imitated fine flooring both simple and elaborate: marble, tile, parquetry, as well as the fashionable carpeting of the day. Also popular in the 18th century were geometric patterns featuring diamonds, checks, and cubes, both plain and marbled. Sometimes, these designs were stencilled or painted free-hand, either by a housewife or by a decorative house painter. With the industrial age came mass production, and



BY JAMES JANSEN

Pictured left, a Good & Co. reproduction floor cloth in the Gold Parlor of the Bates-Scofield House in Darien, Connecticut, c. 1736.



wood-block printing (used for wallpapers) was adapted, thereby enabling 19th-century designs to become more elaborate, often mimicking the best Axminster and Wilton carpets. These factory-made floor cloths were stretched on enormous frames hung vertically from the ceiling, while men worked atop tiered scaffolding. Some floor cloths, however, continued to be fashioned by hand, either by itinerant craftsmen or enterprising homemakers, for whom quilt patterns by now had great appeal.

After the arrival of linoleum in the 1870s, the popularity of floor cloths began to wane. Although a small market existed into the 20th century, by the first world war floor cloths were all but gone. Today, manufacturers are again producing floor cloths due to renewed interest in them (see "Restoration Products," page 54). Finding the right cloth, however, may not be easy. One option is to make one yourself. Crafting your own can be an enjoyable way to create something of lasting beauty that's appropriate to your old house. Here's how to proceed.

Canvas

Start with a 15-ounce, closely woven, #10 canvas (or equivalent). This can be found at artists' supply stores in a variety of finishes. When selecting, remember: the finer the weave, the fewer the knots — and the less prep work. Another source for heavy canvas is marine outlets, which carry a great selection of widths. Awning, boat-cover, sail-making, and tent companies may be able to outfit you with something similar; these firms can be located in the Yellow Pages under "canvas goods." Two firms to contact for canvas as well as other

floor-cloth supplies:

- *Olde Virginea Floorcloth & Trading Co.*, P.O. Box 438, Dept. OHJ, Williamsburg, VA 23185-0438, (804) 564-0600, catalog, \$2
- *Dick Blick Art Materials*, P.O. Box 26, Dept. OHJ, Allentown, PA 18105, (800) 447-8192.

To estimate yardage, decide on your finished dimensions. For beginners, add 8" to both length and width — this should be enough material to cover any miscalculations in stretching. Purchase your material rolled and do not fold it. You may use piece goods, but avoid seaming if at all possible. Also be sure to specify a single piece of canvas when mail-ordering it; some firms ship large canvas in separate pieces that need to be sewn.

Framing

Stretching canvas over a frame is not essential in creating a floor cloth, but it makes the priming and designing processes much easier, and you'll end up with professional results. Framing also prevents wrinkling and ruck-ing as well as excess shrinkage, which can occur during the priming phase.

Roughly speaking, anything you can staple without feeling too much guilt qualifies as a frame: an old tabletop, a plywood sheet, an unfinished sheetrock wall, the attic floor, your neighbors' stockade fencing, even the backside of your own garage. (Some advocate pegging larger canvases out on the lawn, but I ain't no gambler.) Just look around and use your ingenuity. Of course, you can always make a frame out of stretcher strips pur-

chased from an art supplier. Between coats, the canvas can be unstapled, rolled up, and stored until you are ready to move on to the next stage. Bear in mind, however, that



1. Ironing is the first step in preparing a floor-cloth surface for painting. **2.** Look to pull the canvas taut in the stapling process. **3, 4.** The author primes small canvases using a paint brush, but for larger ones — this one hangs in a friend's garage — primer gets rolled on. At least four coats of primer are applied to the front and back.

photos: Jeff Wilkerson



the larger the project you're undertaking, the more problematic stretching becomes. For this reason, large cloths are perhaps best done in situ.

Stretching

Just before stretching the canvas, eliminate creases with a steam iron and spray starch. Determine which side is smoother; this will be the finish side of the floor cloth. Then begin by stretching the cloth with the underside facing up. The object of the stretching is to get the canvas taut and keep it square. First staple the edge of the middle of any side. Next, staple the middle of the opposite side, followed by the middle of an adjacent side, thus creating a triangle crease. Then staple the middle of the remaining side for a diamond crease. Proceed by tacking down the canvas approximately two inches over to one side, making certain to pull the fabric taut around the area being secured. Repeat at two-inch intervals, rotating around the frame until the procedure is complete.

Priming

Priming will protect the canvas and level up the weave. This is most important on the topside, where you need a smooth painting surface. The steps are: **1.** Apply 2 coats primer; **2.** sand with 100-grit paper; **3.** apply 1 coat primer; **4.** sand with 150-grit paper; **5.** apply 1 coat primer; **6.** apply a final topcoat.

Traditionally, size was applied to protect the cotton fibers from oil-based paints. Today, water-based products are used in lieu of size. Your choices include a latex primer with PVA (such as Muralo Ultra), an acrylic primer (such as Benjamin Moore Aquagrip), or a

synthetic gesso (Liquitex Acrylic Gesso, for example).

Gesso is quite thick and will give you the most build per coat. If you're planning to marbleize the cloth and wish to cover the weave entirely, gesso is recommended. It is, however, rather expensive and generally unnecessary for the underside. Acrylic primer is thicker and adheres better than regular latex primer, but it costs slightly more.

The recommended number of primer coats and subsequent sandings largely depends on the grade of your canvas. For the underside, you'll mainly want to smooth over the knots; an uneven underside will make sanding the topside more difficult. The final topcoat can be any leftover paint you have sitting around, either water- or solvent-based.

When the canvas has dried, remove the staples, flip over the canvas, then stretch and staple as before. Prep the finish side as follows: **1.** Apply 3 coats primer or gesso; **2.** sand with 100-grit paper; **3.** apply 1 coat primer or gesso; **4.** sand with 150-grit paper; **5.** finish with another coat of primer or gesso.

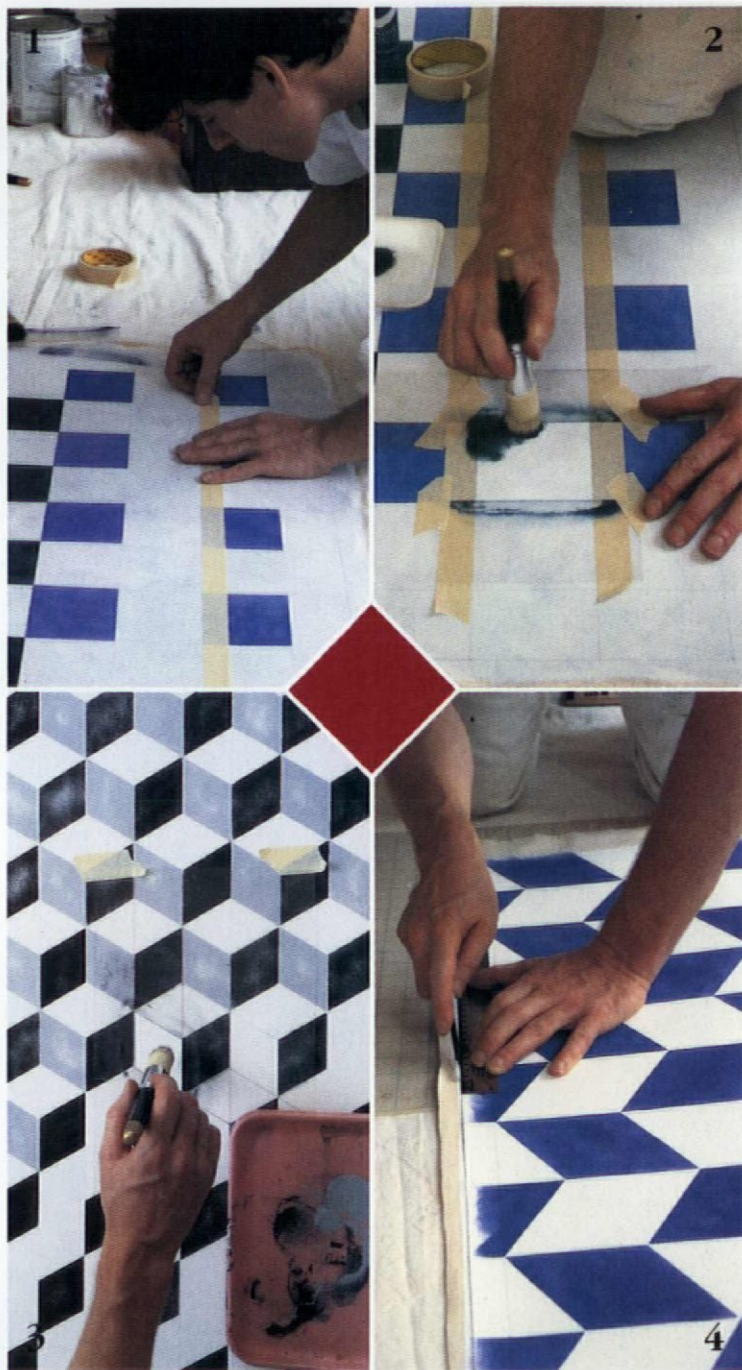
Use your judgment to determine the exact number of coats to apply; you may need an additional coat or two. The primed canvas should feel stiff and the surface smooth. After the canvas dries, you can remove it from its frame to begin decorating. The fibers now are well protected and will no longer shrink.

Decorate

No complete book of floor-cloth designs is currently available. Appropriate patterns can be copied from history and art books, which often

feature period paintings in which floor cloths are visible.

Stencilling was the most common method for decorating a cloth. You can make your own stencils (see "A Stenciller's



1, 2. A simple two-color square pattern is created by first painting all of the squares of one color. For precision in applying the second color, the author masks off the unpainted row of squares. **3.** A single acetate stencil is all that's needed to create this traditional cube design. **4.** A steel rule positioned inside the border protects the floor cloth during trimming.

Tools & Techniques," Nov/Dec 1989 *OHJ*). Dover Publications offers over 20 stencil-design books. Some pre-cut wall stencils can be adapted to decorate floor cloths. Sources for stencils in period patterns include:

• *AD-LIB*, 517 East Paces Ferry Rd., Dept. OHJ, Atlanta, GA 30305; (404) 266-2425

• *Hand Stenciled Interiors*, 590 King St., Dept. OHJ, Hanover, MA 02339; (617) 878-7596

• *Stencil World*, Box 175, Dept. OHJ, 1456 Second Ave., New York, NY 10021; (212) 517-7164.

The cube pattern pictured on page 28 is easy to reproduce with a stencil of a single cube. Three colors are required to create the three-dimensional effect; typically, these are black, white, and an optional third color, with the white sometimes marbled. Even simpler to fashion are stencils for geometric patterns of squares or diamond shapes.

Once you've decided upon a design to either stencil or paint free-hand, the next step is to mark the center of your cloth using a pencil or piece of chalk. To position and plot the design, it's best to start from this center point and proceed outward. I always design the border last, adjusting the depth to fit the remaining space. Next, paint the canvas, always applying one color over the entire floor cloth before moving on to the next.

Hemming vs. Trimming

Traditionally, homemade floor cloths were hemmed at the edges by turning under one or two inches of excess material, mitering the corners, and gluing the fabric down.

Heavy cloths, however, lie better if the edges are trimmed with a sharp knife rather than turned under.

I also find trimming much easier. Proceed carefully if

you decide to turn the hem. The paint will crack as you do this, so you've got only one shot at it. One option is to initially place tape along the outside dimensions, so there is no paint where you will make the crease, but this involves a lot more preplanning.

Trimming should be done before you apply border paint. This final layer of paint can then extend over the edges and cover the exposed fibers.

Sealing

Even though many paints are fast-drying, the chemical interaction between some sealers and paints poses a possibility of bleeding. Play it safe and let the decoration dry a few days before moving on to the sealing phase.

Varnish the underside at least twice and the top side at least four times. Be sure to coat the edges. Your choices of varnish include the following: **1.** polyurethane varnish — durable but not very flexible; **2.** oil varnish — flexible but not as durable; **3.** acrylic floor urethane varnish — casts the least tint, is fast-drying, but most expensive.

Cloth Care

To prevent cracking, make sure not to place your floor cloth over carpeting. Secure it to hard flooring, using double-sided carpet tape to keep it from sliding. Nailing or tacking is inadvisable, as is the use of a rubber mat, which can cause the canvas to crack due to its thickness. On uneven surfaces, you may want to underlay a second piece of canvas. When removing or storing, roll the floor cloth like a poster.

Clean cloths with mild soap and water. A coating of floor paste wax gives added protection and a soft luster. If the varnish one day wears thin, apply a fresh coat.

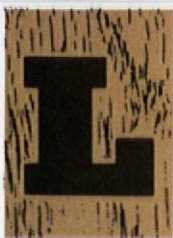


1. By using masking tape, the freshly painted cloth is protected while its border is decorated. **2, 3.** After having varnished the body of the floor cloth — apply at least four coats for this job — finish the edges with a brush of varnish as well. **4.** This marbled floor cloth looks resplendent once it's in place in an entry hall.



FIXING HARDWOOD FLOORS

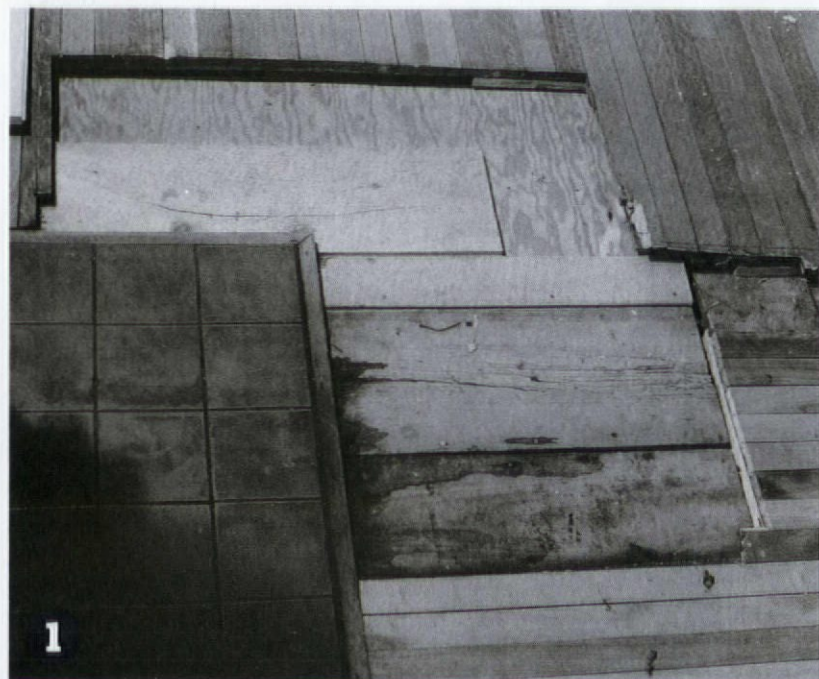
How to remove and replace tongue-&-groove floorboards



ate in the 19th century, narrow hardwood flooring came into popular use. Its limited width and interlocking tongue-&-groove (T&G) joints made it a stable and strong flooring system — and difficult to repair.

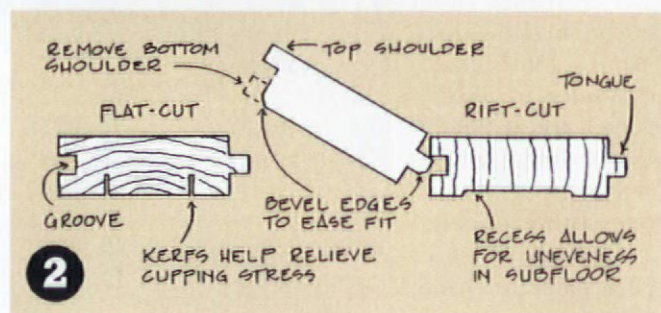
This case history was a rather complex repair (see Figure 1). A wall between two rooms had been removed, leaving an oak floor (top of photo) on one side that was slightly higher than the adjacent birch floor (bottom of photo). Both floors met up with a new quarry tile hearth. The goal here was to fill in the missing flooring so that a neat finished appearance was produced; under other circumstances, the task could be to replace damaged boards.

I deal with the complexity of this kind of flooring project by dividing it into smaller repairs, in this case: a section of birch flooring 2' x 3'; a section of oak flooring 3' x 4'; and a single wide board, 7' long, to join the two repair areas. To accomplish each phase, however, I used the same basic steps.



Plan the Work

Always plan a flooring project to fit in with other restoration work. Typically, flooring is done after the bulk of the interior finish work on walls and ceilings is complete. It also



must wait until any work involving water is finished. An accident during roofing or plumbing could cause a leak that would spoil newly laid flooring. Even moisture evaporating out of fresh plaster may cup or swell and buckle new floorboards.

Select the Materials

Preparation begins with the job of rounding up the necessary wood and nails. When I have to match the surrounding flooring, I consider the following criteria (here listed in order of importance).

Size: I try to duplicate dimensions of the existing boards, remembering that width and fit of the T&G joints are most important.

Moisture content: If the new flooring wood is too wet, it could shrink, cup, or leave cracks in between the boards when it dries. If the wood in the new boards is too dry, it could swell in width during the next wet season and buckle, widening cracks between boards of the adjacent original flooring. (Cracks in the new flooring will close, but because the new wood is tied into the old wood and expanding at a greater rate, cracks will open up in the old flooring.) To head off these problems, match

BY JOHN LEEKE

Illustrations by Jeff Wilkinson

Photos by John Leeke

the moisture content of the repair stock to that of the existing flooring before installation. Measuring the wood with a moisture meter is one way. The most often-used method, however, is to allow the repair stock to adjust to the ambient moisture level of the room. To do this, it is simply stacked and stickered (separated by layers with sticks) and left in the room as long as possible (at least two weeks) before it's installed.

Species: Starting with the same kind of wood as the surrounding floor will do the most to match its appearance. Then look for the same "cut." Flat-cut (flat-grain) boards have annual growth rings that usually run parallel to the face of the board (see Figure 2) and a characteristic grain pattern. Rift-cut (quarter-sawn, vertical-grain) boards have annual rings that are vertical to the face of the board, and are much more uniform in grain.

Careful selection will help you go even further in matching the appearance. Color variation and "tightness of the grain" (number of annual rings per inch) play a part here. Look to duplicate special "figures in the grain," such as the "flash" of quarter-sawn oak and "bird's eye" maple. In this project, I was able to match both the grain of quarter-sawn white oak and the characteristic wave pattern of red birch (see Figure 10).

Buy it or make it: Narrow hardwood flooring has been milled to standard sizes for many decades. It's sometimes worth checking local suppliers to see if their stock sizes match your flooring. Wood-flooring specialists will have a line on regional and national suppliers with a wider selection. Salvage yards may also be a source of flooring, especially if what you're looking for is made from desirable or hard-to-find wood.

An alternative is to mill your own floorboards or have it done at a local woodworking shop. After planing rough boards to thickness, rip them to width, allowing extra for the tongue on one edge. Then cut the T&G joints. For a small number of boards, this may be done with a dado blade on a table saw. Large amounts would justify the setup costs of a router or shaper.

For small repairs like this one, I find it's more economical just to go ahead and mill the wood rather than spend time looking for stock flooring to match. (But then, I have a woodworking shop set up and ready to go.) If matching wood grain and color are important, you probably will prefer to go with custom milling — and pay a premium for it.

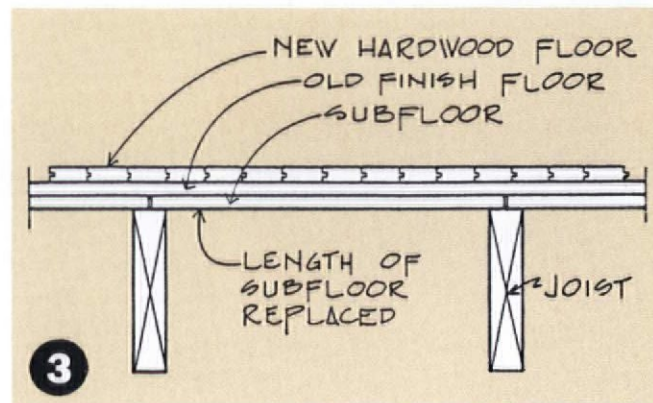
Nails: I usually use cut nails to avoid splitting the flooring and for their superior holding power. Tremont Nail Co. (P.O. Box 111, Wareham, MA 02571; (508) 295-0038) makes thin, hardened-steel cut nails especially for narrow hardwood flooring. (Ask for the N-3 Floor Nail.)

Subfloor Repairs

Preparation continues with repairs to the subfloor which provides structural support for the finish floor. The wood must be sound so the finish floor nails will hold. If the subfloor is weakened by decay, replace a whole section back to the nearest joist (see Figure 3). Often hardwood

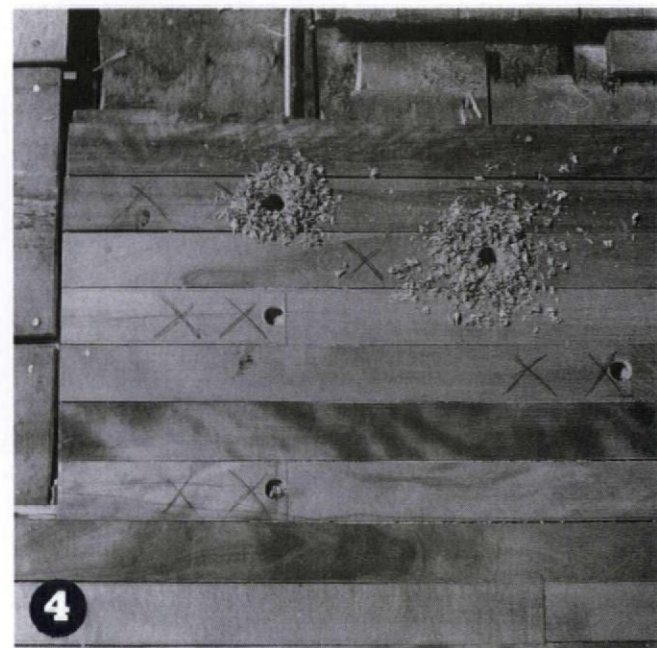
flooring is laid right over the earlier wide softwood flooring. In this situation, the old finish floor becomes part of the subfloor.

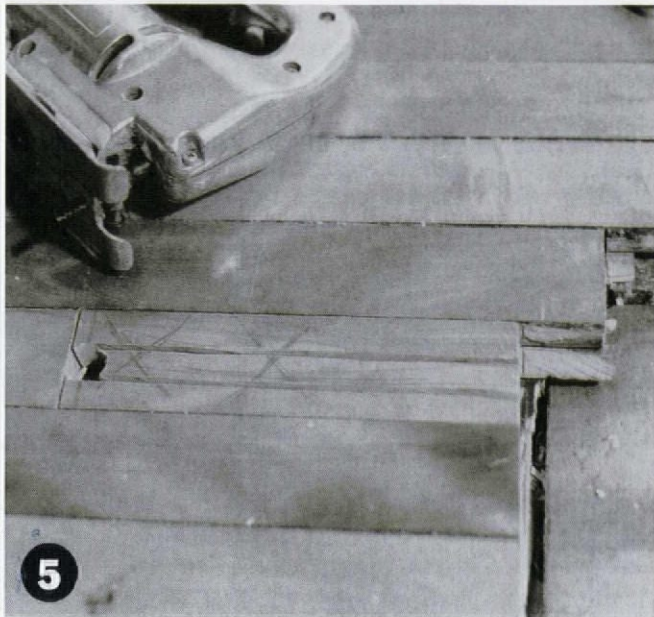
It's best to shim up the subfloor so it provides a flat, even surface for the new boards. In the real world, how-



ever, you often end up shimming between the sub- and finish floor. The thin taper of sawn cedar shingles makes them ideal for this purpose (see Figure 9). If you don't have any on hand, ask for a small bundle of shim stock at your building suppliers. These are low-grade shingles sold especially for this purpose.

A layer of rosin building paper or Tyvek[®] over the subfloor blocks air infiltration. One project I worked on had specifications calling for a vapor barrier between the subfloor and the finish flooring, intended to protect the hardwood flooring from the high moisture content of the crawl space below. The crawl space was unheated, so I was concerned that the vapor barrier actually would trap moisture condensing from above and cause problems. We decided to solve the moisture question with other methods, and skipped using a vapor barrier entirely. Every situation is different, but insulation and vapor barriers deserve careful consideration when you're laying new flooring.

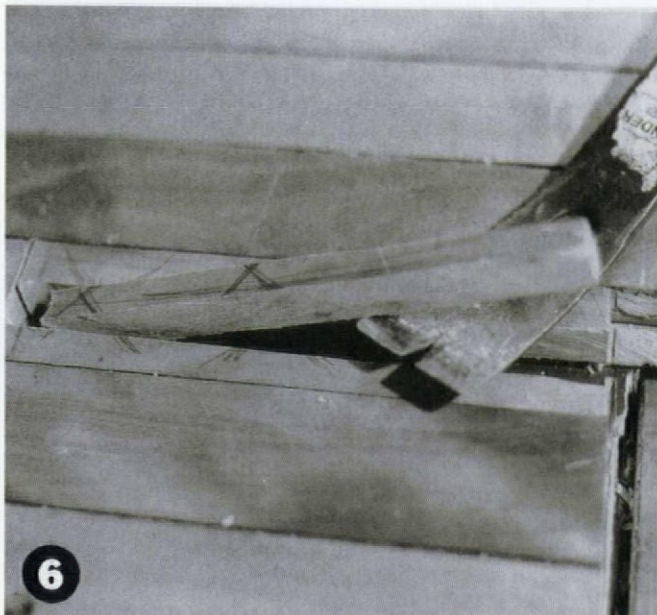




Replacement, Step-by-Step

The following cut-and-fit procedure simplifies the process of removing old floorboards and replacing them with new stock. During the work you may need to repeat some steps, skip others, or backtrack before you're actually done. It's a good idea to wait before nailing down any of the new boards until they have all been cut and fit into place. Once you have several floor repairs under your belt, you'll know when it's all right to nail as you go along.

Layout and drill: (See Figure 4.) Narrow hardwood flooring gets its strength and integrity from the interlocking T&G joints along its edges. Some flooring even has T&G joints at the ends of each board. Maintain this interlocking system by staggering replacement boards into the surrounding flooring. This usually means cutting back every other board in the existing floor a short length. Lay out

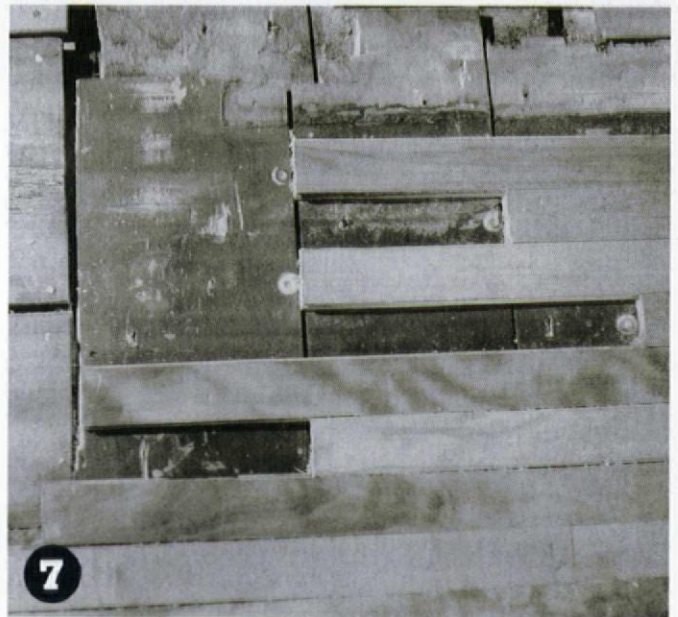


marks for a minimum cutback of 9 to 12", enough for the joint to share stresses with several inches of uninterrupted flooring on each side. This way, the joint won't split if, say, a piano is rolled across the floor.

Consider, too, the amount and lengths of your replacement boards at this stage. You don't want to end up an inch short on your last board, so prevent this from happening while it's an easy matter of redrawing a line. If your supply of replacement boards is limited, assign each a specific location and number.

Drill a $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole in each board on the waste side of the line. Center the hole in the board to avoid hitting a nail and dulling your bit. Start the bit tangent to the line and keep it vertical.

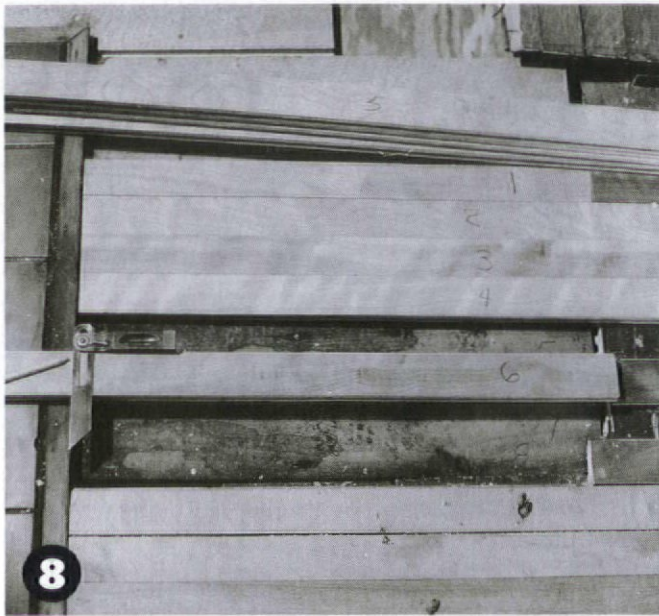
Cut out relief strip: (See Figures 5, 6.) Cutting a strip from the center of the board makes it possible to remove the sides of the board with less damage to the adjacent T&G joints. Prepare to make the cut by shortening the blade of your saber saw to the thickness of the new flooring,



With the saw unplugged and the blade fully extended, mark the thickness of the flooring on the blade. Remove the blade and, wearing eye protection, grip it with two pairs of pliers and snap it in two. With the excess length of the blade now gone, you can cut through the finish floor without cutting the subfloor beneath. Blind cuts such as these put more of a demand on the saw, so work slowly and carefully. If the saw chatters on the floor, check the length of the blade.

Begin the cut across the grain of the hardwood board in the $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole and continue right up to the adjacent board. Then cut along the grain with a circular skill saw, which is more efficient at ripping than a saber saw. If the soles of your saws scratch the finish, polish them with 300-grit sandpaper or apply duct tape. Pry out the relief strip with a bar.

Clean out waste: Pry out the side waste pieces. Take special care not to break off the top shoulder of the groove on the adjacent board. Use a sharp chisel and mallet to

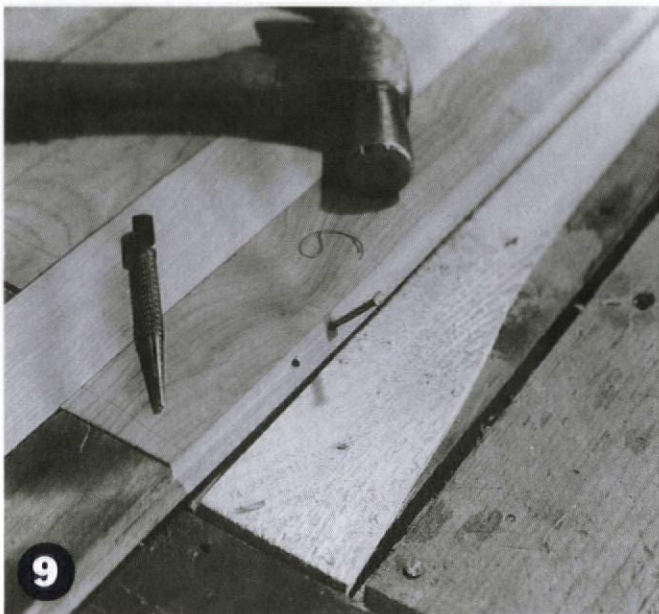


clean up the end cut. Protect adjacent flooring with a soft pine scrap when pulling nails. The ideal result is square end cuts and all tongues and grooves intact (see Figure 7). Minor damage to a tongue is not important, but glue any cracked groove shoulders with yellow carpenter's glue (aliphatic resin type).

Cut to fit: (See Figure 8.) If you haven't already done so, decide where each replacement board will go and give it a number. I get accurate end cuts by marking each board in place rather than using a tape measure. A miter box will help you get square cuts.

In this project, the hearth was not perfectly square with the flooring. To lay out a flush joint with a good fit, I used an adjustable bevel gauge to copy the slight angle and transfer it to the board.

As you fill in the flooring, some sections of new boards will wind up bound on both edges with a T&G joint, so that you cannot simply slide them into place. Here, you'll

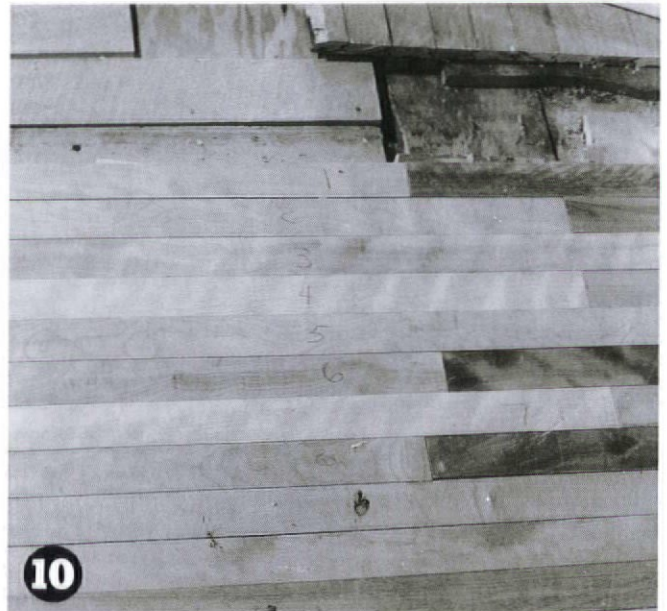


have to cut off the bottom shoulder of the joint so it can slip past the tongue of the next joint (see Figure 2). Cut off the whole shoulder, but only as far along the groove as is needed to avoid the adjacent tongue. Then bevel the meeting edges to loosen the fit. You will need every fraction of an inch you can get as you gently tap the board into place with a hammer.

Nail in place: (See Figure 9.) Blind nailing within the T&G joint hides the nail from view on the finish surface. It also leaves about 1/4" of wood for future sanding before you hit nails that can rip the paper off the machine.

For small repairs, I use a hammer and nail set. Pre-drilling helps prevent splitting off the tongue and is a must if you're not using hardened nails. On larger repairs, I rent a nailing machine that takes a cartridge of special slim hardened nails. The device holds the nails at the correct angle, and you whack it with an oversize hammer that drives the nail home in one blow.

Nail about every 12" along the corner of the tongue. To



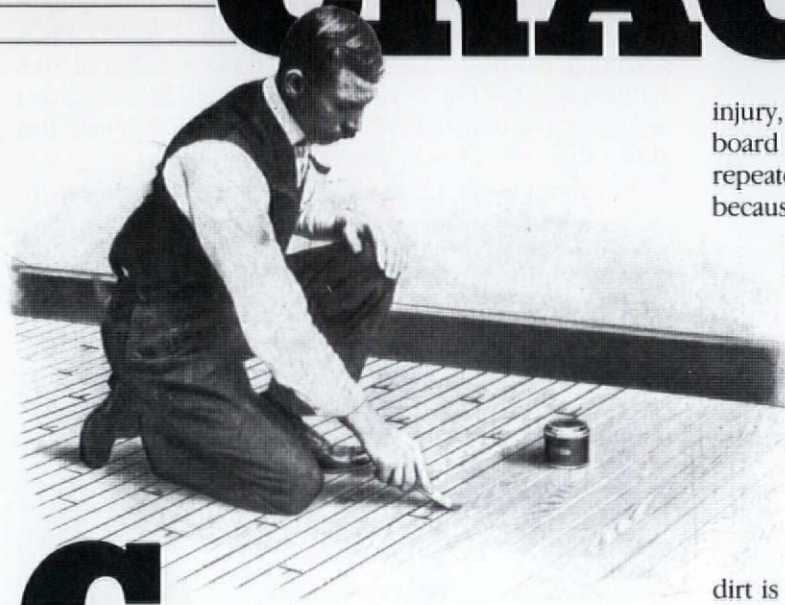
avoid putting hammer prints in the edge of the flooring, use a nail set for the last couple of blows — either in the conventional manner (like a punch) or by laying it horizontally in the corner. Where you have cut off the shoulder, you'll have to fasten down the board another way. One possibility is to glue just the shoulder where it laps onto the other board's tongue; another option is face nailing straight down from the top of the board. If your flooring has tongue-&-groove joints on the ends and the length of the cutback is less than 12", there's no need for you to fasten it at all.

Complete repair: (See Figure 10.) Here the first repair phase of the whole project is complete. Note how the wavy grain of the new boards matches the grain of the existing boards to the right. From this point, I went on to do the oak-floor repair in the same way. I finished by installing a single wide board on a slight slope between the two sections in order to provide a transition between the different floor levels.

THOSE



CRACKS



Cracks between floorboards are a part of old-house living. Some "gapping" between boards occurs naturally, particularly during the heating season, because wood is a hygroscopic material that shrinks and swells with the moisture cycles inside the house. However, when these spaces reach the point of being unsightly, dirty, or dangerous (especially when they splinter off or trap high heels), one gets the urge to do something about them.

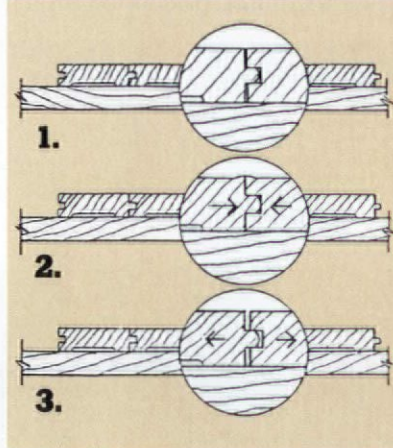
Unfortunately, there are no magic fixes for floor cracks. The obvious approach, wood putty or similar rigid filler, tends to be short-lived, because these materials loosen or dislodge when the flooring recedes and are crushed when it expands. What to do? Understanding why some floor cracks appear is a big help, as is knowing the pros and cons of solutions that have been tried in the past.

Causes

Wood floors can develop cracks from a phenomenon called *compression shrinkage*, or *compression set*. Here, floorboards swelling beyond their normal range are stopped short by neighboring boards, which are also expanding. As the moisture content of the wood rises, the edges of the flooring are put into compression, compacting the wood fiber. The wood never completely recovers from this

injury, and so when its moisture content drops, the floorboard is left slightly smaller than its original width. After repeated cycles (perhaps over decades), compacting stops because boards have been shrunk and no longer expand enough to suffer compression again — but they do show cracks when the wood is dry.

Compression shrinkage in new strip hardwood floors is very often the product of poor installation practices (such as working in a damp, unheated building) that allow newly laid boards to pick up too much moisture. However, it also can occur in old floors for the same reason, i.e., when a building is left unoccupied for a long period of time or when humidity is very high or flooding occurs. In some old floors, foreign matter such as dirt is the culprit. As dirt builds up in dry-weather cracks, it occupies the expansion space needed by swelling wood, and starts a compacting cycle that continues as the boards are compressed. Plank floors are prone to this because the normal heating-season shrinkage of the wide wood is greater per board than that of strip flooring.



Compression shrinkage takes place when flooring that just meets under normal conditions (#1) absorbs additional moisture. Expanding boards press against each other (#2), crushing or compressing the wood along board edges, which shows up as cracks (#3) when flooring returns to its earlier moisture level.

Other crack causes can be more straightforward, but just as bothersome. Flooring that had a very high moisture content when it was first installed will shrink in a normal house environment and leave cracks that never close. In

BY GORDON BOCK

Illustrations: Jeff Wilkerson

the same way, keeping a house drier than its typical humidity level may cause the flooring to "draw up," especially near forced-air heating sources. Settling of the building can open up cracks that never go away. Uneven construction or the gluing effect of finishes can cause some floors

to "panelize," so that the combined movement of several boards produces a single large crack.

Remedies

In most cases, the best "cure" for floor cracks is to leave them alone, especially if they do close acceptably during the humid months. In the heating season, it's not abnormal for narrow hardwood floors to exhibit cracks up to the thickness of a dime; plank floors might move 2½ times this distance. For those tempted to take action, though, here's all of the crack-improving ideas we have heard about.

Moisture: Sometimes, just raising the humidity level in the house — say, by running a humidifier — will improve floor cracks. Where excessive moisture is at fault, the use of a dehumidifier or vapor barrier (such as placing sheet plastic in an under-floor crawl space) may be called for.



The cracks in this tongue-and-groove floor are actually dry-weather fissures in compacted dirt, which have opened to catch debris.

Paste fillers: Floor cracks are not a new problem, and in decades past homemade fillers, such as sawdust mixed with varnish, shellac, or white glue as a binder, were popular. Another period concoction (with no recorded track record) is this 1909 formula from *American Carpenter and Builder Magazine*: "Make a pulp of paper, tissue paper being the best, though any paper will do, and add to it glue size and calcined magnesia until you have a mass like putty. Press this into the cracks with a putty knife, make the surface smooth and level with the floor. The filler may be colored as desired."

Fibrous fillers: Fibrous materials such as cloth strips soaked in linseed oil or glue often have been utilized to fill large cracks because they give and take with the movement of the flooring. Hemp rope strands also have been tried. The strands are packed in the crack like ship caulking, using a large screwdriver or putty knife (or a caulking iron), and applied two layers deep if one does not fill the crack. The hemp can be stained to match the floor either before or after it is installed, and

then varnished over if desired. The result is unobtrusive, and will stop high heels from entering the crack from above or drafts from below. Felt weatherstripping also has been used the same way, and although not as stainable, it's resilient and barely noticeable.

Elastic caulks: Caulks that cure to rubber have been used for years on boat decks, and may also work for large cracks in house floors. Silicone products are sold widely and adhere well to wood; marine caulks may have longer curing times (particularly if they are polysulfide-based), but are usually available in several wood tones. With any caulk, careful masking off of the crack is essential to ensure a clean job (especially for unvarnished floors). Caulk is usually gunned or squeezed in when cracks are at mid-cycle (say, in spring or fall). Very wide cracks should be first partially filled with some sort of pliable backing material. This saves caulk and limits its adhesion to the sides of the floorboards, producing a more flexible seal.

Wood strips: Wood fillets or cant strips would seem to be a logical choice for taking up large gaps between square-edged, wide-plank floor boards, but this approach is less than ideal. Over and above the pitfalls of trying to match the look of existing boards, adding more wood to the floor may only reintroduce compression problems by making the boards touch again in the wet season. However, in cases where the floor shows large cracks that border on dangerous throughout the year, wood strips may be the only choice short of relaying the floor. Before installing the strips, cracks have to be cleaned completely of all dirt, wax, and debris. (Following a screwdriver, putty knife, or coat-hanger with a vacuum cleaner is a fairly efficient method.) Wood is then cut and fitted to the existing flooring as closely as possible, and either glued and toenailed with brads to one board or (when large enough) facenailed to the joists or subfloor below.

Relaying: Relaying a floor is a drastic option and, generally speaking, a last resort. Besides being a lot of work, carefully taking up and repositioning floorboards inevitably involves some waste. This, coupled with tighter spacing, means adding new wood to the floor and the associated problems. Also, most old floors stand a greater chance of remaining stable if they are not disturbed. Relaying may only set the stage again for forces that make cracks.



Wood strips were cut into this plank floor because the cracks were a menace to high heels. Widening the cracks to highlight the strips was preferred over attempting a subtle repair.



Beside being good for nail holes and rough surfaces, this commercially made crack filler from 1907 was also "antiseptic and moth preventive."


PRE-CUT HOUSES

"Catalog Homes"

by James C. Massey
& Shirley Maxwell

fabricated houses from his lumberyard in the late 1880s. Generally, however, when it came to erecting the dream house, local builders adapted standard plans to fit their own ideas of practicality and quality. The drawbacks were that labor costs were hard to estimate, and miscalculations could be fatal to the homeowner's purse.

The pre-cut housing industry had a novel solution: Cut the lumber in advance and cut out the middlemen. This way, there were no private architects, no lumberyards, no carpenters to deal with — and no unhappy surprises when the bills came in. "Hang Your Saw Upon a Nail All Day!"



What a miracle the mail-order catalog must have seemed to small-town Americans at the end of the 19th century! There, right at their fingertips, were all the riches of the great urban emporia, from clothing and household goods to jewelry and farm equipment. And finally — it was bound to happen — mail-order houses. Pre-cut (or, in the marketing lingo of the times, "ready-cut") houses flourished from about 1900 until 1940. These were ready-to-build houses in kit form — complete to the last windowpane and can of paint — that were shipped by rail and truck to their new addresses.

"The Value of Your Dollar"

Mail-order houses were a giant step beyond the house plans and house parts that had been available since the middle of the 19th century from plan companies such as Palliser and Palliser (see "Who They Were," p. 18), George Barber, and Robert W. Shoppell. After the Civil War, there was intensified interest in distributing prefabricated sectional farm buildings, such as small barns and sheds, to settlement areas. And Barber was said to supply partially



Pacific Ready-Cut Homes, Inc. (1922)

Top: *The "Westly" (1913-29) was one of Sears's most popular models. This one is in Arlington, Virginia.*

Bottom: *Even a substantial-looking Tudor bome could be shipped. This one was called "The Stratford," offered by Lewis Homes.*

advertised one company, stressing the savings to be gained by doing away with on-site carpentry and wasteful, piecemeal cutting of lumber.

"Built in a Day"

The pre-cut house also emphasized fast construction and comfort. Pre-cut houses were erected on the building site from lumber that had been cut to size and carefully fitted at the catalog company's mills. Everything from nails to paint, shingles, and mantelpieces (except, generally, those of masonry) was shipped from the catalog company's mills and storehouses. All the parts were numbered, and detailed instructions accompanied each order. In areas that were close enough to a supplier's offices, it was even possible to import a construction manager, but homeowners were encouraged to do the construction themselves, alone or with a local builder, carefully (ever so carefully!) following directions and blueprints. And, when the house was finished, some companies, like Sears and Montgomery Ward, stood ready to provide the appliances and furniture, even the china and linens, needed to make the pre-cut house totally livable. It was an irresistible idea for an expanding, house-hungry population in economic boom times.



photo: James Massey



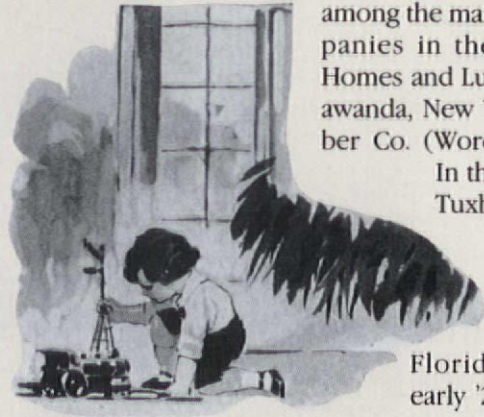
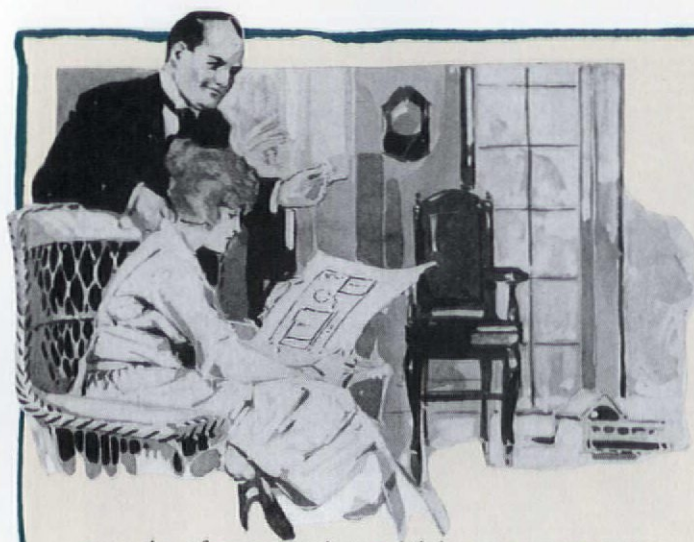
photo: Dale Wolcki, courtesy: Bay County Historical Society



The pre-cut movement appealed particularly to the first-time, small-house buyer. Where that buyer wanted to build his dream house was, of course, on his own bit of land, no matter how tiny. His plot of paradise was usually situated far from the crush of the city, where it was safe and healthful for his growing family, but still convenient to his work.

Like the catalog industry itself, selling houses by mail was made possible by the need of this homeowner and the development of mass-production methods, mass advertising, and vastly improved transportation systems. Trains and trucks hauled the materials needed to build homes anywhere in the United States. Materials were reliably scheduled to arrive in time to meet the various de-

"Ready-cut" meant exactly that: Every stud, plate, brick, and sheathing board was pre-cut and numbered.



among the many pre-cut homes companies in the east were Bennett Homes and Lumber Co. (North Tonawanda, New York) and Baker Lumber Co. (Worcester, Massachusetts).

In the deep South, the A.C. Tuxbury Co. (Charleston, South Carolina) contributed its economy-line Quickbilt Bungalow to the Florida land boom of the early '20s.

mands of every phase of home construction.

As the 1919 Aladdin Homes catalog trumpeted, the "wonderful simplicity" of the scheme was immediately recognized. It was especially fruitful in the Midwest, the cradle of American mail-order merchandising as well as a prime source of lumber. Sears, Roebuck and Company and Montgomery Ward, both based in Chicago, and Aladdin Home Company in Bay City, Michigan, were the most active pre-cut house suppliers on a national level, but there were scores of other smaller, regional or local companies all over the country. Bay City, which had a previous history of prefabricated boat construction, contributed at least two other names to the list — Lewis Manufacturing Company (Liberty Homes) and Sterling Homes.

Although Sears eventually became the biggest of the pre-cut house suppliers, boasting that it had sold 100,000 houses (from 447 designs) by 1939, it was neither the first nor, for many years, the most popular in the field. After testing the idea in its regular merchandise catalog, Sears issued its first pre-cut house catalog in 1907 or 1908, lagging two or three years behind Aladdin Home Company, which began catalog sales in 1905. Montgomery Ward's WardWay outsold Sears until the 1920s. Gordon-Van Tine, of Davenport, Iowa, specialized in farm houses and outbuildings, as did the early Montgomery Ward catalogs. In the southwest, Pacific Homes in Los Angeles seized a healthy portion of the bungalow market, shared with Ernest Hodgson and Frank Hodgson's Practical Bungalows. Pacific Homes claimed sales of 19,000 by 1923. Prominent

"Satisfaction or Your Money Back!"

Homeowner response to the well-built little houses was enthusiastic. And no wonder: The savings in building costs seems to have been substantial, and the building materials came with ironclad guarantees of quality. Sears claimed a savings in labor costs of \$500 on a \$1,650 house, and guaranteed its lumber as knot-free. Aladdin offered "a dollar a knot" for any flaws that could be found in its building lumber.

The federal and state governments also recognized the value of the fast, economical, and comfortable dwellings offered by the pre-cut companies. Sears displayed its prize-winning "Avondale" model at the 1911 Illinois State Fair, and Aladdin's model cottage was awarded a medal at the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915.

"Built by the Golden Rule" was the motto of the Aladdin Homes Co. (which only recently went out of business).



The Dresden No. 2

See before on inside of front cover

EXPRESSIVE of comfort to an indubitable degree, the Dresden No. 2 will appeal to you as being an ideal home. The picture shows a number of features that can not be found in the ordinary home. Note the porch—like shutters and a wide view from the rays of the hot summer sun. And first observed and mentioned in a special list that we call the Dresden when at the close of the day the sun has disappeared and you wish to sit while enjoying the cool of the evening and breeze in solid comfort. Windows on four sides give the utmost ventilation and make all rooms light and airy, cool and pleasant.

The floor plan of the Dresden has been worked out with the best judgment of men of the highest rank in the building industry. The house is built on a lot 24' wide by 30' deep. The house and garden cover ground 600 square feet. It is a beautiful and comfortable home that will give you great satisfaction and pleasure. It is a home that will give you great satisfaction and pleasure. It is a home that will give you great satisfaction and pleasure.

See before on inside of front cover

The Dresden No. 2

See before on inside of front cover

The Dresden No. 2

Aladdin Homes Catalog No. 33 (1922)

Although the catalogs sold a number of substantial, solidly middle-class homes (Sears' Magnolia, a Southern-style "mansion," comes to mind), it was their impact on working-class housing that was most pronounced. Catalog houses — whether pre-cut, prefab, or merely pre-planned

— helped to bring unprecedented luxuries to modest houses in newly developing areas: indoor bathrooms; efficient kitchens with modern gas or electric stoves, continuous countertops, built-in cabinets, and shiny linoleum floors; and a feeling of roominess, all in houses that usually contained far less than a thousand square feet of floor space.

“Pick Out Your Plan”

This wasn't avant-garde architecture, although much of it was highly competent. Pre-cut houses, like ready-made house plans, were adapted from the most familiar — the most “homey” — of the academic architectural trends of the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Some of the most popular models remained available (and sought after) for many years. There were a few basic house types — bungalows, cottages, Foursquares, and Homestead houses — built in a limited range of broadly interpreted decorative styles: Colonial Revival (mostly English in feeling, but often Dutch); Craftsman (sometimes with a Prairie touch); and a few historical European styles, such as English Tudor cottages or French farmhouses or Spanish missions. At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, Queen Anne homesteads (with gable roofs) and Foursquare houses (with hipped roofs) predominated. The Foursquare and the bungalow, with Craftsman or Colonial Revival details, were popular in the 1910s, and the Colonial Revival cottage, far and away the most enduring and the best loved of middle-class American houses, eventually triumphed.

As much as the pre-cut house pleased the American public, it enraged professional architects (except, presumably, those who worked for the catalog companies) — not to mention local lumberyard and hardware-store owners, who stood to lose with every pre-cut shipment that came to their town. The architects' complaint that public taste would be subverted by “tasteless” little houses was hardly justified. Mail-order houses may have seemed hopelessly tacky to the architectural community, but they were surely the best designed and most comfortable housing that had ever been offered to the working man — who wasn't likely to hire an architect in any case. These houses were designed for internal



photo: Don Price



photos: Dale Woldick; courtesy Bay County Historical Society



Top: A Sears “Modern Colonial” in Ann Arbor, Michigan (1925). Middle & Bottom: Two Aladdin Homes in Bay City, Michigan: a Foursquare named “The Robbester” and the home of William Sovereign, president of Aladdin, built as a spec model.



The Pomona

Here's "The Pomona" as it appears in Aladdin's 1922 catalog and in real life.



function. There were no high-falutin' academic notions of symmetry (or non-symmetry, for that matter); windows and doors were placed where windows and doors were needed to provide light and easy movement between rooms; and stock sizes and standard designs were used for cabinets and woodwork. Although there were many two-storey versions, the one-storey bungalow or cottage acquired new

popularity for convenience and modernity. Often a matching garage was added at the rear of the lot to accommodate the increasingly important family automobile.

Sears suggested that its designs could be used for "One House or a Hundred," while Aladdin claimed they could take on "A Complete Home or a Complete City." And, sure enough, whole towns of these houses sprang up, ordered by speculative builders, subdivision developers, and large-scale employers. Sears supplied Indiana Standard Oil Company with 150 pre-cut homes for coalminers, which were erected in the Standard Addition of Carlinville, Illinois. (All but a few of them are still around.) Aladdin Home's 1919 catalog boasted that, "whole streets and whole subdivisions" of Aladdin houses, including virtually every house shown in the catalog, could be seen in Bay City, Michigan, the catalog company's hometown. Readers were invited to tour the company's mills and inspect nearby Aladdin homes.



"This May Be Your Home"

Enormous numbers of pre-cut houses still stand. The county of Arlington, Virginia, for instance, thinks it may have identified as many as 800 within its borders. Although a good number have been considerably altered and enlarged over the years (they were, after all, generally very small houses), they are mostly in great shape, thanks to a good start. Today, there is a brisk demand for these sturdy little houses, and some real-estate agents have even taken to advertising their mail-order provenance. Aside from an ever-increasing nostalgic interest and a growing respect for their historic value in the development of early-20th-century communities (a few Sears houses have even been listed in the National Register of Historic



Top: Double-clipped gables identify this Pasadena home as a Pacific Ready-Cut. Bottom: This Sears "Hamilton" (1925-29) in Cheverly, Maryland, is a small hipped-roof cottage with jerkin-head dormers.

photos: James Massey

Places), they offer a level of quality in construction methods and materials that would be hard to duplicate. Now that urban growth has made their modest suburban settings less remote and even more desirable, they sometimes command prices that would stun the early owners. (A recently remodeled Sears house that cost a few thousand dollars when it was built — in what is now a pricey suburb of Washington, D.C. — hit the market at \$800,000 last year.)

Unlike most of the pre-cut catalogs, which required substantial down payments upon placing the order and full payment before shipment, Sears provided mortgage financing and, for a time during the Depression, even made small cash loans to get construction going. A popular idea while it lasted, the mortgage program ran into trouble as the Depression dragged on, with many foreclosures and a sagging resale market. In 1938, Sears left the mortgage business briefly, then re-entered just as briefly, and, in 1940, finally closed its Modern Homes division.

So how can you tell whether yours is a Sears (or an Aladdin, WardWay, Liberty, or Pacific) home? Tracing provenance is not always easy, given the number of similar designs sold. What looks like an Aladdin house might well have been supplied by Sears, or vice versa. Furthermore, buyers were encouraged to make minor changes in their plans, particularly to reverse floorplans and to add porches and extra rooms. However, many of these relatively recent houses are still in the hands of the original owners or their

families, so it's sometimes possible to find copies of plans, specifications, or purchase or mortgage papers, or at least to locate neighbors who remember when and how their neighborhood was built. Some building parts are marked with the company name and may turn up in the course of restoration. Building permits and utility-company records (particularly those relating to water and sewer installations) may also provide evidence. Who knows? You may be as lucky as Raymond Bellamy, whose father built a Sears house in Cheverly, Maryland, in 1925. Following a paper trail through family and community records, Mr. Bellamy located mortgage agreements, working plans, correspondence, and developer's promotional literature that documented not only his own house, but also a large portion of his early-20th-century neighborhood.



READING THE OLD HOUSE

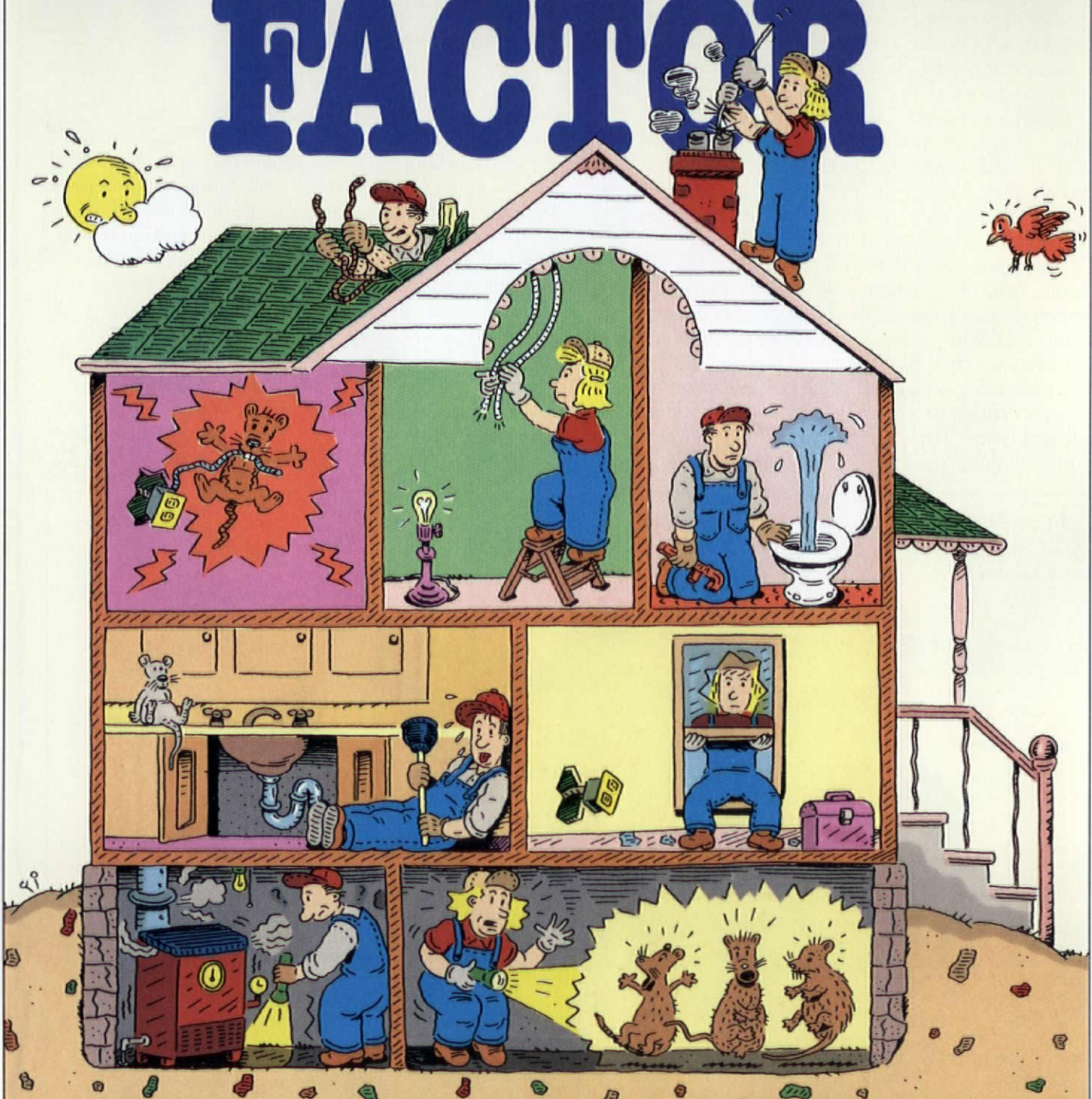
THE PRE-CUT HOUSE



Key: The pre-cut, or ready-cut, house came in almost any style, from Queen Anne to Cape Cod. Here, a simple Cape is given an English cottage or Norman look by adding a cross gable with a long, sloping roof line. By 1923, *Pacific Ready-Cut Homes* had sold 19,000 homes in the Pacific Southwest.

Source: *125 Pacific Homes — Ready-Cut — California's Choicest Designs*, Los Angeles, Calif., 1923.

Beyond The **MUSHROOM FACTOR**



More On Why It Always Takes Longer

We all know the questions. "Still working on this living room?" "Doesn't it get cold taking a bath with the walls open?" "How does your mail get delivered with the porch steps off?" But the question we ask ourselves may be worse: Why does it always take so much longer than we expect to finish our old-house projects?

OHJ has pioneered the exploration of this subject, and regular readers will be familiar with its discussion of the Mushroom Factor, the universal force that causes any old-house project to expand endlessly until the limits of time and budget are exceeded. But that alone isn't enough to explain our experiences. One must take into account the Everything Breaks Simultaneously ("EBS") Rule.

The EBS Rule has two parts: 1) As soon as any major project has reached the point of no return, the rest of your household will begin developing ailments that require immediate, time-consuming attention, and 2) the number and intensity of crises will increase in direct proportion to the degree of inconvenience the project causes you and your family.

Let me offer a personal example. We moved into our 1890s California Queen Anne 15 years ago, and for a long time put up with the existing 110-volt, 20-amp electrical service — the equivalent of one circuit. We tried to enjoy the television picture bobbing in time to the washing-machine cycle (at least we knew the washer was running), and we convinced ourselves that not being able to simultaneously operate the toaster and iron was part of old-house life. Even after a severe winter storm snapped off the utility-company wires from the porcelain tube that carried them into our house, we performed emergency surgery but put off the problem. Finally, though, it was time to accept that our house needed rewiring.

The first few months went uneventfully, if slowly, as I installed a main service panel, which involved cutting a hole in the siding at the side of the house. I also created an opening in the roof in order to reroute those utility-company wires, which previously had entered our Queen Anne at a gable dormer. Still all went well. It was in January, though, after disconnecting the outlet in the bathroom from which my wife Arlene ran her hair dryer, and cutting

holes in the walls all over the house to start running circuits (and incidentally letting in the cold wind), that the EBS Rule kicked in. Since then, the following events have occurred, among dozens of smaller crises:

- The roof in one of the bedrooms leaked terribly (and mysteriously, as leaks are wont to do).
- The only kitchen outlet stopped working because a mouse had crawled into the outlet box and electrocuted itself. (Don't worry, the little critter had dried up by the time we discovered what was wrong.)

- A window was shattered by a BB gun (owner unknown), which needed to be immediately replaced.

- The bathroom sink stopped up for the second time in 14 years, which turned out to be a whole day's project, involving a trip to the roof to clear the vent pipe as well as disassembling the trap.

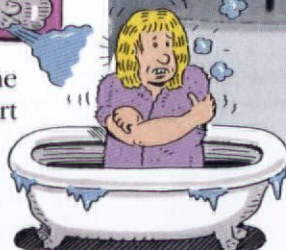
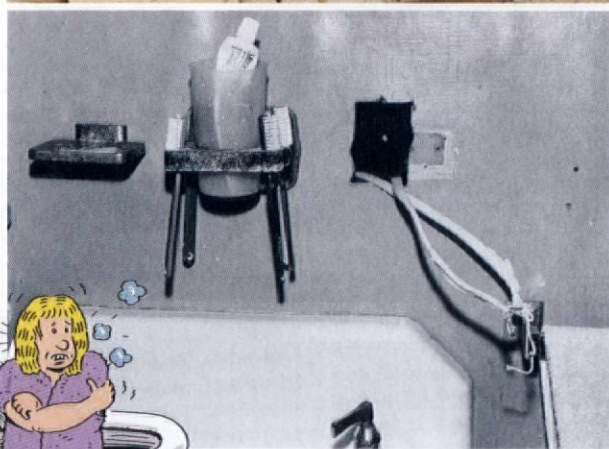
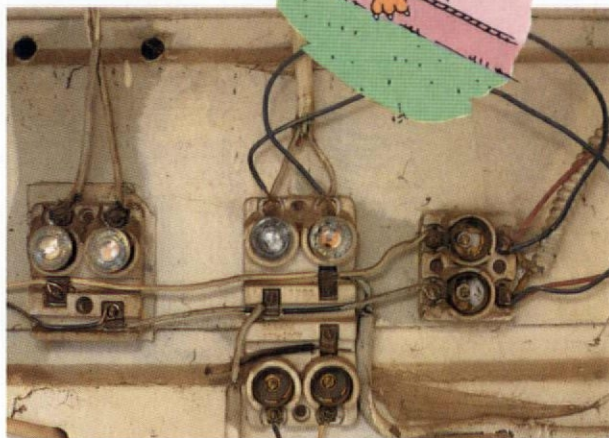
- Our ancient central heater failed on us mid-winter, and had to be pulled apart, puzzled over, and then repaired.

- The kitchen-sink trap cracked when I touched it (even brass, I discovered, corrodes) and water spilled everywhere.

But it wasn't just mechanical objects that went bad. Last winter was one of our worst ever for flu-'n-things, so a lot of weekends went by when no work got done either because I was sick or because one of us was asleep and Not to be Disturbed. During this time, it also seemed that my sons had more than their share of teenage crises. Even the animals got into the act. Pushkin, the cat who sleeps (with great reluctance) in the back bathroom, decided to try escaping through the hole left by the outlet, tearing up the sheetrock in the process, which required that we

stop and patch it (as well as make a cover to stop him). Then he learned how to open the back door. This started me on a series of fixes, including replacing the hinges, repairing the latch, and adjusting the latchplate. (He still gets out when we don't lock the door.) And we spent one weekend trying to corner belligerent baby possums with mason jars — they'd crawled into our ground-floor bedrooms — in order to set them free.

The latest incident, which happened as I write this the following summer, is that the vent pipe on the truck's fuel tank has plugged up. It's one of those complicated, post-



The old main service (top) was a collection of open fuse blocks. Our bathroom (above): colder than it looks.

Photos by Bill Houghton



emissions-control trucks, so I'm approaching the project with foreboding, knowing that it's going to be an all-weekend affair.

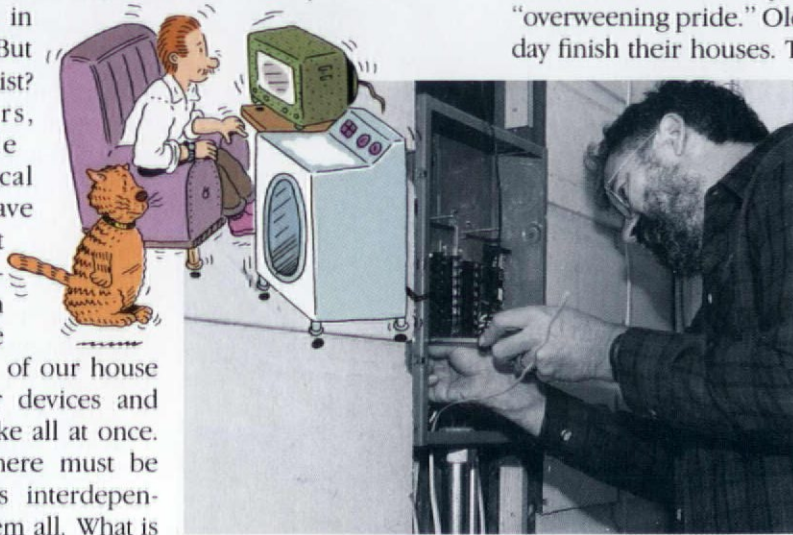
What I'm really dreading, though, is the point in the electrical project, approaching at about the same rate as the darkness of winter, when we start rewiring the lighting circuits and have to live with floor and pin-up lamps everywhere, even in the kitchen. Please don't let the car's motor blow up. How about just the barn falling down? But of course we don't get to choose what goes wrong.

You will, without doubt, be able to identify occurrences of the EBS Rule in your own life. But why does it exist? OHJ readers, knowledgeable about mechanical systems, will have noticed that there is no apparent connection between the electrical system of our house and these other devices and systems that broke all at once. It seems that there must be some mysterious interdependence among them all. What is this connection? Let me offer some possible explanations:

● **The Ecological Theory:**

One of the basic principles of ecology is that the disturbance of one element of an ecological system will affect the rest of the system. Thus, if you reduce the wolves, the deer population will increase. Deer will over-graze their range, causing the bare soil to erode, leading to starvation, river silting, etc. According to this theory, disturbances of a major element in the ecosystem of an old house will affect other parts of the system. It seems mysterious to us only because we, poor innocents, don't understand how the parts of the house are related.

● **The Jealousy Theory:** When guests look askance at your old house in its evolutionary state — nothing like those prettified house-magazine photos — do you respond by describing the personality of your house? Sure you do. We all know, whether we publicly admit it or not, that an old house isn't just an inanimate collection of materials, a place to hide from the rain. A house has a personality. And if it does, why not a heater? the plumbing? your car? So



A few minutes of actual work (top) while things are not breaking. Our Queen Anne (above) has been modified over the years in the local, West County tradition.

maybe those components get jealous of the time and attention that you lavish on your restoration: the weekends, evenings, and spare minutes at work spent telephoning to find house parts, for instance. According to the Jealousy Theory, the breakdowns are a cry for attention from other parts of your house, which feel neglected because you're passionately involved with one particular project. It explains why, when you've returned to normal (spreading your attention equally over, say, five or six different areas of the house per weekend), the breakdowns and disasters stop.

● **The Hubris Theory:** Hubris is a Greek word meaning "overweening pride." Old-house owners all hope to someday finish their houses. The gods, in this theory, view this

hope as hubris, and punish the old-house owners by showing the futility of trying to finish anything.

Regardless of why the EBS Rule exists, we must somehow cope with it. What are the ways to do this?

● **Don't Do Anything:** Oh, and since you'll have all that free time, why not lose a little weight by not eating for the next six months or so? We all know this won't work ... we wouldn't own old houses in the first place if we weren't hooked on our "little fix-ups."

● **Don't Take on Big Projects Until Everything's in Good Shape:** If you had the money to have everything working, would you have read

this far into the article? Would you even be reading this magazine? Besides, this method is a delusion. The very nature of the EBS Rule is that breakdowns WILL occur when you've reached maximum mess.

ing this magazine? Besides, this method is a delusion. The very nature of the EBS Rule is that breakdowns WILL occur when you've reached maximum mess.

● **Allow Plenty of Time for Large Projects:** Sometimes I allow so much time, I hesitate even to start — and it still takes longer. Once the EBS Rule and the Mushroom Factor are at work, schedules make good light fiction.

● **Accept It:** You knew this would be the answer all along, didn't you? When asked "Don't you get tired of living with this mess?," just respond with one of the following statements (depending on which of the above theories you prefer):

- "This is just part of keeping the ecosystem stable."
- "I feel it's very important that the house be happy."
- "It keeps me humble."



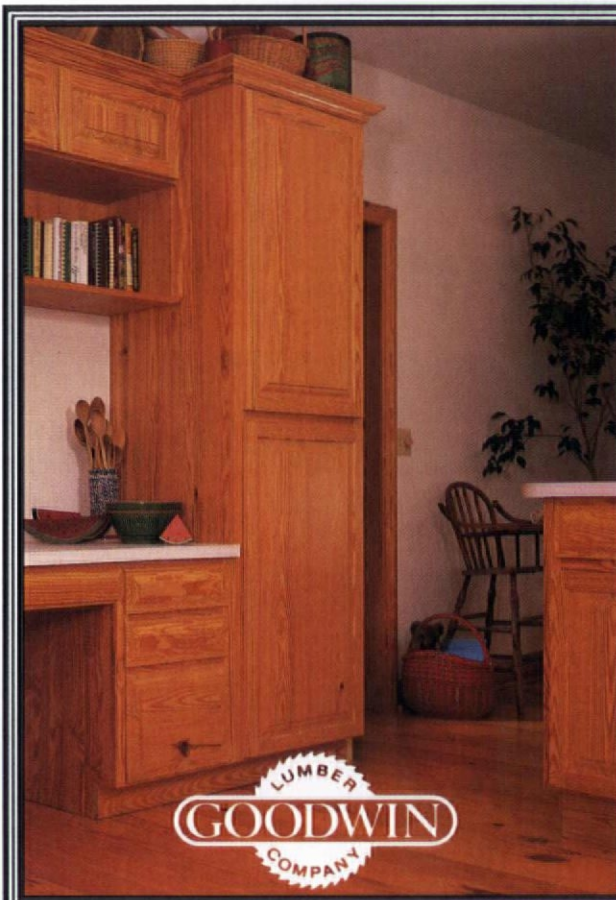


STOP BIRDS From Dehabilitating Your Cherished Home.

Nixalite stainless steel needle strips are an impenetrable barrier to birds, and practically invisible too. They give you an effective, humane way of ending bird nuisances and maintenance costs. Send for your free information packet today.



NIXALITE of AMERICA
1025 - 16th AVE • BOX 727 • DEPT OHJ
EAST MOLINE, IL 61244 • 309-755-8771
800-624-1189 • FAX 309-755-0077
SPECIALISTS IN BIRD CONTROL



Heart Pine
Bring the beauty of
yesterday into
today's homes.

Considered by many a national treasure, heart pine adds warmth, beauty and elegance to any structure — from floors to cabinets, doors and stairways. Now available from Florida's only heart pine mill.

Call or write for our free brochure and price list. Specialists in antique heart pine flooring, original growth Southern Longleaf Pine. Quality assured.

■
Rt. 2, Box 119-AA,
Micanopy, Florida 32667
(904) 373-9663
(800) 336-3118

SHUTTERS from New Orleans

Made NEW to your specs.
Made the old-fashioned way—
by hand. Made to last!

The Bank makes new shutters on machinery that's probably older than your grandfather. Our shop is chock full of just about any architectural treasure you can name: doors, old shutters, mantel-pieces, old hardware etc. Please write; we have what you need.

THE BANK ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUES

1824 Felicity Street
New Orleans, LA 70113
Phone 523-2702
Toll Free 1-800/2-SHUTTER

Mike Wilkerson, Prop.

We Make Wood Beautiful. Again.

On-Site Architectural Wood Finishing Services
State-of-the-Art Stripping Techniques • Custom Colors and Finishes
Repairs, Restoration and Refinishing of Woodwork and Furniture

Wayne Towle, Inc.

8 Thayer Street, Boston, MA 02118 (617) 423-2902

Victorian and Country Bentwood Screen & Storm doors

- Hand crafted hardwood
- Authentic period hardware
- Styles include: Victorian, Colonial Cape Cod, Ranch

Catalogue \$2.00 (Refundable with order)



(313) 664-1756

**GRAND ERA
REPRODUCTIONS**

P.O. Box 1026J • Lapeer, MI 48446



by Gordon Bock

FLOOR TOOLS

For most wood-flooring projects, good-quality, all-around carpentry tools get the bulk of the work done, but there are specialized floor tools worth knowing about.

Chief among them these days are nailing machines designed to make nailing tongue-and-groove floors faster and easier. These tools look something like mammoth staple guns and are hand-operated (or, in some cases, hand- and pneumatically-operated) by driving a ram with blows from a heavy hammer. Nailing machines are very practical for doing production work (from large repairs on up) because they 1) keep flooring joints snug while nailing, 2) drive nails accurately through difficult woods, and 3) allow the installer to stand while working. Nailing machines are expensive to buy for one-shot use (over \$200), but they usually can be rented on a daily basis. There are several nailing-machine designs on the market (each requiring its own special nails), and some also can be used to put up wall panelling.

Less sophisticated floor tools have been around for years. Flooring saws are crosscut saws with crescent-shaped blades adapted for making blind cuts in flooring. They are very hard to come by in recent years (having been outmoded by power



A soda-can opener (top) is used to make a simple lever that forces flooring together. It anchors the tool (above) so that pressure on the lever pushes floorboards up tight.

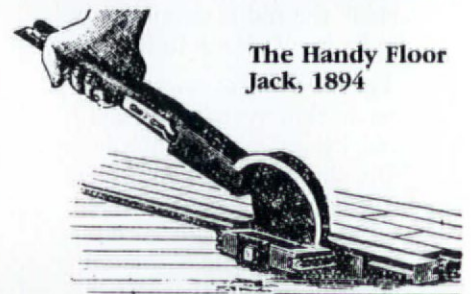
tools), but are occasionally available at flea markets or through tool collectors. Floor chisels, however, are still made by some forged-tool manufacturers, and can be worth keeping around for many types of work. These are large tools (10" to 12" long), similar to a brickmason's chisel, which are used more for prying and lifting floorboards than for actually cutting wood. Incidentally, the heavy, rubber-faced hammers used to drive nailing machines are useful floor tools: They make great "persuaders" for coaxing floorboards into place without damaging the wood.

Unless there are special conditions, tongue-and-groove floors — especially strip hardwoods — should be laid and nailed up tight when they are installed, both for looks and integrity (loose-fitting tongues are one of many floor-squeak sources). This usually is not difficult when working with good materials in the field of a floor. However, when crooked floorboards turn up, or work space is cramped (say, when starting a floor), it becomes much

harder to drive the boards up tight and nail them at the same time. Clamping floorboards together is the way out of this dilemma, and in the "age of invention" (which happened to coincide with T&G flooring's first swell of popularity in the late 1800s), there was no lack of patented gizmos to help with this task.

One way to accomplish this same end today is with a clever device cooked up by the folks at the Oak Flooring Institute (an industry association in Memphis, Tennessee). The tool is a lever made on the job from 2x4 scraps, a hinge, and a soda-can opener (see photos). Dimensions are all to

taste, as is the type of hinge employed. In use, the can opener is dug into the subfloor at a position that leaves the lever somewhere short of being completely flat. Then, straightening out the lever as much as possible with either a foot or knee will squeeze the flooring together, leaving hands free to nail. Try it — it works!



The Handy Floor Jack, 1894

SUPPLIERS

PNI

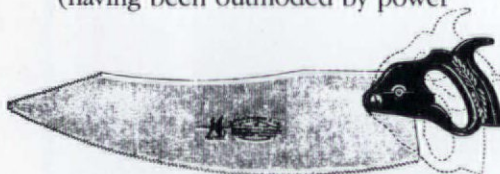
P.O. Box 1257, Dept. OHJ
Wilmington, NC 28402
(800) 634-9281

Porta-Nailer-brand nailing machines

John Stortz and Son, Inc.

210 Vine Street, Dept. OHJ
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 627-3855

Floor chisels



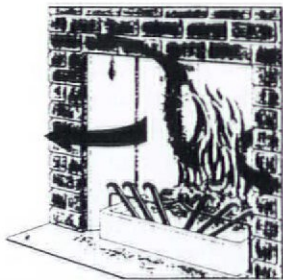
Flooring saw



Floor chisel

Photos: Gordon Bock

Super Heat... Easy Installation



Our units feature a firecast refractory firebox, hearth and side flares, and a Type 310 Refractory stainless steel smoke chamber with damper baffle.

- Easy Installation—decrease your job time and increase your profits
- Customer satisfaction—super radiant heat output, thorough combustion
- Warmth and efficiency—the charm of an open fire without heat loss

Send for more information or our free catalog of masons' and chimney sweeps' supplies

SLEEPY HOLLOW CHIMNEY SUPPLY, LTD.

85 Emjay Blvd., Brentwood, NY 11717
Tel. 516-231-2333 Fax 516-231-2364

Southington
Specialty

WOOD

Company Ltd.

Looking for alternatives? Choose from a unique selection of hardwoods for floors, walls and custom moldings.

Some Of The Items We Supply

Long Plank Flooring (Tongue and Groove)

3" thru 8" wide, up to 16' long in red oak, white oak, cherry, walnut, elm, southern pine and more.

Moldings

Run to order in numerous profiles and species.

Wall/Ceiling Planking

(Long Plank Tongue and Groove)

3/8" thick in oak, ash, teak, black willow, butternut and others.

Exterior Siding

Machine stained or natural cedar, redwood and cypress.

We are wood specialists. We sell the best products you can buy, at reasonable prices. Call for more information and free brochure.

835 West Queen Street • Southington, CT 06489 • (203) 621-6787

Open Monday thru Friday 8 to 5 • Saturday 8 to 1

LOOKING FOR "INVISIBLE" STORM WINDOWS?

HERE THEY ARE!

**Historic
Property Owners**
—•••—
Renovation Contractors
—•••—
Commercial Buildings

You will see the energy savings
Not the Storm Windows

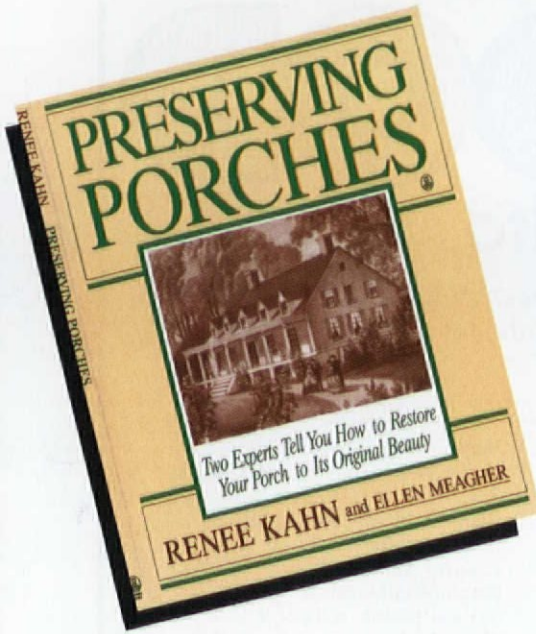
Match Any Color
Match Any Shape
Inside or Outside Mounted
Inside or Outside Removable
Screen and Glass
Fixed-Magnetic-Sliding-Lift Out
Unlimited Possibilities

ALLIED WINDOW, INC.
2724 W. McMICKEN AVENUE, CINCINNATI, OHIO 45214

(800) 445-5411 (513) 559-1212

FAX: (513) 559-1883

Where custom work is standard...



Preserving Porches

If you've ever needed to look, you know there's precious little in print on the subject of period porches. Finally, there's an entire book. Frequent *OHJ* contributor Renee Kahn and her associate Ellen Meagher have put together an informative guide to identifying and maintaining American porches built in the century from 1830 to 1920. Originally published as a neighborhood preservation handbook, the current edition is expanded and enhanced with more information and an enlightening variety of historic photos and drawings.

As the title promises, this book offers advice for preserving porches, not an armchair tour of them. In the first half, Kahn analyzes each porch style and notes their characteristic elements and designs — valuable data when one is faced with the "missing pieces" syndrome. In the second half, Meagher looks at the common restoration issues (historical research, maintenance and repair, water problems, paint colors, and the like), and provides general insights about how to proceed in each of these areas. "Well-maintained porches," the authors observe early on, "gave a clear signal of neighborhood well-being." This book is a useful tool toward that end. Available for

18.95 ppd. from Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 115 West 18th St., Dept. OHJ, New York, NY 10011; (212) 886-9200.

— Gordon Bock

Worth Mentioning:

■ *Modern Practical Stairbuilding & Handrailing*

This valuable book is a reprint of George Ellis's study, originally published in 1932. \$22.95 ppd. from Linden Publishing, 3845 N. Blackstone, Dept. OHJ, Fresno, CA 93726; (800) 345-4447.

■ *Spanish Colonial or Adobe Architecture of California, 1800-1850*

Great details and drawings of early California houses circa 1800 to 1850.

\$22.50 plus UPS shipping costs from Architectural Book Publishing Co., Inc., 268 Dogwood Lane, Dept. OHJ, Stamford, CT 06903; (203) 322-1460.

■ *Victorian Brick and Terra-Cotta Architecture in Full Color*

160 plates reprinted from a rare portfolio by 19th-century French architect Pierre Chabat. \$24.95 ppd. from Dover Publications, Inc., 31 East 2nd St., Dept. OHJ, Mineola, NY 11501; (516) 294-7000.

■ *Landmark Yellow Pages*

A complete directory of preservation information. \$19.45 ppd. from The Preservation Press Bookstore, 1600 H St., NW, Dept. OHJ, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 673-4200.

Fanlights: A Visual History

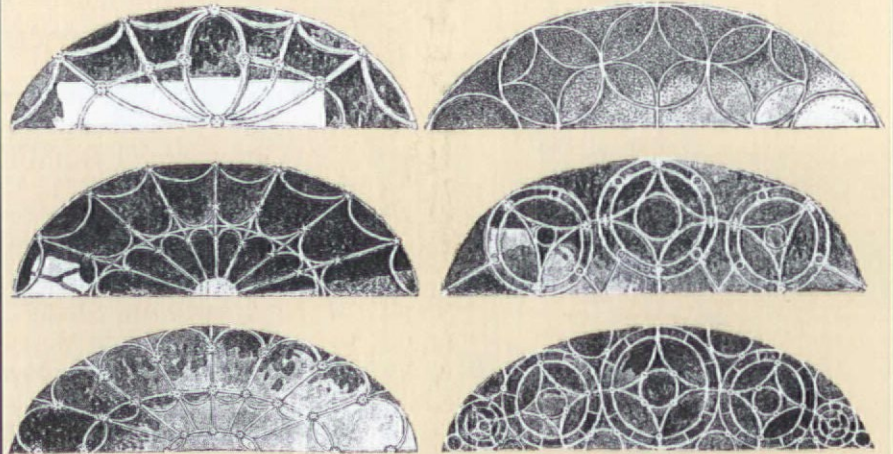
Opening this small book was an unexpected pleasure. More than a picture-perfect coffee-table book, not a weighty text, *Fanlights* is a readable, informative, and beautifully illustrated study of a single architectural element that developed and flourished for a mere 50 years.

Authors Alexander Stuart Gray and John Sambrook begin their history of the fanlight, or overdoor, with its roots in Palladian windows. Installed to provide light for narrow entrance halls, this practical window became inseparable from Georgian architecture of the 18th century. Over 200

fanlights are discussed, chiefly British, with the largest concentration being in London. Fanlights of Edinburgh, Bath, and Dublin also are included, as well as those of Boston and Salem, Massachusetts.

One of the book's highlights is an 11-page chapter entitled "Construction and Repair of Fanlights." Also of interest is the background information on 18th-century glassmaking. Available for \$25.95 ppd., from the American Institute of Architects Press, P.O. Box 1886, 9 Jay Gould Court, Dept. OHJ, Waldorf, MD 20604; (800) 242-4140.

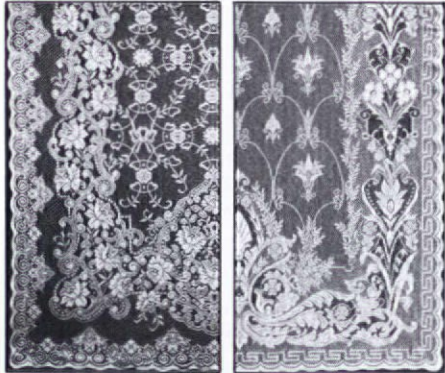
— Jeff Wilkinson



J. R. BURROWS & COMPANY

Nottingham Lace Curtains
 Artistic Wallpapers
 William Morris Carpets
 Custom Period
 Carpet Reproductions
 Send \$5.00 for literature

P.O. BOX 1739, JAMAICA PLAIN
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02130
 617/524-1795



HISTORICAL-DESIGN MERCHANTS

Finely crafted cupolas for replication or restoration of historic homes, carriage houses and barns. Specializing in hand seamed copper roofs. Reproduction weather vanes in many designs.
 Send \$1.00 for brochures.

DENNINGER
 CUPOLAS & WEATHER VANES

RD1 BOX 447J MIDDLETOWN, (914) 343-2229 NEW YORK 10940

BRINGING THE PAST...

HISTORY WORTH REPEATING



Request our catalog.



REJUVENATION LAMP & FIXTURE CO.
 901-B N. SKIDMORE PORTLAND, OREGON 97217 (503) 249-0774

INTO THE PRESENT

RUBBER ROOFING

Our rubber roofing will permanently waterproof flat roofs. We fabricate a single sheet the size of your roof and you simply screw it to the roof through concealed flaps. If you would like to have a rooftop deck but are worried about leaks, just lay our rubber over the roof and build the deck on top. We also fabricate custom Butyl rubber sheets for garden ponds, planter box liners, and shower liners.



ACRYLIC ROOFING

Our acrylic roof system is a paint-on rubber membrane that is ideal for restoring old asphalt or metal roofs. It's environmentally safe and is easy to apply and repair. We offer a heat-reflecting white as well as colors to match old tin and copper.



RESOURCE CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
 2633 North Calvert Street
 Baltimore, MD 21218
 (301) 366-1146

the Ultimate

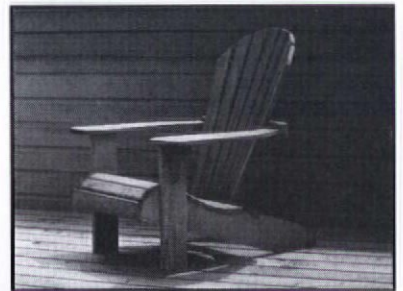
ADIRONDACK STYLE CHAIR

THE EASTPORT VERSION

Complete full scale templates and fully illustrated step by step assembly instructions for the most comfortable and best looking Adirondack style chair you will ever see.

- Build 1 or build 100
- Use commonly available 1" x lumber
- Our assembly techniques have been proven in 4 years of continuous year-round outdoor exposure without loosening or failure of any kind.

Send \$ 22.00 to: Belkov Yacht Carpentry Co.
 311 Third Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21403
 Maryland residents add 5% sales tax. Cost of shipping is included.



F·I·R·E·B·A·C·K·S
 The classic way to protect your fireplace



A beautiful, hand-cast Country Iron Foundry Fireback will protect the back wall of your fireplace from dangerous and costly heat damage, while radiating more heat into your home.

Our catalog, containing 35 antique and contemporary designs, is available for \$2.00 (refundable with purchase).

Dept. 0011, P.O. Box 600, Paoli, PA 19301
 (215) 296-7122





Good Reading

Noteworthy Newsletters

A variety of newsletters focusing on restoration and preservation come across our desks at *OHJ*. These special-interest publications complement the information we provide. Here are a few worth recommending:

- *Craftsman Homeowner Club Newsletter* aims to promote the lifestyle of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The newsletter reprints excerpts from original Arts and Crafts literature, and features articles on interiors, the decorative

doorknob buffs, with articles about the best ways to display your doorknob collection and a section on identifying unusual knobs. Published six times per year, an annual subscription costs \$20 and brings you membership in the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. The Doorknob Collector, P.O. Box 126, Dept. OHJ, Eola, IL 60519-0126; (708) 357-2381.

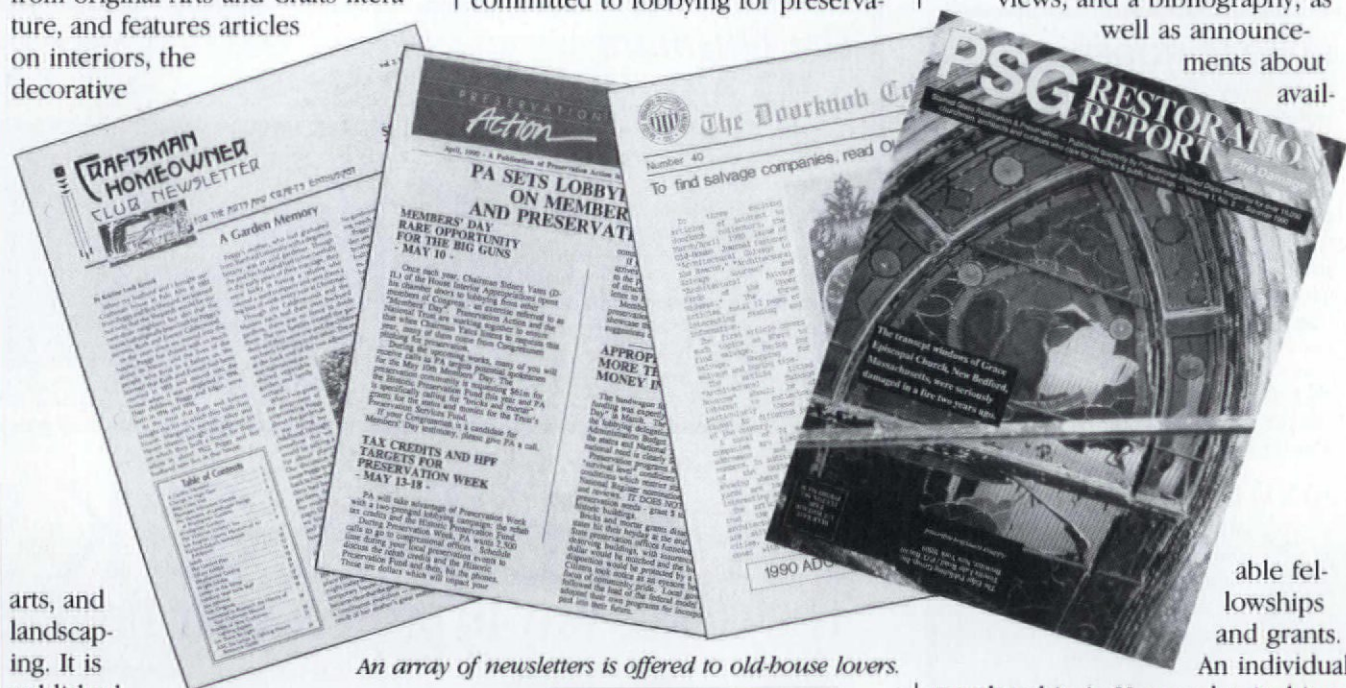
- *Light Revival's* articles review various types of antique lighting, and offers advice on how to identify genuine pieces and their availability. The yearly price guide for early-20th-century lighting is a great asset for collectors. The newsletter is published quarterly for \$12 per year. Light Revival, c/o Tom Barnard, 35 W. Elm Ave., Dept. OHJ, Quincy, MA 02170; (617) 773-3255.

- *Preservation Action Alert* is published by a non-profit organization committed to lobbying for preserva-

the newsletter, published four to six times per year. An annual individual membership costs \$35. Preservation Action Alert, 1350 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 401, Dept. OHJ, Washington, DC 20030; (202) 659-0915.

- *PSG Restoration Report* contains useful information for the owners of stained-glass windows. The articles, presented in layman's terms, examine the latest technical solutions for restoring damaged stained glass in private, public, and religious buildings. Published quarterly, a subscription is \$15 per year. PSG Restoration Report, Tonetta Lake Rd., P.O. Box 69, Dept. OHJ, Brewster, NY 10509; (800) 421-8142.

- *Vernacular Architecture Newsletter* is dedicated to studying all aspects of vernacular architecture and landscape. The quarterly newsletter contains current news in the field of vernacular architecture, book reviews, and a bibliography, as well as announcements about avail-



An array of newsletters is offered to old-house lovers.

arts, and landscaping. It is published quarterly for \$25 per year. The Craftsman Homeowner Club Newsletter, 31 South Grove Street, Dept. OHJ, East Aurora, NY 14052; (716) 655-0562.

- *The Doorknob Collector* is for real

tion issues in Washington, D.C. It covers current topics that affect preservation funding and the lobbying efforts being made by the organization. As a member of Preservation Action, you will receive

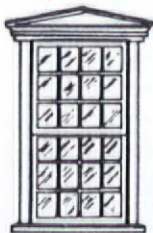
able fellowships and grants. An individual membership in Vernacular Architecture Forum, which brings you the newsletter, costs \$15 for an academic year. Vernacular Architecture Forum, c/o Peter Kurtze, Secretary, 109 Brandon Rd., Dept. OHJ, Baltimore, MD 21212; (301) 828-1644.

Authentic Victorian Stencils

- Reproductions of original Victorian-era stencil designs
- Pre-cut and easy to use
- A cost effective alternative to wallpaper

For a catalog send \$2.75 to:

Epoch Designs
P.O. Box 33
Dept. 010
Elwyn, PA 19063



DOORS & WINDOWS

Specialists in 18th & 19th century architectural millwork including Colonial style mortise & tenon small pane window sash, plank window frames, interior & exterior doors, entryways, French doors, mantelpieces, wainscotting, raised panel walls, fanlight windows, & more. Custom orders are welcome. Illustrated brochure, \$3.00.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPONENTS, INC.

DEPT OH, 26 NORTH LEVERETT RD, MONTAGUE, MA 01351 (413) 367-9441

Why put a new fan in an old house?

Send \$2.00 for brochure.

EMERSON,
CIRCA 1900

THE FAN MAN

DEPT. OHJ 4614 TRAVIS DALLAS, TEXAS 75205 214-559-4440

BATHTUB, SINK & TILE REGLAZING

THE IDEAL SERVICE BUSINESS
A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

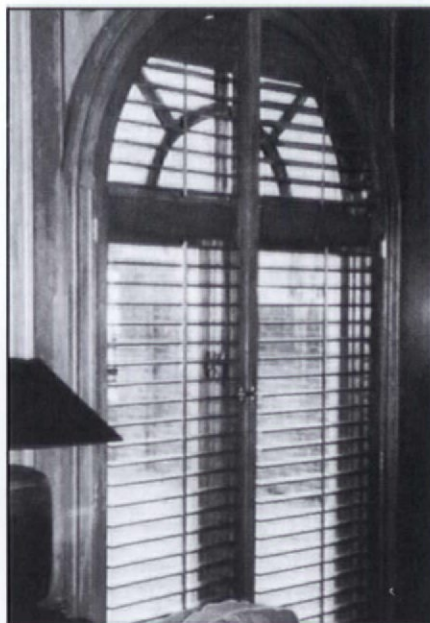
- high profit/low overhead
- extensive training program
- no franchise royalty fee
- exclusive territory
- operate from home
- ideal family business
- unlimited market
- investment: \$24,500

For more information and a free brochure,
Call 1-800-332-7397
International 602/722-9748

or write

perma glaze

1200 N. El Dorado Square, Suite A-110
Tucson, Arizona 85715



CUSTOM SHUTTERS

INTERIOR • EXTERIOR

Manufactured to your specific requirements from the finest premium woods available.

American Heritage Shutters, Inc.

2345 Dunn Ave., Memphis, TN 38114
901/743-2800 • 800/541-1186 • FAX 901/744-8356



Victorian & Country GINGERBREAD

Order our delightfully old-fashioned 50 page mail-order CATALOG . . . and claim the romance of another century.

GABLE DECORATIONS
Crown jewels for your roofline!

PORCH TURNINGS
create charm.

Our custom-length SPANDRELS work magic!

- SOLID WOOD • PROMPT SHIPMENT
- BUY DIRECT & SAVE
- SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

We love "bringing back yesterday in quality & service."™



50 Page Illustrated
Old-fashioned MAIL ORDER
CATALOG \$2. BY RETURN MAIL

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to the folks at: VINTAGE WOOD WORKS
513 South Adams, #1780,
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

© VWW 1990

HISTORIC HOUSE PLANS



Mail-order plans have a long history in shaping the residential architecture of the country. Of the thousands of house plans available today, few exhibit good design and a grasp of historical proportion and detail. So, in response to requests from OHJ readers, the editors have "done the homework": We've hand-picked plans. In each issue, we offer the most attractive, authentic, and buildable of the historical designs, from all periods of American architectural history. Let us know what plans you're looking for. You can order actual blueprints for all the houses featured. Plans conform to national building-code standards — however, *modifications are usually necessary for your site and local requirements, so you'll probably need the assistance of a professional designer (your builder may qualify) or an architect.*

For the houses shown in this issue, blueprints include:

- **Foundation plan** for basement or crawlspace. (Crawlspace plans can easily be adapted for full basements by your builder.)
- **Detailed floor plans** showing all dimensions for framing, plus detailed layout and location of electrical and plumbing components.
- **Interior elevations** are included in some plans, showing interior views of kitchen, bath, fireplace, built-ins, and cabinet designs.
- **A window and door schedule.**
- **Building cross sections:** cornice, fireplace, and cabinet sections when needed to help your builder understand major interior details.

- **Framing diagrams** that show layouts of framing pieces and their locations for roof, first and second floors.
- **Energy-saving specs,** including vapor barriers, insulated sheathing, caulking and foam-sealant areas, batt insulation, and attic exhaust ventilators.

Why order multiple sets? If you're serious about building, you'll need a set each for the general contractor, mortgage lender, electrician, plumber, heating/ventilating contractor, building permit department, other township use or interior designer, and one for yourself. Ordering the 8-set plan saves money and additional shipping charges.

Other notes: (1) Plans are copyrighted, and they are printed for you when you order. Therefore, they are *not refundable*. If you order additional sets of the same plan within 30 days of your original order, you can purchase them for \$15 each. (2) Mirror-reverse plans are useful when the house would fit the site better "flopped." For this you need one set of mirror-reverse plans for the contractor; but because the reverse plans have backwards lettering and dimensions, all other sets should be ordered right-reading. (3) Heating and air-conditioning layouts are not included. You need a local mechanical contractor to size and locate the proper unit for your specific conditions of climate and site.

THIS IS YOUR SHIPPING LABEL. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

OHJ HOUSE PLAN SERVICE
435 Ninth St. Brooklyn, NY 11215

END TO: _____

ADDRESS _____ (Street address only)

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING:

PLAN NAME _____	PLAN # _____
#1 <input type="checkbox"/> ONE COMPLETE SET OF WORKING DRAWINGS	\$ _____
#2 <input type="checkbox"/> FIVE SET PACKAGE	\$ _____
#3 <input type="checkbox"/> EIGHT SET PACKAGE	\$ _____
#4 _____ ADDITIONAL SETS OF WORKING DRAWINGS @ \$15 each	\$ _____
#5 <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE INCLUDE ONE ADDITIONAL SET OF MIRROR REVERSE @ \$25	\$ _____
ADD POSTAGE AND HANDLING	\$ 7.50
TOTAL \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK ENCLOSED CHARGE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC	

CARD NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE OF CARD HOLDER _____
DAYTIME PHONE # _____

Coupon expires September, 1991

1190

vin-tage: *adj.* of old, recognized and enduring interest and quality

DISTINCTIVE FLOORING

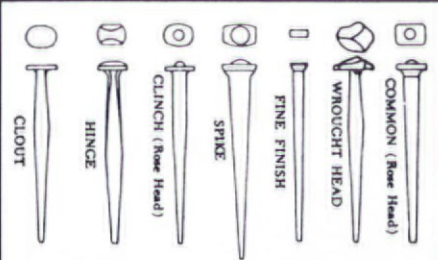
precisely re-milled from antique boards and beams

CHESTNUT • OAK • HEART PINE • WHITE PINE • HEMLOCK • CYPRESS

Vintage Lumber

Kiln dried • Tongue & Groove • Random width

9507 Woodsboro Road • Frederick, MD 21701
301-898-7859 • Fax: 301-898-3994



Old-Fashioned Cut Nails. The Tremont Nail Co. makes 20 varieties of cut nails using the old patterns, including rosehead, oval bung, and wrought-head. Sample kit containing one of each of the 20 patterns, a history of nails in America, and a price list is \$4.50 ppd.

Tremont Nail Co., Dept. OHJ110, 8 Elm Street, Box 111
Wareham, MA 02571



Chestnut
NEW,
ANTIQUE &
CUSTOM DESIGN

Salt &
American Handcrafted
WEATHERVANES

651 Route 6A, West Barnstable
Cape Cod, Massachusetts 02668

Lectures • Appraisals • Displays
Illustrated Brochure, \$2.00 Refundable

Ole Fashion Things

Plumbing Supply

The "San Francisco" Suite
Plumbing Hardware
Bathroom Accessories
The Unusual in Plumbing Fixtures

Showroom Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
402 S.W. Evangeline Hwy. Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

Color Catalog: \$3.75
For Info: 1•318•234•4800
To Order: 1•800•BATH WORLD



ANTIQUE reproduction furniture HARDWARE



HORTON BRASSES

Nooks Hill Rd. • PO Box 120-L
Cromwell, CT 06416 • 203-635-4400
Send \$3.00 for a catalog

In the tradition of
Gustav Stickley

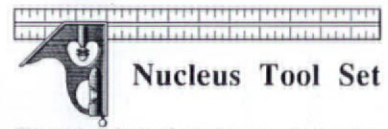
fine quality arts and crafts furniture should not be exclusive to all but the collector, but rather, be made available for the enjoyment of many in the course of their daily lives.

Treasure the Past presents fine quality Stickley reproductions built with the same exacting care as the master's originals. These furniture pieces feature:

- 100% quartersawn white oak
- original ammonia fuming technique
- true mortise and tenon joinery
- full top grain leather upholstery

Treasure the Past is committed to preserving the Stickley tradition of excellence. For more information contact:

Treasure the Past
23699 Bouquet Canyon Pl.
Moreno Valley, CA 92387
(714) 243-9502



Nucleus Tool Set

This matched selection of essential construction/renovation hand tools will help you complete projects without delays and compromises caused by inadequate equipment. Each item represents the best available from established manufacturers such as Stanley, Ridgid, Vise-Grip, and Cooper Tools. The Nucleus Tool Set ends disruptive hunting and gathering and provides the foundation for any serious tool inventory.

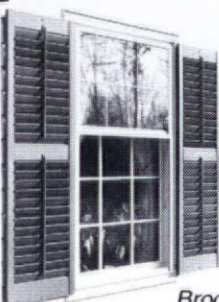
Send for descriptive catalog.

DURABLE GOODS

- Products of Integrity -

P. O. Box 390225 - B
Cambridge, MA. 02139 - 0225

EXTERIOR SHUTTERS



Affordable
Shipped Anywhere
Durable White Pine
Moveable Louvers, fixed
louvers or raised panel.
Custom-made arches.
Unfinished or painted in
the brand & color of
your choice.
Hinges and Holdbacks

Brochure, call or write:

SHUTTERCRAFT, 282 Stepstone Hill
Guilford, CT 06437 (203) 453-1973

ANTHONY
WOOD PRODUCTS

Gable Trim
Fretwork
Brackets
Corbels

1979

Porch Posts
Newel Posts
Balusters
Finials

1989

Box 1081T Hillsboro TX 76645
817-582-7225
Illustrated Catalog Available - \$2.00



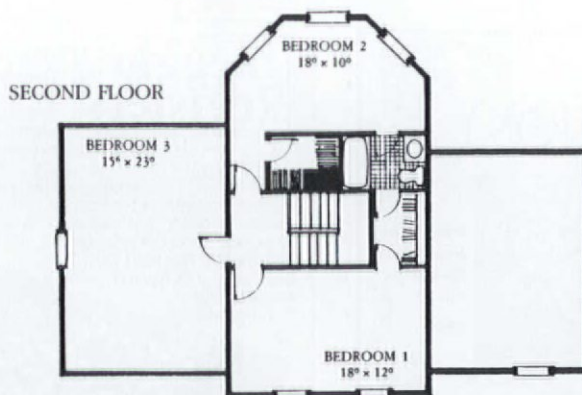
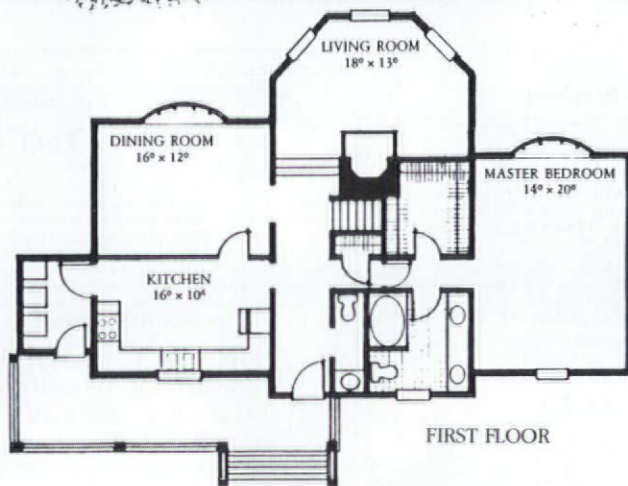
*Solid brass
and cast iron*

USA made Reggio Registers™ enhance wood floors and fine carpets. Maximize heat circulation from woodstoves,

gravity and forced hot air heating systems. Choose from elegant brass or traditional cast iron registers and grilles. Request our new color catalog for styles, sizes, and prices. Available for \$1.00 from:
The Reggio Register Co.
Dept. D011 P.O. Box 511,
Ayer, MA 01432
(508) 772-3493



THREE-PART HOUSE



Thomas Jefferson would have described this as a "three-part house," referring to the gable front and wings. In fact, this classical plan is an adaptation of Jefferson's own design for Monticello, which included a similar half-octagon-shaped parlor. The spacious first-floor master bedroom features a storey-and-a-half ceiling height. More space may be achieved with the addition of the two-storey garage (plan sold separately).

House Plan E-06A-TA

Cost: \$170
 \$250 (set of 5)
 \$275 (set of 8)

Garage Plan G-01A-TA (includes two garage plans)

Cost: \$75
 \$118 (set of 5)
 \$165 (set of 8)

SQUARE FOOTAGE 2463
FIRST FLOOR 1458
SECOND FLOOR 1005
CEILING HEIGHT	
FIRST FLOOR 9
SECOND FLOOR 8
OVERALL DIMENSIONS	
WIDTH 55
DEPTH 35



*Rare & Beautiful
Antique Lumber*

**Wide Plank Flooring
Mouldings & Millwork**

Antique Heart Pine,
Oak, White Pine, Chestnut
Select New Hardwoods

For Free Brochure

Write

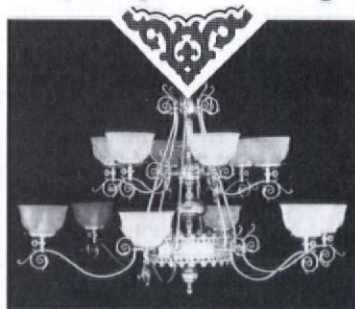
2357 Boteler Road
Brownsville, Maryland 21758

or Call

Office 301-432-8419

Shop 301-582-4535

Superb grace of design.



Send \$5 for our full color catalog.
(catalog fee refundable with order)

251 s. pennsylvania avenue
po box 469, centre hall, pa 16828
814-364-9577

*Victorian
Lighting
Works*



**Quartersawn
Clapboard Siding
and Building Materials
including Wide Pine
and Hardwood Flooring**

Quartersawing produces
a vertical grain clapboard.

- Twists and warps less
- Wears more evenly
- Bonds paint and stain better

Also featuring...

Olympic Machinecoat™

Exterior Finish

for all types of siding.

Allows priming or finishing
prior to installation
with **10 year warranty:**

- Crack, Peel and Flake Resistant
- Washable
- Non-Yellowing
- No Chalk Washdown

Granville Manufacturing

Company, Inc. • Est. 1857

Granville, Vermont 05747

802-767-4747

Call or Write for Free Brochure

Stencil World

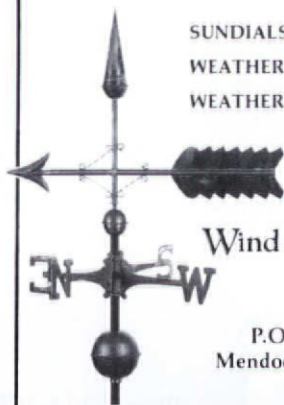
**The largest collection of decorative
stencils & supplies.**

Over 200 designer stencils, every
style & period included.

Send \$3.50 for our new catalog
(refundable w/purchase).

Stencil World, Inc.
1456 Second Ave.—Box 175C
New York, NY 10021

SUNDIALS
WEATHERVANES
WEATHER INSTRUMENTS



Free Catalog

Wind & Weather

P.O. Box 2320-OH
Mendocino, CA 95460
(707) 937-0323

**WILLIAMSBURG
BLACKSMITHS**



Quality
Wrought - Iron
Hardware

To Order Catalog,
Send \$5 to:

P.O. Box 1776, Dept. OH
Williamsburg, MA 01096
Phone: (413) 268-7341

AUTHENTIC
VICTORIAN

**SCREEN-STORM
DOORS**

Touchstone Woodworks

Dept. OHJ1190 PO Box 112

Ravenna, OH 44266

(216) 297-1313

Send two dollars to view our elegant collection

CHARLOTTE
CERAMIC TILE SCHOOL

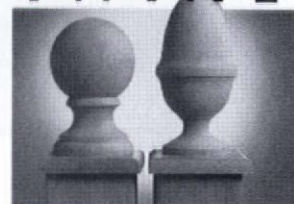


*Installation Workshops
With Professional Instruction*

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| ■ Countertops | ■ Shower Floors |
| ■ Bathtub Walls | ■ Natural Stone |
| ■ Tile Floors | ■ Marble Floors |

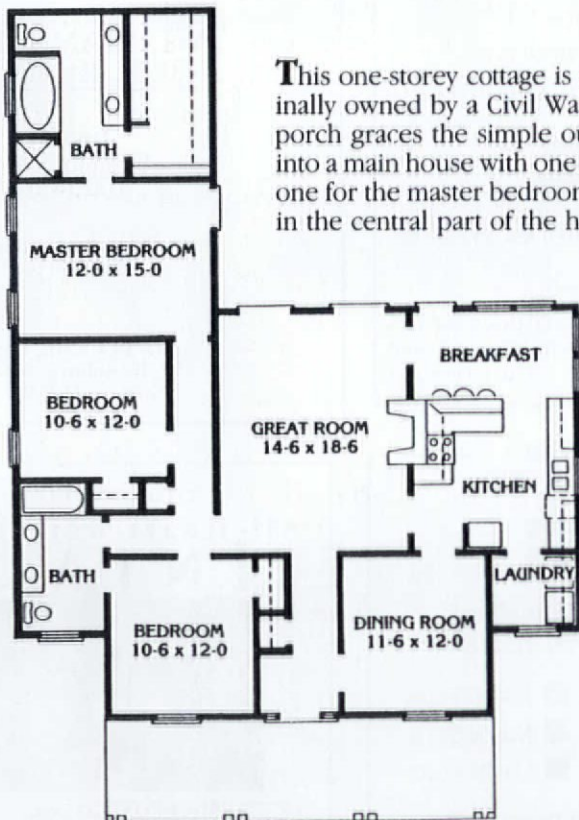
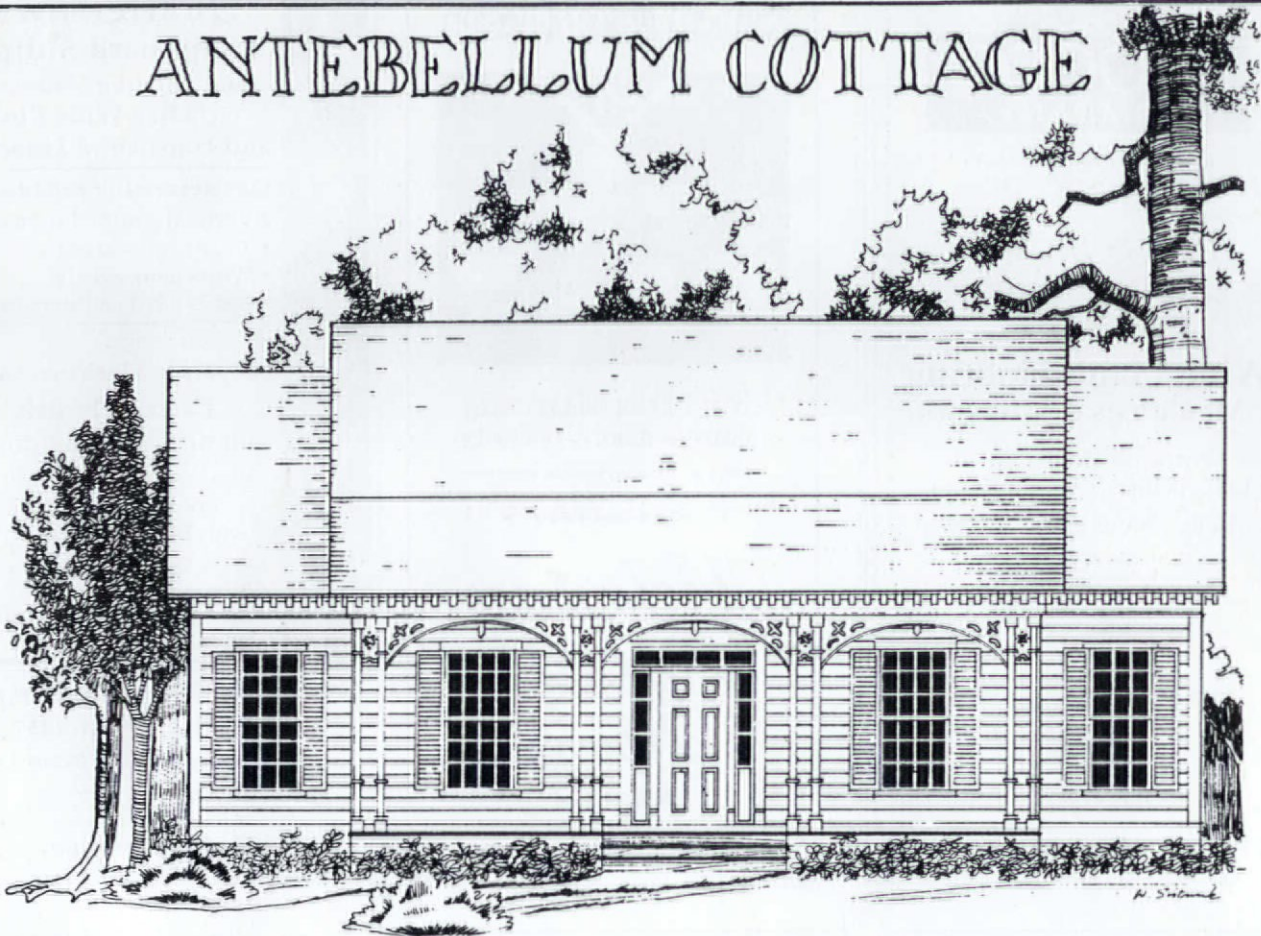
For more information call
(704) 372-8126

**Ornamental
All-Heart Redwood
FINIALS**



BRUCE POST CO., INC.
CENTER-DRILLED ALL-HEART REDWOOD
P.O. BOX 332, CHESTERTOWN, MD. 21620
301-778-6181

ANTEBELLUM COTTAGE



This one-storey cottage is a replica of one in Holly Springs, Mississippi, originally owned by a Civil War general. Queen Anne detailing on the full-facade porch graces the simple outline of the cottage, which is comfortably divided into a main house with one rear wing. The plan calls for two sizable bathrooms, one for the master bedroom and one to be shared by the additional bedrooms in the central part of the house.

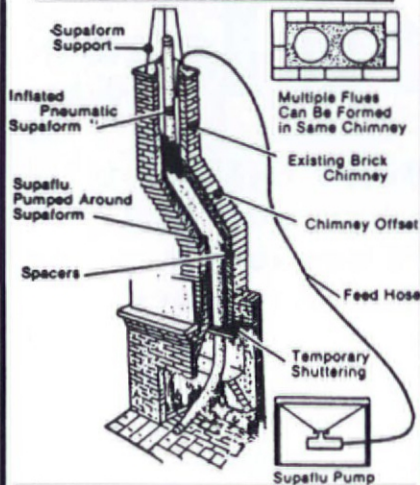
Plan V-13A-HR

Cost: \$200
 \$250 (set of 5)
 \$285 (set of 8)

SQUARE FOOTAGE 1680
 CEILING HEIGHT 9
 OVERALL DIMENSIONS
 WIDTH 52
 DEPTH 64

supaflu™

The Ultimate Flue Liner
For Masonry Chimneys



Cast-In-Place Lining

- Seals
- Cures Condensation
- Insulates
- Improves Combustion Efficiency
- Lines & Makes Chimneys Safe
- Impervious to Corrosion
- All in One Process

Tested and Listed by an ASTM and ACIL approved laboratory to UL 103-2,100 F., Canadian ULC-S629-M-1981 and UL Requirements for Non-Metallic Chimney Lining System - 1985.

Supaflu is recognized by the International Conference of Building Officials - Report No. 3937.

National Supaflu Systems
Chimney Lining and Relining

P.O. Box 89 Walton, NY 13856

(607) 865-7636

WIDE Flooring

Paneling • Wainscoting

PINE to 32" wide

OAK to 18" wide

Kiln dried to 6%-8% • Milled to your specifications

Send \$2.00 for informative literature and grading photos to:

Craftsman Lumber Company

Box 222 M, 436 Main St., Groton, MA 01450

or phone (508) 448-6336, Charles E. Thibeau, Prop.

Satisfying Architects, Builders and Homeowners nationwide since 1974

BEST QUALITY

BEST SERVICE

BEST PRICES

hand operated

WHITCO

dumbwaiters



VINCENT WHITNEY COMPANY

MANUFACTURERS • SASH HARDWARE • DUMB WAITERS

1760 Bridgeway/P.O. Box 335

Sausalito, CA 94966/(415) 332-3260

SERVING THE BUILDING INDUSTRY SINCE 1929

HAND-TIED FISHNET CANOPIES BEDSPREADS, COVERLETS AND DUST RUFFLES

Fishnet bed canopies. Hand-tied in the mountains of North Carolina. Each is custom made of 100% cotton, doubled, 4-ply yarn in either natural or white. Delivery in four weeks or less—often the same week of order. We also have coverlets, bedspreads and custom-made dust ruffles.

Write or call for FREE brochure.

Carter Canopies

Dept. OH11 - P.O. Box 808

Troutman, NC 28166-0808

Telephone: 704-528-4071



ANTIQU PLUMBING FIXTURES



Claw Tubs • Brass & Chrome Showers • Shower Rings • Pedestal Sinks • Faucets • Oak High Tank Toilets • Cage Showers • Cross Handles Porcelain • Hard-to-Find Parts • A Huge Selection of Accessories • Expert Advice

Plumbing Catalog
\$6.00

VICTORIAN AND TURN OF THE CENTURY Chandeliers, Sconces & Fixtures



• Design • Replacement
• Contract Parts &
• Manufacturer Glass Shades
• Restoration

THE MOST COMPLETE
SOURCE FOR ANTIQUE
AND REPRODUCTION
GAS, OIL AND
ELECTRIC LIGHTING

Lighting Catalog \$5.00

Call toll free 1-800-366-3347. We accept VISA/MC/AMEX
THE FINEST LAMP & FIXTURE RESTORATION AVAILABLE.
ROY ELECTRIC CO., Inc. NYC & LI (718) 434-7002
SHOWROOM: 1054 Coney Island Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11230



ARCHITECTURAL MILLWORK

- MOLDINGS
- PICKETS
- SCREEN DOORS
- PORCH PARTS

CATALOG
\$3.00



P.O. Box 1067, Dept. H3, Blue Lake, CA 95525

The OHJ Catalog

Don't believe it when you hear, "They don't make that anymore." They do! It's here in this comprehensive directory from OHJ.

You don't have to be frustrated in your search for better quality and authenticity. Since 1973, we've been collecting information on who makes the right stuff for your old house. And everything we know is in one book: The OHJ Catalog. It lists close to 1500 companies nationwide which will sell to you by mail-order or through distributors.

Here's just a sampling of the 10,000 items you can still buy — now that you know where to look:

- Victorian Fretwork • Push-Button Light Switches • Board-&-Batten Siding • Tin Ceilings • Clawfoot Tubs • Brass Beds • Fancy-Butt Shingles • Craftsman Rugs & Curtains • Wood Storm Windows • Fireplace Tiles • Spoke-Handled Faucets • Milk Paint • Copper Wall Plates • Plaster Ceiling Medallions • 19th-Century Millwork • Marble Mantels • High-Tank Toilets • Cast & Wrought Ironwork • Embossed Wallcoverings • Hand-Hammered Weathervanes • Hexagonal White Tiles.

Hard-to-find services are listed in the OHJ Catalog, too. Where else could you turn for someone to help you:

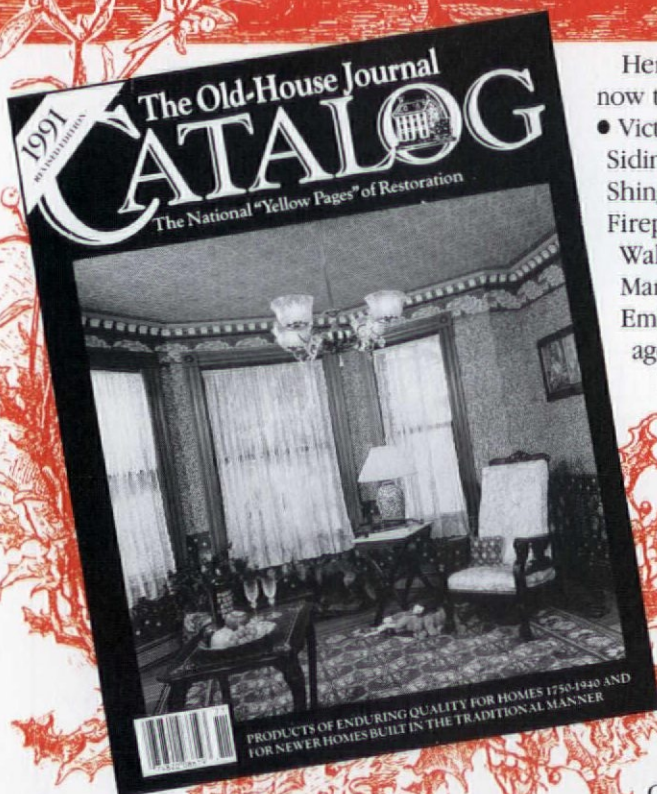
- Rescue Porch Columns • Research Your House's History • Build an 1890-Style Skylight • Prepare Blueprints for a Period Garden.

Spend your time working on the house — not making fruitless phone calls and driving around town.

Just buy our Catalog! It's 256 pages of guidance you won't find anywhere else. This edition has been re-

organized for easy use — just look up the company name or the product or service you need.

To order, fill out the envelope order-form and mail with your check for \$15.95 (subscriber's discount; postpaid). Or call 718-788-1700 and use your Visa or MasterCard.



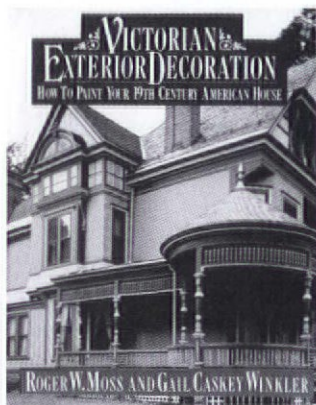
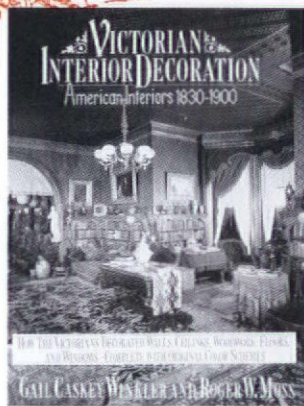
Good Books

-To Give or
to Get



VICTORIAN INTERIOR DECORATION —

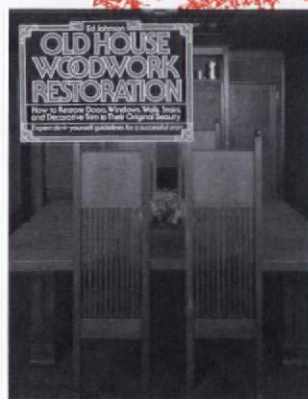
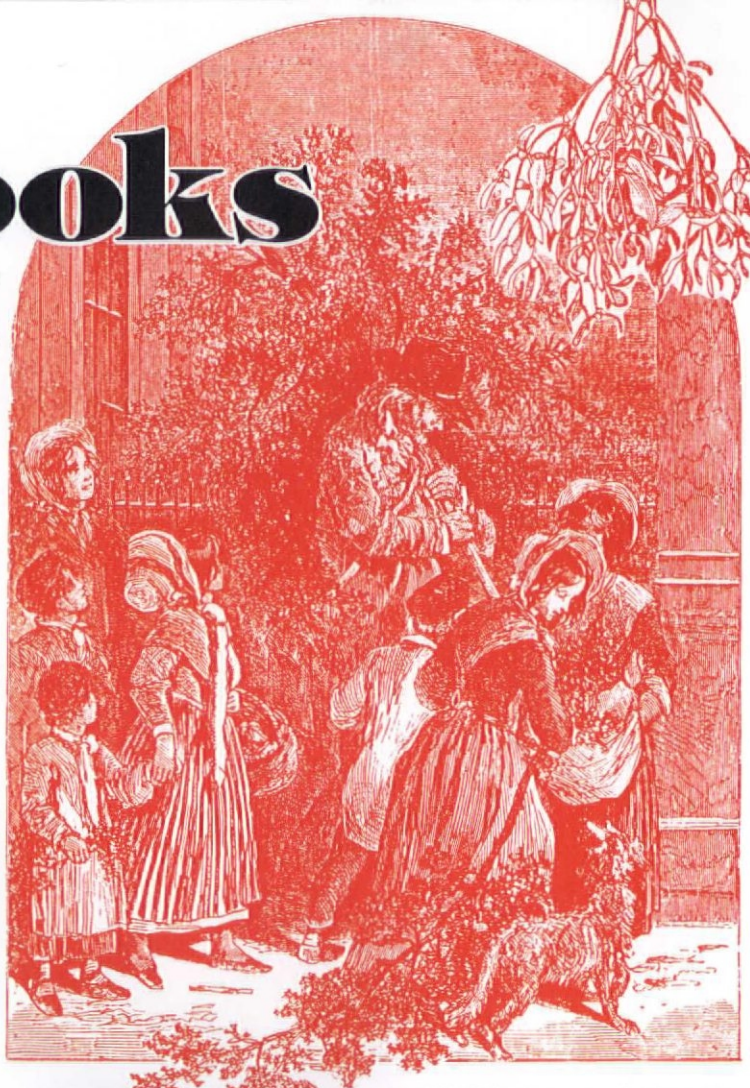
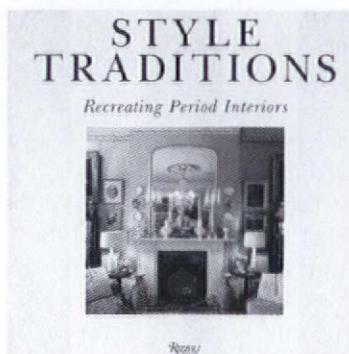
Roger Moss and Gail Winkler show us how the Victorians decorated their homes. Floors and floor coverings, ceilings, woodwork, window treatments, and wallpaper receive equal treatment. Many color illustrations. 144 pages. Hardbound. \$37.50.



VICTORIAN EXTERIOR DECORATION — Roger Moss and Gail Caskey Winkler. The editors of OHJ are always being asked, "What color should I paint my house?" If your house was built in the latter half of the 19th century, this book is the first place to look.

Generously illustrated with over 120 plates. 117 pages. Hardbound. \$37.50.

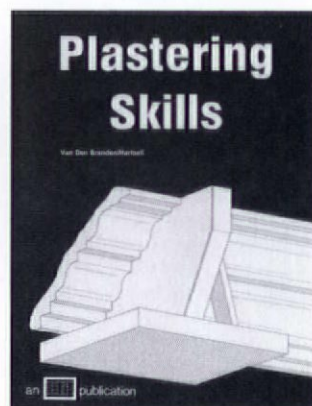
STYLE TRADITIONS — Stephen Calloway and Stephen Jones. All the essential style elements for faithfully restoring a period look to your old house, whether it's Arts & Crafts, Art Deco, Georgian, or early Victorian. This book is a lavishly illustrated source-book of interior-design ideas. 224 pages. Hardbound. \$38.95.



OLD-HOUSE WOODWORK RESTORATION — Ed Johnson. Expert do-it-yourself guidelines for restoring doors, windows, walls, stairs, and decorative trim to their original beauty. Included are tips for stripping specific finishes, and repairing or replacing rotting parts. Well illustrated. 200 pages. Softbound. \$18.95.

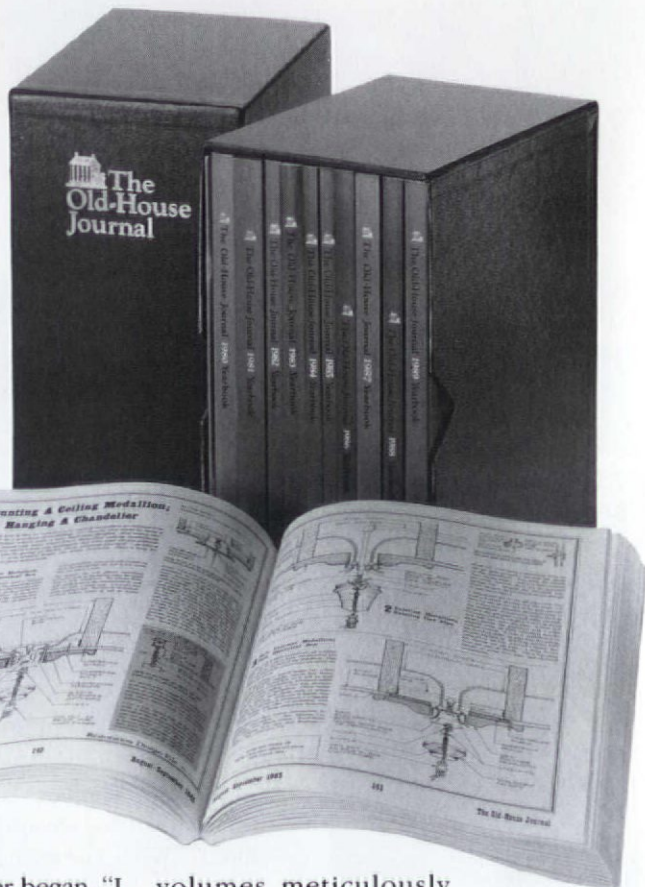
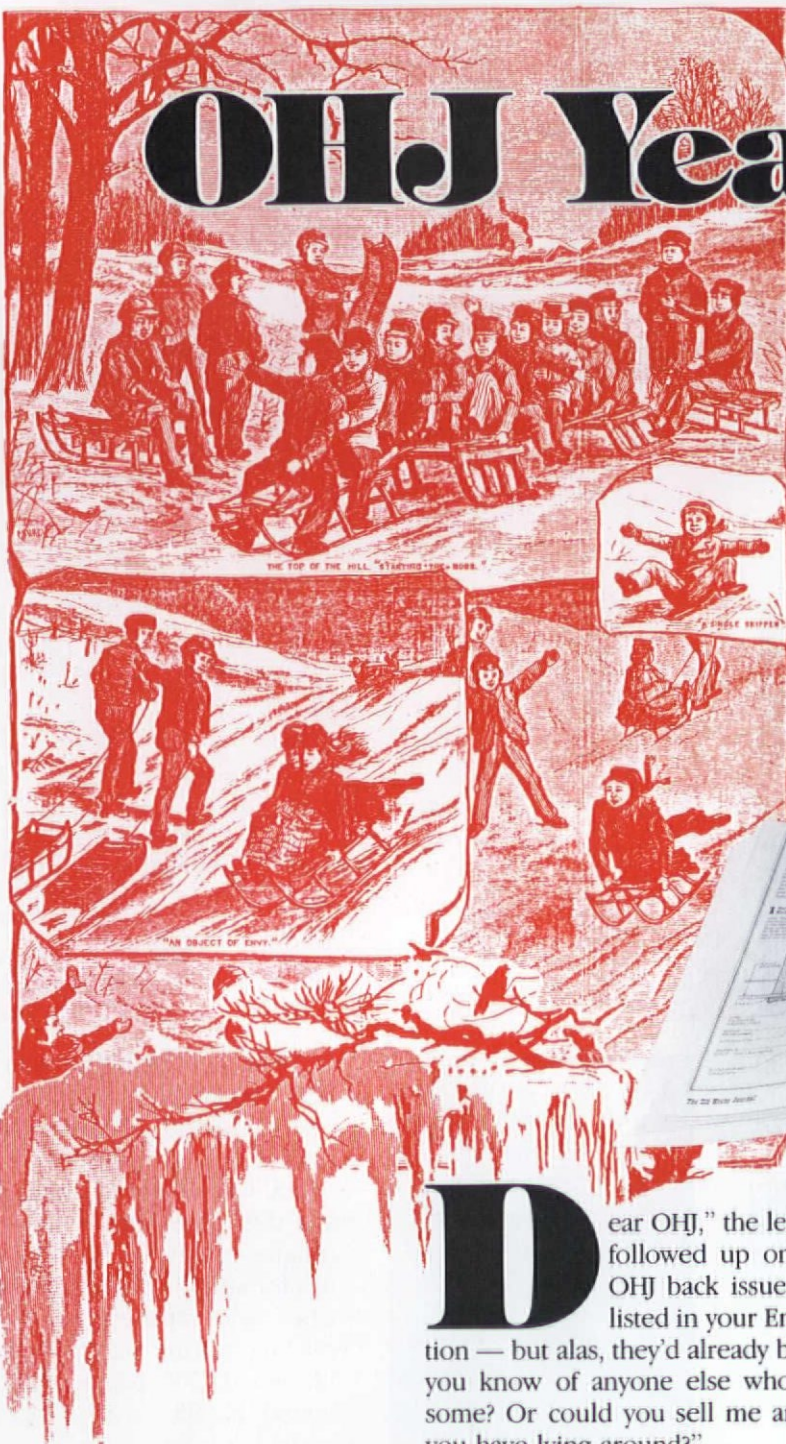
PLASTERING SKILLS — The definitive text on the lost art of wet plastering! Have some failing plaster? This book is the place to turn for the correct repair methods.

Whether you want to replace ten feet of missing cornice, or replaster an entire wall, this guide shows you how. (Casting in plaster is not covered.) 543 pages. Softbound. \$24.95.



OHJ Yearbooks

Classic OHJ, bound into books!



Dear OHJ," the letter began, "I followed up on an offer of OHJ back issues, which was listed in your Emporium section — but alas, they'd already been sold. Do you know of anyone else who might have some? Or could you sell me any old issues you have lying around?"

We can do better than that! Unlike other magazines, our back issues aren't "collector's items" with premium price tags. We keep back issues in print, bound into handsome books that we call OHJ Yearbooks.

Over the years, as new readers signed up, they worried about what they'd missed. They knew that the how-to information already published in OHJ wasn't out of date — and that topics covered recently probably wouldn't appear again for years. The demand for single-copy back issues became so great that we invented the Yearbooks: sturdy bound

volumes meticulously indexed for easy use.

This year we're offering a full set of 1980s Yearbooks — ten volumes that include every article, every source, every tip published in OHJ from 1980 through 1989 — for \$109. That's \$81 off the cost of the Yearbooks purchased separately, and it includes a free Cumulative Index.

And now you can keep your Yearbooks Set readily available for reference with our custom-designed slipcases. Sized to hold the 10-volume 1980s Yearbook Set, plus the Index, our burgundy slipcases imprinted in gold are also V-notched for easy access. They may be ordered separately for \$18.95, or at a discount with the Yearbooks Set.

To order any of the items above, just mark the right box on the envelope order-form and enclose a check. Or call 718-788-1700 and use your Visa or MasterCard.





Paint-Stripping Heat Tools

We can't count the number of times we've been asked which method is *really* best for removing paint. Well, we've seen "miracle" paint removers come and go. We've watched chemical paint strippers almost triple in price in the past 15 years. We've tried just about every heat tool on the market. In our opinion, the Heavy-Duty HG-501 Heat Gun and the Warner Heat

Plate are the best tools for the job.

Heat is a fast method because all the paint bubbles and lifts as you go along. There's no waiting for chemicals to soak in, no multiple recoatings, and far less clean-up. And because these tools are long-lasting products, their initial expense is more than made up in savings on the \$18- to \$22-per-gallon stripper you're no longer buying in quantity.

The Heat Gun is the most efficient paint-removal tool for painted porch parts, mouldings, or other ornamental woodwork, but it's not recommended for use on hollow partitions or for stripping entire exteriors.

That's where the Heat Plate comes in handy. It's the most easy-to-use tool for stripping paint from broad, flat surfaces: doors, panelling, baseboards, and exterior wooden clapboards. And it's safer for use on hollow partitions and exterior cornices because there's no blown hot air that could ignite hidden dust. (Neither heat tool is recommended for removing varnish.)

Both the Heat Gun and the Heat Plate come with complete operating and safety instructions, and are backed by the OHJ Guarantee: If your unit should malfunction within two months of purchase, we'll replace it.

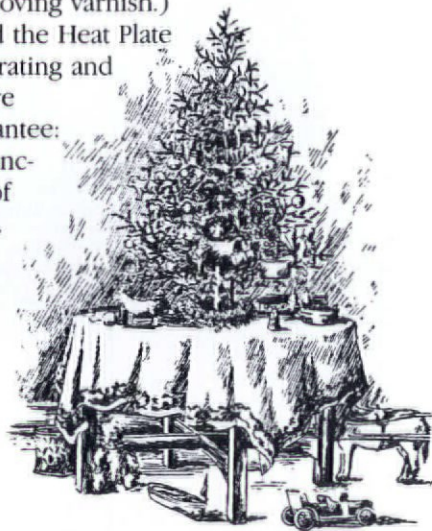
To purchase either or both heat tools, use the envelope order-form.

The HG-501 Heat Gun costs \$77.95

ppd.; the Heat

Plate, \$47.95

ppd.



RESTORATION SERVICES

Architectural Services — Architectural and preservation problem-solving for old buildings and their owners: Architectural services include restoration, conservation, replication and additions, building evaluation, analysis, technical assistance and troubleshooting. Research and consultation are also available. Award winning specialists in residences, churches, and history museums. The Office of Allen Charles Hill, AIA, Historic Preservation & Architecture, 25 Englewood Road, Winchester, MA 01890. (617) 729-0748.

Stone Work & Repair — Morning Star Stone Masons have stone hammer will travel - all types of restoration stone work, matching existing fabric exactly is our specialty! Architectural and archaeological information available. Provide consultation and work. Twenty years serving the historic Philadelphia area. Phone for information and brochure: (800) 469-0182. Mr. Ken Fisher, Prop., Morning Star Stone Masons, RD 1 Seminary Hall, Spring City, PA 19475.

Cast & Wrought Iron Services — This company specializes in the restoration of large scale cast and wrought iron projects for institutional and commercial properties. They also provide troubleshooting and consultation services. For more information, contact: Architectural Iron Company Inc., Box 126, Schocopee Road, Milford PA 18337. (717) 296-5548, FAX: (717) 296-IRON. Catalog and brochure available, \$4.00.

Floor Refinishing — This company will restore your wood floors to their original lustre. All types of old and new wood can be sanded and refinished. Serving the North Shore of Massachusetts. Vincent P. Orlando, Fernald St., Gloucester, MA 01930. Free estimate: (508) 281-0491.

Roofing Services — Midland Engineering Company Inc., is a nationally recognized roofing and sheet metal contractor based in South Bend, Indiana. This firm applies all types of roofing systems for installation throughout the Midwest. Their spe-

cialties include custom slate, tile and copper roofing. Contact the Midland Engineering Company Inc., 52369 U.S. 33 North, South Bend, IN 46624. (219) 272-0200.

Woodworking Services — DHM Cabinetmakers Inc., is a full service, made-to-order woodworking company. Our products range from fine furniture to custom millwork such as moulding, T&G flooring, libraries, etc. All made in native or exotic woods to the individuals specifications. Color furniture catalog - \$4.00. For further information contact: DHM Cabinetmakers, Route 4 Box 173, Floyd, VA 24091. (703) 745-3825.

Building Inspection — Pope Associates Inc., specializes in mechanical and structural inspection of pre-1940 buildings in eastern Massachusetts. All inspections reflect sensitivity to architectural style & historic construction techniques and are performed in accordance with the Standards of the American Society of Home Inspectors. Pope Associates, Inc., Gloucester, MA 01930. (508) 281-2624.

Chimney Restoration — Chimney Savers, recently featured on "This Old House," restores and then relines your chimney with Solid/Flue pumped masonry chimney lining. They also offer and install the complete line of ornate Fourth Bay Victorian fireplaces to ensure an accurate and complete restoration of your chimney. Contact: Chimney Savers, 9-14 Ilene Court, Belle Mead, NJ 08502. (201) 359-7798.



Your copies of the Old-House Journal are your best restoration resource. So shelve them — protect them! — the way the OHJ editors do: in a handsome slipcase or binder. Back copies are then easily retrievable whenever you want to consult them about a specific restoration job.

Each slipcase (8 5/8" x 11 1/2")

and binder (9 3/4" x 12 3/4") holds a year's worth of issues, and comes in library-quality deep-maroon leatherette with the OHJ logo embossed in gold.

To: Old-House Journal, c/o Jesse Jones Industries, Dept. OHJ, 499 East Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134.

Send me ___ Binders at \$9.95 each (or 3 for \$27.95)

Send me ___ Slipcases at \$7.95 each (or 3 for \$21.95)

Enclosed is \$ ____ . Add \$1 postage and handling per case/binder. Outside USA, add \$2.50 per case/binder (US funds only). PA residents add 6% sales tax.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

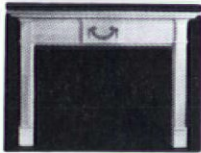
STATE _____ ZIP _____

Use the coupon at left to order.

For fastest service, call toll-free and charge to Visa, MasterCard or AMEX (\$15 minimum): 1-800-972-5858

This special classified section is available to designers, consultants, contractors and craftspeople offering hard-to-find restoration services for the old-house owner. Rates are \$200 for the first 40 words, \$4.00 for each additional word. Logos, when supplied, will be printed on a space-available basis. Deadline for inclusion in Restoration Services is the 1st of the month, two months prior to publication. For example, January 1st for the March/April issue. Sorry, we cannot accept ads over the phone. All submissions must be in writing and accompanied by a check.

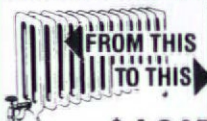
Plantation Mantels



HANDCRAFTED WOOD MANTELS
 Stock & Custom Sizes • Classic Designs
 Authentic Reproductions • Free Freight
 Send \$2.25 For Catalog To:
Plantation Mantels
 220 N. Carrollton
 New Orleans, LA 70119
 (504) 486-6822

ALL STEEL RADIATOR ENCLOSURES

FOR HOMES, OFFICES, CHURCHES, INSTITUTIONS



FROM \$19⁹⁵

BUY FACTORY DIRECT & SAVE • EASY TO ASSEMBLE
 MANY STYLES & COLORS • BAKED ENAMEL FINISH
 Send \$1.00 for Brochures. Refundable with Order.

MONARCH Dept. OHJ
 2744 ARKANSAS DRIVE, BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11234
 (201) 796-4117

Antique Telephones



Not Reproductions

Send \$3⁰⁰ for catalog
 with over 50 models

Restored Working Phones
 Parts • Repairs • Restorations

Phone Wizard

P.O. Box 70
 Leesburg, VA 22075
 (703) 777-3349



VICTORIAN ELEGANCE



LARGEST INVENTORY
 OF VICTORIAN MOULDINGS
 & MILLWORK ANYWHERE

- No Minimum Order
- Rush Orders - No Problem!
- Expert Shipping & Packaging
- Lots of Construction Ideas
- Top Quality

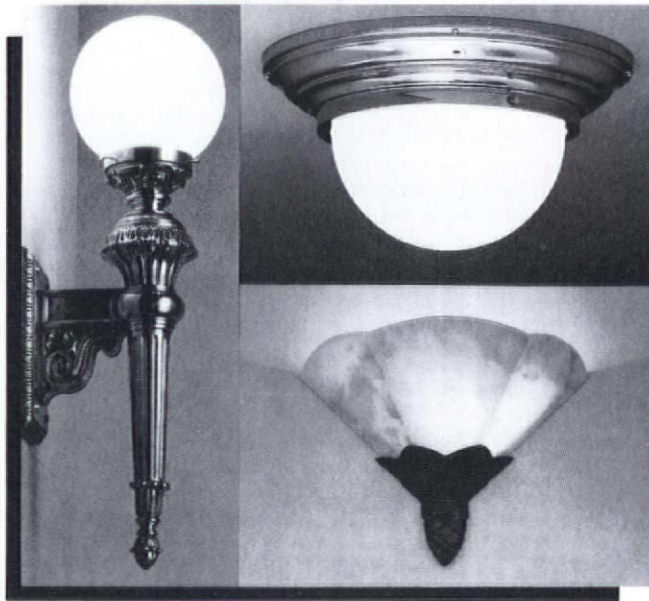
SILVERTON
 Victorian Millworks

Send \$4 for catalog or Phone
 & use your credit card.
 P.O. Box 2987-012
 Durango, CO 81302
 (303) 259-5915

Clip this coupon and send for catalog & price list.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Credit Card Number _____
 Exp. Date _____ Signature _____ M/C
 VISA

New Lights



Urban Archaeology

New 54,000 sq. ft. gallery
 285 Lafayette Street, New York City 10012
 212-431-6969

HANDSOMELY CRAFTED WOODEN SCREEN DOORS

Whether your home is on the Historical Register, or still on the drawing board, **Oregon Wooden Screen Door Company** has a variety of screen doors and energy-efficient storm doors suited to you.

Designed for interior as well as exterior use, each door component is constructed using the finest materials and joined with wooden pegs and glue (no nails).



For complete information and styles available, send \$3 (refundable with Purchase) for our catalogue.
Oregon Wooden Screen Door Company
 Dept. OHJ 330 High St. Eugene, OR 97401

Oregon
Wooden Screen Door
 company



VINTAGE PINE COMPANY, Inc.

established 1972

P.O. Box 85
 Prospect, Virginia 23960
 (804) 574-6531

The Specialist in Heart Pine Lumber

Rich and enduring antique longleaf heart pine, coupled with unsurpassed milling experience, allows Vintage Pine Company to offer the same handsome plank flooring that our Forefather placed in his manor house. Our naturally superior flooring is quartersawn, planed both sides, tongue and grooved and milled to your specifications. By specializing in the tightest grains and in widths up to 18 inches and length up to 25 feet, our flooring can be found throughout the United States in such National Historic Landmarks as: The Governor's Mansion in Austin, Texas and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Free brochure upon request.

THE EMPORIUM

WANTED

OLD HOUSE IN PRINCETON, NJ — We are sadly leaving our Queen Anne house and relocating to Princeton because of a job move. Please help us find a Victorian era or older home needing work in a quiet location. Reasonably priced please. Call (914) 332-6638.

CRAFTSMAN FURNITURE & LIGHTING — Just bought 1,400 sq. ft., 2-storey home in West Hollywood CA and am restoring. Dianna, PO Box 951, Beverly Hills CA 90210, (213) 859-6929.

HOME TO RESTORE — Phelps-Seneca Falls, NY area. Want to restore a home with large yard or acreage. Kevin or Ann Calkins (315) 568-9802.

PRE-1900S HOUSE — In Virginia or North Carolina. Must be in a rural area or small town. Handyman's special would be great. Leslie Duren, 66 Otis St., Sunbury OH 43074, (614) 965-4012.

CABINET HINGES, TILE & SCONCE — Depression-era cabinet hinges. 3/8" offset with stain step design in corners and 2 vertical parallel grooves connecting corners 2-1/2" high. 3" x 6" glazed white antique bathroom tile, and Deco porcelain sconce. Mike McMillian, 912 S. Chestnut St., Henderson NC 27536, (919) 430-1050.

CATALINA ISLAND POTTERY TILE — Made between 1927-37 on Catalina Isl. Hundreds of shapes with bright colors, geometric designs, birds, sea life, missions, etc. For tables or wall plaques. Pottery may have wrought iron holders. Collector; will pay top prices. Call Walter collect at (213) 434-7253.

LARGE HOUSE — Between Columbus, MS and Dallas, TX. For retired couple with lots of relatives and grand children. Must have working plumbing and electricity. No leaks please. 10 rooms or more would be perfect. Call Dessie Parks, (618) 243-5256.

GAS STOVE KNOBS — For 1940s Robert Shaw Detroit Jewel, model CP. 4 knobs are needed. Existing knobs have R3550 imprinted on back. Any other parts? Contact Kathryn Williams, 41 Milton Ave., Suite 203, Alpharetta GA 30201, (404) 475-5482.

ARCHITECTURE-ENGINEERING STUDENT — Help is needed to move a 1904 carpenter gothic in Los Angeles area to new lot. Maybe you need a project for graduate work. Call Ellen or Greg at (213) 281-7722.

GARAGE PLANS — Plans for 2- to 4-car garage with guest quarters on 2nd storey. Must be consistent with 1904 carpenter Gothic house located in Los Angeles. Must meet stringent neighborhood association guidelines for preservation neighborhood. Call Ellen or Greg at (213) 281-7722.

TRANSOM WINDOW PARTS — Especially opening/closing rods. Please contact Lloyd Longenecker, 405 S. Spruce St., Annville PA 17003, (717) 867-1365.

MECHANICAL DOORBELL MECHANISM — Original or reproduction. Wall mounted pull knob style (the kind used in Laurel and Hardy gags) mechanical doorbell mechanism. Working or restorable. S. Harrod, 26 Vernon St., Hartford CT 06106, or call (203) 527-2799.

EXCHANGE CARPENTRY FOR LIVING QUARTERS — San Francisco Bay area for 6 months or longer. College instructor relocating. Over 6 years exp. in cabinetry and restoration/remodeling, rough and finish carpentry. Has own tools. Knowledgeable, conscientious, dependable. Professional references. Doug Temkin, (415) 848-4672.

REAL ESTATE

HOLLIS, NH — Circa 1750 rambling Cape. Charm and history galore. Restored with many updates. 3250 sq. ft. 3-5 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, wide pine floors, fireplace, woodstoves, huge family room, oversized 2-car garage, barn, fenced paddocks. In-law, income apartment, or master suite. 3-1/2 acres. Walk to schools and shopping. 50 minutes to Boston. Must sell. reduced to \$219,900. Call (603) 465-2720.

TEXAS CITY, TX — Stately 2-storey home located in coastal community. Circa 1910. 4 bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half baths, sunroom, sleeping porch, huge dining and living rooms, butler's pantry. 1/2 acre shaded lot. 4-square with Greek Revival and Prairie elements. Ready to live in. \$95,000. Call (501) 332-8507.

TAUNTON, MA — 3-family Victorian. All separate utilities. Owners apartment has 2 full baths. 45 minutes to Cape Cod or Boston. Private, fenced-in yard. New roof, paint, plumbing, etc. Quiet, low-traffic area of owner occupied homes. Priced below fair market value. \$159,000. Call (508) 823-2802.



OSWEGO, NY — College town and Great Lakes fishing resort. Gracious home on 6 acres. Oversized rooms. 8 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, living room with fireplace, dining room, family room, country kitchen, library, beautiful entry hall. 18 rooms in all with 2 staircases. Fabulous B&B potential. Call (201) 444-5383.

SANTA ANA, CA — Colonial Revival/transitional built in 1911. Located in Heninger Park historic district. Light, airy rooms with large, double-hung windows. Double parlor with fireplace, 5 bedrooms, den, 2 baths, large kitchen, 4-car garage, full basement. 2,750 sq. ft. \$295,000. Principals only. Call (714) 541-6707 weekends.

BROOKLYN, NY — Located in the Fort Greene landmark district. 1872 4-storey brownstone in historically preserved area. High-income garden rental. Triplex: three or four bedrooms, 2 full baths, 7 carved marble mantels, 2 working fireplaces, plaster mouldings, 4 tier mirrors, pocket doors, deck and garden. Security system. Systems updated. \$368,000. For further information, call (718) 230-5956.

FORT PLAIN, NY — 1870 brick Italianate Victorian. 4 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, W/D, large kitchen. 3/4 acre hilltop setting. 200 miles to New York City. New plumbing, septic, electric, insulation, roof, and walls. Original spruce floors, mouldings, arched windows. Must sell. \$60,000 or best offer. For further information call Richard Gombar at (212) 679-2362.

WEST HEMPSTEAD, NY — 1897 house and large barn. 8 rooms, 2 baths, recent roof, furnace, electric service, dry basement. Dogwood neighborhood. Large, fenced lot. Grape vines, raspberry and currant patches, and organic garden beds. \$186,000. Call (516) 483-8380.



COLDWATER, MI — Immaculate 1887 Queen Anne style. 12+ rooms: 5 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths. 3 natural fireplaces, leaded and stained glass ornamental windows, beautiful natural woodwork and hardwood floors, 2 staircases. 200 amp electric, city sewer and gas. All on over 2 acres with 32 x 16 heated pool. \$129,000. Call Tom Plater at (517) 639-7361.

STATEN ISLAND, NY — Circa 1850 center hall Colonial. Quiet park-like setting on fenced 20,200 sq. ft. lot. 3 bedrooms, back porch, enclosed front porch, large eat-in kitchen with fireplace, formal dining room with fireplace, living room with fireplace, and wide board floors throughout. Updated plumbing and electric. Detached 4-car garage and 2 large storage sheds. Available with or without some period antiques. \$298,000 includes 1937 Cadillac which is registered, inspected, and running. Owner will pay closing costs for buyer. Call (718) 356-9811.



WINDER, GA — 1902 Victorian, completely restored with 5,430 square feet. Heart of pine, crystal chandeliers, stained glass, custom drapes, central heat and air. 1 acre. This is a downtown lot located in the historic district, National Historic Register. Excellent Bed & Breakfast potential. Atlanta/Athens commute. \$248,000. For further information call (404) 867-8251 between 11am-6pm., est.

MacQuarrie & Niccum

Coppersmiths



Hand Crafted
Weathervanes



Lights
Custom Designs

P.O. Box A
Somersville, CT 06072

(203) 749-2774 (413) 566-8559

Illustrated Brochure \$3.00

MIDGET LOUVERS — The Original. . . The Best

Answers to Ventilation Problems of



- Used in Industries, Laboratories, Marine, Electronics and many Building applications.
- Available in Aluminum, Chrome, Plating and Anodized Aluminum. Sizes 1" to 6" in various types.

**AIR
HEAT
LIGHT
SOUND
MOISTURE**

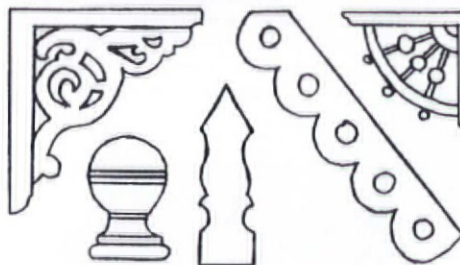
— Write for Descriptive Catalog. —

MIDGET LOUVER COMPANY

800 MAIN AVENUE, NORWALK, CT 06851 (203) 866-2342

G·I·N·G·E·R·B·R·E·A·D

THE TRADITIONAL WAY TO ENHANCE YOUR HOMES' VALUE & LOOKS



- CLASSIC VICTORIAN DESIGNS RECREATED
 - BRACKETS-MOLDINGS-ROOF TRIM-FINIALS PICKETS-PORCH PARTS-SPANDRELS
 - FOR INTERIOR & EXTERIOR USE
 - NO MINIMUM ORDER - EASY INSTALLATION
 - SEND \$2.00 FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOG AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION
- HICKSVILLE WOODWORKS CO.
265 JERUSALEM AVE., DEPT. OHJ
HICKSVILLE, NY 11801
1-516-938-0171

CEILING BUTTONS

To repair sagging plaster ceilings, simply screw the ceiling button up into the lath, and cover with skim coat of plaster or joint compound. **Combo Pak:** Everything needed to do job: ceiling buttons, galvanized screws, insert bit. \$20.00. Ceiling Buttons \$1.20/doz. (6 doz. min) \$16/lb. (21 doz/lb.) Screwgun tip no charge. Send check with order to:

FASTENATION

P.O. Box 1364, Marblehead, MA 01945
FAX: (617) 539-0534

CHICAGO OLD TELEPHONE CO.

Specializing in

RESTORED OLD TELEPHONES

Write today for free color catalog

Complete Restoration Service

Replacement parts for most Telephones

P. O. Box 189 - Dept. OHJ
Lemon Springs, N. C. 28355

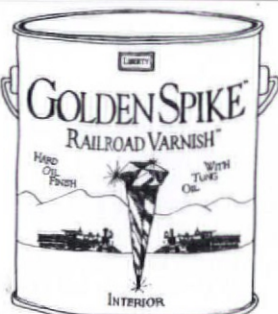


Catalog Sales

Customer Service

1-800-843-1320

(919) 774-6625



Inside Coach & Wearing Varnish.

Natural Ester Gums Cooked the Old Fashion Way with Tung Oil in open-kettle. Waterproof, Acid-Resistant, easy Touch-Up. "Hard Gloss" and "Medium French Polish" for FLOORS; "Old Soft Lustre" for Wainscot and Furniture.

Send for our Reference Catalogue the "Painters Companion" for more information and ordering. Everything in the way of Old finishes, Old tools, Old methods, and Old materials.



\$4.00 for postage and handling is enclosed for the LIBERTY PAINT CATALOGUE.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

LIBERTY PAINT
CATALOGUE, INC.
P.O. Box 1248, Hudson, New York 12534

Country Curtains

**FREE
COLOR
CATALOG**

Country Curtains . . .
Over thirty years of old-fashioned quality and conscientious service.

A delightful selection of curtains trimmed with ruffles, fringe and lace. Also tab, tailored and ruffled styles in warm colors and cheerful prints, some insulated styles, lots of lace and balloon curtains, bed ensembles and more. **Please call toll free: 1-800-876-6123**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Satisfaction guaranteed.

PLEASE SEND FREE CATALOG.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

COUNTRY CURTAINS®
At The Red Lion Inn
Dept. 7490, Stockbridge, MA
01262

PLAQUES

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN
PLACED ON THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES
BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SMITH - CORNELL, INC.
P.O. Box 686 OHJ
Auburn, IN 46706
PH: 219-925-1172 (IN)
800-325-0248

THE EMPORIUM

FOR SALE



CROSSWICKS, NJ — Federal style homestead, circa 1830. Used in the "underground railroad" and 2 time winner of New Jersey Homestead Award. Located on 3-1/2 rolling acres with 4 barns just outside of this historic town. 5,000 sq. ft. offering 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 6 fireplaces, fully rebuilt kitchen wing with skylights, and a formal foyer leading into the 3rd floor master suite which includes sitting room, dressing room, and full bath with jacuzzi and bidet. 12 foot ceilings, ornamental plasterwork, exotic tigerwood millwork, and new gas furnace. 50 minutes from New York City and Philadelphia. \$475,000. Call Daniel Burke at (609) 587-2707.

BEREA, OH — 1870 Italianate brick home on National Register. 25 minutes from downtown Cleveland. 13 rooms including 5 bedrooms and 2-1/2 baths. 7 marble mantels, and 2 staircases. Woodwork walls. Almost all original early electric lighting fixtures. 1-3/4 acre lot with barn. Call (216) 234-0604.

NORTHERN NECK, VA — Beautiful waterfront peninsula. 3.78 acres, 1400 ft. frontage. Italianate-style, mid-1800s home awaiting restoration. 4 bedrooms, 6 fireplaces, plaster walls, pine floors, dock, architect's plans available. 2-1/2 hours from D.C. \$639,000. Barnes Real Estate, Hague VA 22469, (804) 472-2486.

MIDDLEBURG, MD — Circa 1815 stone house. 2 units; each with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, livingroom, kitchen. Could be large single family or B&B. Renovation started. Formerly a hotel and stable, currently a working horse farm with 2-year-old 20-stall barn and indoor arena, 6 paddocks, and outdoor fenced arena. Convenient to Baltimore/Washington metro area. Call (301) 848-1777.



WEST CHICAGO, IL — 1891 parsonage. Completely redone, from new foundation to new roof. 3 bedrooms; master bedroom has sitting room. 2 baths, fully remodeled kitchen, wood floors, tin ceiling, original mouldings, beveled glass. A small town, in a neighborhood setting, located approximately thirty-five miles from the Chicago loop. \$150,000. For more information please call (708) 293-0405 after 6pm.

Haverhill, MA — Desirable Bradford area. Historic Colonial, circa 1690. This is one of the oldest homes in New England. 6 large bedrooms, 6 fireplaces, beehive oven, beamed and tin ceilings, French doors, solar hot water, and gazebo. Only 45 minutes from Boston. Reduced to \$159,900. For more information please call (508) 373-0807.

WARREN, RI — Circa 1830 center-chimney Federal/Greek Revival in waterfront National Register District. Excellent original trim and hardware meticulously restored. 3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, sensitively designed modern kitchen, rebuilt chimney and fireboxes. New systems. In lovely garden on 1/4-acre corner lot, 1 block from water. \$155,000. For further information call (401) 245-6935.

DELAND, FL — Homestead house, built 1907, under arching live oaks on 1/2 acre in historic university neighborhood. Original family photos. 2,100 sq. ft. plus finished attic room. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, central heat and a.c. Cypress siding, heart pine floors. Custom cypress kitchen. Fully and sensitively restored. \$123,500. Call (904) 738-0493.



B&B'S FOR SALE — Free flyer with 45 affordable Great Lake State inns listed, including Lake Michigan and inns along the trail. Free video. Aspiring innkeeper seminars and B&B conferences offered in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Florida. The Inn Broker, (800) 926-INNS, 24 hours.

ADDISON, ME — Early 19th-century Cape with Victorian additions on 2 acres in classic downeast fishing village. Saltwater views, walking distance to deepwater mooring. Many original features have been preserved such as hardware, woodwork, windows, tin ceilings, lighting fixtures, soapstone sink, and more. Careful restoration is underway, structurally sound and very comfortable. \$70,000. Call (207) 483-2333.

PLAINFIELD, NJ — Authentic 1926 sunny English Tudor. 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths (one with original 6 nozzle shower). 25 foot living room has 14 foot domed ceiling and marble fireplace. Some floors are mahogany. Freshly painted interior. Updated plumbing and wiring. Professional area just 5 minutes to NYC trains. City has 5 historic districts. \$190,000. Call (908) 753-6190.

LOMBARD, IL — 2500 sq. ft. turn-of-the-century home. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, and den. All are large rooms. Oak crown mouldings, open staircase, French and pocket doors. Tin ceiling, stained glass windows. Many original features, new boiler and a/c. \$161,500. Call for more information: (708) 953-0369.

DUTCH FARM HOUSE — Dismantled and labeled. Circa 1745. Original Dutch door, floors, some woodwork, warming cupboard, and fireplace mantel. Blue prints, video, and photos available. Asking \$30,000. Leave message at (518) 853-4286.

TUB, CORBELS & FRETWORK — Footed 4' tub with no faucets, but in good condition: \$70. Eight matching big fancy corbels with peeling paint. 2' x 3', approximately 6" thick: \$300. Large, painted, squared off fretwork. 36" x 81". Missing some simple spindles: \$75. Call (718) 948-3626.

ORNATE STEAM RADIATORS — 9 in all, from 1870s Victorian home. Shell and ribbon motif. Manufactured by American Radiator Company. Various sizes, 4-18 ribs and 22-1/2" x 38-1/2" high. Also 3 standard radiators. \$500 or best offer. Nassau County, Long Island, N.Y. Call (516) 747-2318.

MISSION OAK COUCH — 77" long. Made by a Wisconsin craftsman in 1919. Original finish. New cushion. 504 Schoenbeck Rd., Prospect Hts. IL 60060, (708) 259-8405.

FIREPLACE MANTEL — Late 19th century. Rectangular black faux marble, slate. Cast iron frame (Graff & Co.). 8 pieces including wings and mantel with splash. Diamond incised design. \$750. Pictures available. Located in South Central PA. Call (717) 426-2230 evenings.

ORNATE VICTORIAN BED — American Renaissance bed, unusual mixture of rare chestnut with hand-carved walnut detailing. Excellent condition. Headboard, 98"; foot board, 48"; Max. mattress size, 58" x 76". This bed is an exquisite one-of-a-kind piece, with recessed arches on both the head and foot board. \$300 or best offer. Call (815) 939-4308.

BRONZE CAST DOOR HINGES — 100 years old. Raised decorations cast in exposed surfaces. Four size 5" x 6" and fourteen size 4-1/2" x 4-1/2". Make an offer. L. Odland, 225 Oak St., Hillsboro OH 45133.

INTERIOR SHUTTERS — Two complete sets from county courthouse, circa 1885. Each pair has 2 solid panels and 2 louvered panels. Stripped to original oak wood with all brass hinges and unique brass lever closure. Each pair measures 44-1/2" wide x 31" high. \$125 per pair. Call (712) 379-3791.

WALNUT VICTORIAN BED — Ornately carved 7-1/2' high head board. Lower height matching carved foot board, and carved side boards. \$2,500. Call (419) 673-4122.

RADIATOR COVER — 40"h x 13"d x 43"w. In excellent condition (new). It has a baked-on antique white finish. Please make an offer. Call (804) 625-7787.

DAVID LITTLE TAVERN — 1773. Dismantled for highway construction. Gambrel roof raised 1830 to create full 2nd storey; buyer can reconstruct either state. \$17,500 for oak frame, sheathing, many floorboards, paneled wainscot, and staircase, all documented for reassembly. For more information contact the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 940 Whitney Ave., Hamden CT 06517, Call for information: (203) 562-6312.

Hardwood Flooring

Mill Direct Pricing



Prefinished & Unfinished Plank
2-1/4 & 1-1/2 Strip, & Parquet

Oak, Ash, Walnut,
Heart Pine, Cherry,

...and more!

Timbers, Paneling,
Nail Base Panels,
Wood Shingles,
Stress Skin Panels,
Logs, Siding...and more!



(704) 264-2314

Route 2 Box 843, Boone, NC 28607
Call or write for Catalog

Timber Construction Specialists

Building a timber frame?
Call us for a list of timber framers in your area!

Fourth Bay HISTORIC TILE & FIREPLACES



Handmade tile and fireplaces imported from England. Tiles have lovely, intricate designs and numerous colors. Fireplaces are cast iron inserts for masonry or ZC applications. Burn wood, coal or gas. Call for free color catalog(s)!



Fourth Bay

10500 Industrial Drive
Garrettsville, OH 44231
800-321-9614 / (216)527-4343
FAX: (216)527-4346

Victorian
Gingerbread

Country
Trim



Quality Interior & Exterior
Wood Products Including:

Corner Brackets Corbels
Gable Trim Cornices
Running Trim Spandrels
Porch Accessories & MORE!

Custom Designing &
Manufacturing Welcomed

Send \$2. (Postage & Handling)
To Receive Your Full Line Illustrated CATALOG.

Empire Woodworks P.O. Box 407 Dept. 1 Johnson City, TX 78636

Build with EMPIRE - Build with The Best 512-868-7520

Address Changes

To change your address, inquire about your subscription, or renew it, contact:

Old-House Journal
P.O. Box 58017
Boulder, CO 80322-8017
(800) 234-3797

ALUMINUM PRODUCTS

Custom Fabrication

CORNICES
LOUVERS
CUPOLAS
COLUMNS
BALUSTRADES
SHUTTERS
URNS & BALLS

Baked on finishes available

call or write

CAMPBELLVILLE INDUSTRIES, INC.

P.O. Box 278, Dept. OHJ
Campbellville, KY 42718
502-465-8135

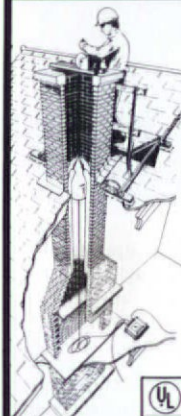
AHRENS

Relines/Restores
Masonry Chimneys

With The ONLY Listed Two-Liner Cast-In-Place Masonry Process

- First insulates and strengthens
- Second seals and protects
- Both are immune to acids and moisture
- No guess work. Mechanically applied.

- No exterior alterations.
- No metal to corrode.
- Improves heating efficiency — All for a fraction of the cost of rebuilding!



Dealership network nationwide.
Call or write for more information:

2000 Industrial Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

1-800-843-4417

MANY ANTIQUE REPRODUCTION STYLES IN STOCK

Specialists in replacement glass lamp shades

Cased Glass
Student Shades
Holograph Glass
Chandelier Glass
Banker's Lamp Shades
Torchiere • Prisms
Ceiling Globes
Hurricanes

Lamp Glass

SEND FOR OUR FREE CATALOG

2230 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140
(617) 497-0770

from the Heart of the South
Antique Pine Flooring

Newly milled from antique beams

Moldings Paneling
Cabinets Doors
Beams Stairtreads

ALBANY WOODWORKS
P.O. Box 729 - Albany, LA 70711
504/567-1155

ROSEWOOD SQUARE GRAND PIANO — Emerson, Boston 1880s. Plays beautifully with the rich tone of another era. Cabriole legs and lyre pedals. Complete with original bench. This is a rare instrument in remarkable condition. \$2,500 or best offer. For more details, call (503) 228-7956.

VICTORIAN WATER FOUNTAIN — 8' tall with 4 bowls measuring 36", 29", 23", and 12" wide. 4 swans at base. Photos are available, as well as shipping. \$1,200. For further information contact Thomas Thompson, 12623 Quercus Lane, West Palm Beach FL 33414, (407) 798-2152.

GALVANIZED HALF ROUND GUTTERS — Approximately 900 feet. Both 6 inch and 5 inch styles. They have been stored in a garage; never used. For further information contact C. Krauss, 80 Hurd St., Mine Hill NJ 07801, (201) 361-7460 after 7pm.

FRONT DOORS — Two with standard opening of 36" x 83-3/4". Both have beveled glass. One has 1/2 door with glass; the other has full length of door with beveled glass. For further information contact C. Krauss, 80 Hurd St., Mine Hill NJ 07801, (201) 361-7460 after 7pm.

KALAMAZOO WOOD-FIRED COOKSTOVE — Circa 1925 "Prince" model. Black cast iron with nickel plating and white enamel oven door. 2 warming ovens, 6 burners, oven with built-in thermometer. \$500. Brattleboro, VT. Call (802) 257-5401.

VICTORIAN PARLOR SIDE CHAIRS — Set of 4. Circa 1880. Button back. Salmon color upholstery. They are in perfect condition. Provenance furnished. \$860. For more details please call (617) 933-4636.

ANTIQU LIGHTING FIXTURES — Electric, gas. Fully restored. Chandeliers of different styles and arm sizes; brass, bronze, pewter, Deco, crystal. Magnificent French neo-classic, 9-light chandelier with individually wrapped prisms. Unusual sconces, hall and ceiling lights; brass, iron, art glass. For further information, call (215) 483-8221.

DOORS — Double exterior set 108" x 30" x 2-1/2". Second set 94" x 30" x 2-1/2". Both 1870s, ornately carved lower panels, hardwood, maybe black walnut. Need work. \$250. per set or B.O. Plus 12 interior doors, similar heights, style, and era. Parlor doors, some casings for rollers, \$50. each. Call (617) 262-9546.

PRIVATE ESTATE SALE — Victorian. Bicycles, dressers, beds, porcelain, boxes, trunks, ice tools, bottles, spinning wheel, 1893 world's fair books, magazines, sheet music, portrait prints, wood fireplace and marble sink. By appointment only. Call (914) 358-0035.

EASTLAKE CHAIRS — 4 cane bottom in all. 2 are complete, and 2 need cane. \$180. Photos are available. For further information contact C. Rhymer, 11 Carey Circle, Burlington NJ 08016, (609) 386-1058.

SINK, LIGHT & BED — Enameled iron pedestal sink with rounded rectangular contour. Brass dining room ceiling light fixture. Walnut spool double bed. Prices are very reasonable. For further information, call (201) 538-6288.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

THE KENTUCKY MUSEUM — "A Change of Style: Furniture From The Kentucky Museum". November 15, 1990 through November 14, 1991. Exhibited are examples of styles popular in the United States from 1740 to 1920, including some Shaker furniture from South Union, KY. For more information, call (502) 745-5263.

5TH BI-ANNUAL HISTORIC DISTRICT TOUR — Middletown, Ohio. December 9, 1990. Walking tour highlighted by horse and carriage rides, Christmas decorations raising holiday spirits, and beautiful architectural details of the homes themselves. Contact Debbie Suver, 218 S. Main St., Middletown OH 45044, (513) 424-5717.

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR — December 8 and 9, 1990. New Orleans, LA. Homes will be open from 1-4pm. Mansions will be festively decorated for the holiday season. Musicians and school groups will fill each home with the sounds of holiday music. Call The Preservation Resource Center at (504) 581-7032.

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS — The Historic General Dodge House of Council Bluffs, Iowa will be celebrate its Victorian Christmas November 20 through December 30, 1990. The entire house will be decorated with old-world charm. For more information call (712) 322-2406.



CRAFTS IN NOVEMBER — Saturday, November 3, 10am-5pm. Convention Hall, Cape May, New Jersey. 45 craftspeople will display and sell their handmade quilts, needlework, and clothing. Admission is \$2.50 per person. For more information, call Andrew Cripps at (609) 884-5404.

12TH ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES — Springfield Preservation and Restoration Tour of Homes November 3-4; Jacksonville, FL. Restored turn-of-the-century homes featured along with antiques and collectibles, craftsman seminars, and restoration how-to's. For further information call (904) 353-7727.

MUSEUM ANTIQUES SHOW & SALE — November 16 through 18, 1990 at the Atlanta Apparel Mart, Atlanta Georgia. The Preview Party is November 15, 7pm-10pm. It's a benefit for the High Museum. For more information, call (404) 898-1152.

OLD HOME TOUR — Pomona, CA. December 2, 1990. Six private residences will be open to visitors. Various architectural styles will be featured. 11am-5pm. Crafts, collectibles, restoration, and reproduction items will be sold. Antique cars will be displayed. For further information call (714) 623-7150.

FLORISSANT BY CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOUR — November 25, 1990 in St. Louis Missouri. This tour opens 5 or 6 private homes and several businesses from 3-7pm. Several homes are on the National Register of Historic Places. Refreshments served in each home. For more information, call (314) 837-3903.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR — Riverview Historic District Inc. Sunday, December 2, 1pm-5pm in Kankakee, Illinois, just 1 hour south of Chicago. 7 private homes which will be decorated for Christmas are to be featured. Refreshments will be served. A tax-deductible contribution of \$10 per person. For further information, call (815) 935-5596.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS — Museum open house and Victorian house tour. December 15-17, 1990. Searsport, ME. Tour 1800s sea captains homes in festive holiday decoration. Sponsored by the Penobscot Marine Museum and the Searsport Area Bed & Breakfast Assn. For further information, please call (207) 548-6510 or (207) 548-2529.

CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR — December 16, 1990 in Smithville, Texas from 2-5pm. Tour includes 4 houses from the 1890s and early 1900s, as well as a 1924 high school building scheduled for restoration. Tickets are \$5. For more information, contact Smithville Heritage Society, PO Box 332, Smithville TX 78957, (512) 237-4826.

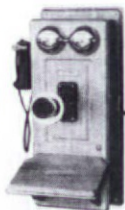
THE ART OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS — A 4-day seminar for professionals and collectors in Lancaster PA November 1-4, 1990. Features lectures and visits to museums and private collections. The program is part of the semi-annual Regional Heritage Series. For registration information, call the Center for Historic Houses at (202) 673-4025.

HOME RENOVATION WORKSHOP — Home renovations taught in classroom and hands-on workshops. An old house, used only for the course, provides on-site experience. For more information, call (412) 658-7002, or write to Home Renovation Workshop, 315 E. Northview Ave., New Castle PA 16105.

Classified ads in The Emporium are FREE to current subscribers for one-of-a-kind or non-commercial items, including swaps, things wanted or for sale, and personal house or property sales. Free ads are limited to a maximum of 50 words. Free ads and b&w photo or drawing printed on space available basis. For paid ads, rates are \$100 for the first 40 words, \$2.00 for each additional word. Photographs will be printed for an additional \$.75. Ads are reserved for preservation-related items: restoration services, real estate, inns and B&Bs, books and publications, etc. Deadline is the 1st of the month, two months prior to publication. For example, January 1st for the March/April issue. Sorry, we cannot accept ads over the phone. All submissions must be in writing and accompanied by a current mailing label (for free ads) or a check (for paid ads).

FARMERS LINE SET

This is a working replica of the 1907 original. FCC registered. Made in USA. Nickled brass bells ring for calls or when cranked. To dial calls slide shelf out to uncover dial or keypad. Solid oak case with quartered oak front & sides with dial \$327. - includes UPS to 48 states. Add \$10 for tone keypad.



Request free circular.

800-642-3966 Mon-Thurs 7 am-5 pm
MAHANTANGO MANOR
 Box 1700HJ, Dalmatia, PA 17017

DON'T PAINT YOUR RADIATORS

Paint drastically reduces the efficiency of steam & hot water radiators and wood enclosures are poor heat conductors.

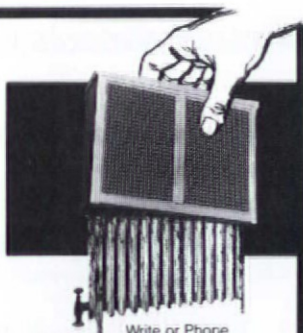
Affordable Ace Radiator Enclosures...

- ◆ Offer durability of steel with baked enamel finish in decorator colors
- ◆ Keep drapes, walls & ceilings clean
- ◆ Project heat out into the room

arsco

Manufacturing Co., Inc.
 3564 Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

FREE Estimates
 FREE Heat Efficiency Catalog



Write or Phone
 1-800-543-7040 Toll-Free
 1-513-385-0555 in Ohio (Collect)

BALDWIN

Lexington Design mortise lock handleset with knob and oval plate trim inside - polished brass \$180.00 prepaid in U.S.A. Miss. residents add 6% tax. Visa & Mastercard accepted
 Call toll-free 800-821-2750
 In Miss. call 800-321-8107
 Ask for the Hardware Department

Addkison
 HARDWARE CO. INC.

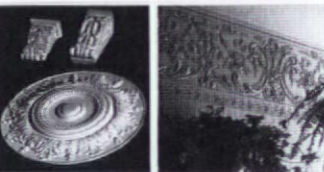
126 E. Amite St., PO Box 102,
 Jackson, MS 39205

THE STEWART IRON WORKS COMPANY
 Traditions in Ornamental Iron for over 100 years.

- ◆ Forge and anvil construction.
- ◆ Victorian/Edwardian styles.
- ◆ Fences/gates.
- ◆ Custom design.

Write for our new "1913 Catalog"
 (Enclose \$2 for handling and postage.)
 20 West 18th Street
 Covington, KY 41012-2612
 606-431-1985

Everything Victorian



- Fretwork gingerbread and lots more for interior and exterior use; most complete line available.
- Save with factory-to-you pricing.

Send \$4.50 for full color, 52-page product and design idea catalog.

Cumberland
Woodcraft Co.
 INC.

P.O. Drawer 609,
 Carlisle, PA 17013
 717/243-0063
 Dept. 188

REPLACE ROTTED SASH

Any style, any size. Wood storms and screens, too. Costs less than you think. Fast turn-around. Insulated glass available. Send \$1.50 for literature.



Midwest
Wood Products

1051 South Rolff Street, Davenport, Iowa 52802
 (319) 323-4757

Sandy Pond Hardwoods



LUMBER and FLOORING

TIGER and BIRD'S-EYE

Curley Ash, Curly Oak
 Curly Cherry, Curly Birch

(717) 284-5030

921-A Lancaster Pike, Quarryville, PA 17566

THE KENSINGTON CAST IRON STRAIGHT STAIRCASE BY STEPTOE



Make a Grand Entrance!

- intricate Victorian design
- modular components
- 36" width
- rugged cast-iron construction

Send \$3.00 for complete renovation catalogue.

100 years
 behind the times™

STEPTOE & WIFE
 ANTIQUES LTD
 322 Geary Ave.
 Toronto, Canada M6H 2C7
 (416) 530-4200

Protect Wall Corners The Great Old-fashioned Way

Our unfinished **Cornerbeads** compliment any period or decor. They're among hundreds of hard-to-find, "old style" items we have to enhance your old house or capture a bit of the past in your newer home. Each cornerbead is 47 1/2" x 1 1/2" dia., with 90° notch.

Beechwood. Ea. \$10.95; 6 or more \$9.30.
Oak. Each \$13.95; 6 or more \$11.85. **Add shipping:** \$2.50 (1-5); \$6.50 (6 or more). WI residents add 5% tax. VISA/MC. or AMEX accepted.

To Order Call TOLL-FREE

1-800-556-7878

Or, send for more information.

Crawford's
Old House Store

550 Elizabeth • Rm. 830 • Waukesha, WI 53186
 Dealer Inquiries Invited

Here are company catalogs and brochures worth writing for. And with the Request Form, you have a handy way to get as many catalogs as you need — just by filling out one form.

BUILDING COMPONENTS

1. Traditional Wood Columns — Wood columns from 4" to 50" dia. up to 35 ft. long. Matching pilasters and 6 styles of capitals. Ventilated aluminum plinth and column bases. Custom work done. Free catalog. **Schwerdt's**.

23. Chimney Flue Liner — Poured-in-place, two-liner system; no-mess one-day process. First liner strengthens and insulates; second liner seals & protects. UL listed. Nationwide. Free catalog. **Ahren's Chimney Technique**.

73. Restoration Glass — Imperfect glass is perfect for restoration work. Each sheet is by made using the original cylinder method. Call: (800) 221-7379. In NY, (212) 226-6370. Free brochure. **Bendheim Glass**.

91. Wide Boards — Wide pine or oak ship-lapped boards and feather-edged clapboards. Will consult/design wood flooring and panelling. Serves Maine to Maryland region. Free brochure. **Carlisle Restoration Lumber**.

113. Chimney Liner — System seals, relines, and rebuilds chimneys from inside out with poured refractory materials. It's especially effective for chimneys with bends and offsets. Free brochure. **National Supafly Systems**.

125. Roofing Tiles — These tile roofs get better with age and never need maintenance. Positively can't bur and can last 50 to 125 years. Color catalog shows 6 styles and 20 colors. Free catalog. **Vande Hey Raleigh**.

212. Extra-Wide Boards — Pine boards for flooring or panelling in widths from 12" to 24". Wide oak flooring from 4" to 9". Custom mouldings and millwork. Literature, 75¢. **Craftsman Lumber**.

215. Moisture Vents — Small, screened metal louvers, 1" to 6" dia., release moisture trapped in walls, cornices, soffits, etc. Just drill holes and press in place. Free literature. **Midget Louver**.

284. Dumbwaiters — Residential and commercial hand-operated dumbwaiters with lifting capacities from 65 to 500 lbs. Clerestory operators for awning and casement windows in hand-operated/electric models. Professional consultation. Free literature. **Whitco/Vincent Whitney**.

297. Raised Panelling — Oak Stile and rail panelling for wainscoting, walls, and boxed columns. Red-oak veneers trimmed with solid oak also available. Free flyer. **States Industries**.

350. Fireplaces, Mantels, Tile — Cast iron fireplaces for masonry or zero clearance installation, 38" X 38", 14" deep. Suitable to burn wood, coal, peat or gas. Period mantels and Victorian tile. Free brochure. **Fourth Bay**.

387. Quartersawn Clapboard — Vertical grain clapboard eliminates cupping and warping. These clapboards accept paint and stain extremely well. True representations of Colonial architecture. Free brochure. **Granville Manufacturing**.

408. Rumford Fireplace Kit — Rebuilding or converting a fireplace? This easy-to-do kit converts most gas and coal fireplaces. Call (614) 221-6131 for technical information. Free brochure. **Buckley Rumford Fireplace**.

479. Flooring Of All Kinds — This product line includes locust, cypress, and oak flooring. Paneling, sidings, shakes, fencing, and landscape timbers are also available through this firm. Free catalog. **Harmony Exchange**.

491. Rubber & Acrylic Roofing — Rubber roofing permanently waterproofs flat roofs. This paint-on rubber membrane ideal for restoring old asphalt or metal roofs. Call: (301) 366-1146. **Resource Conservation Technology**.

521. Heart Pine Flooring — Quality, remilled antique heart pine flooring and specialty millwork complemented by excellent customer service. Free literature. **Coastal Millworks**.

522. Milled Wood Products — Expertly milled to pattern for random width floor planning in oak, ash, cherry, and maple. Free brochure. **Southington Specialty Wood Co.**

523. Antique Lumber — Remilling of southern longleaf heart pine, chestnut, oak, poplar, fir, and white pine. Free brochure. **Vintage Lumber Company**.

524. Wide-Plank Flooring — Specialists in wide-plank flooring made from antique heart pine, oak, white pine, and new hardwoods. Country oak flooring is also available. Free literature. **The Woods Company**.

527. Antique Flooring — Antique wide pine flooring. Antique oak and chestnut are also available. Lengths up to 18', widths up to 14". Free brochure. **North Fields Restorations**.

532. Lumber & Flooring — Tiger and bird's-eye, curly ash, curly oak, curly cherry, and curly birch are available. Free literature. **Sandy Pond Hardwoods**.

DECORATIVE MATERIALS

20. Tin Ceilings — 22 original Victorian and Art Deco patterns available in nail up or lay in. Brass and copper patterns also. Cornices, pre-cut miters and center medallions. Brochure, \$1.25. **AA Abbingdon**.

27. Victorian Roomset Wallpapers — Complete collection of Victorian wallpapers to be combined in infinite variations. Neo-Grec; Anglo-Japanese; Aesthetic Movement. Catalog, \$10.25. **Bradbury & Bradbury**.

47. Tin Ceilings — 22 patterns of tin ceilings ideal for Victorian interiors. Patterns from Victorian to Art Deco. In 2' x 8' sheets; cornices in 4' lengths. Brochure, \$1.25. **Chelsea Decorative Metal**.

245. Plaster Ornaments — From late 19th- and early 20th-century period made in original moulds. Ceiling medallions, brackets, grilles, cornices, etc. Catalog, \$3.25. **Decorator's Supply**.

294. Plaster Ornament — Ornaments of fiber-reinforced plaster. Restoration work, and reproduction of existing pieces if a good example is supplied. Catalog of 1500 items, \$15.25. **Fischer & Jirouch**.

446. Antique Telephones — Telephones up to 60 years old rewired to work in your home. Other antiques available include kitchenware, bobbins, prints. Wholesale inquiries invited. Free brochure. **Sweet Antiques Gallery**.

516. Authentic Victorian Stencils — This company offers pre-cut stencils from original Victorian era stencil catalogs. Literature, \$3.00. **Epoch Designs**.

528. Finely Crafted Cupolas — For replication or restoration of historic homes buildings. Hand-seamed copper roofs. Reproduction weathervanes in many designs. Catalog \$1.25. **Denninger Cupolas & Weathervanes**.

530. Fine Yacht Joinery — Offering the interior design and workmanship a yacht owner requires to drive the maximum usefulness and enjoyment from the vessel. Free brochure. **Belkov Yacht Carpentry**.

DOORS & WINDOWS

9. Replacement Wood Windows — Learn what to look for in a replacement window, and how to install it. Get a thermally efficient, wood window. Free brochure. **Marvin Windows**.

32. Wooden Screen & Storm Doors — Wooden combination screen/storm doors; more thermally efficient than aluminum doors. Several styles and all sizes. Catalog, \$2.25. **Old Wagon Factory**.

53. Wooden Screen Doors — These doors blend function, fine craftsmanship and styling. Dozens of innovative styles to choose, ranging from the classic design to highly ornamental. Catalog, \$3.25. **Oregon Wooden Screen Door.**

83. Invisible Storm Windows — Match any window shape or color. Removable storm windows; inside or outside-mounted, screen and glass panels. Fixed, magnetic, sliding, or lift-out styles. Free brochure. **Allied Windows.**

317. Screen & Storm Doors — Custom Victorian and Country Bentwood screen doors. Storm doors and authentic hardware also. Other styles available include Colonial, Cape Cod, and Ranch. Catalog, \$2.25. **Grand Era Reproductions.**

354. Windows & Patio Doors — Perma-Sheild low maintenance windows, patio doors, "High-Performance" insulating glass, Frenchwood Patio Door, Circle Top windows and Concept IV sunspaces. Free booklet. **Andersen Windows.**

410. Colonial Woodwork — Hand-crafted custom-made interior and exterior 18th-century architectural trim. Finely-detailed Colonial doors, windows, shutters, wainscot and wall paneling also available. Brochure, \$2.25. **Maurer & Shepherd.**

FINISHES & TOOLS

31. Rotted Wood Restoration — 2-part epoxy system restores rotted wood, so you can save historically significant and hard-to-duplicate pieces. Repairs can be sawn, drilled, sanded, or painted. Free brochure. **Abatron.**

35. Plaster Washers — These inexpensive washers can resecure loose ceilings as well as walls. Starter packet of 3 doz. washers with instructions, \$4.30. **Charles Street Supply.**

341. Paints, Brushes & Tools — Quality, hand-made brushes. Violin, salad bowl and tung varnishes, hard trim enamels, bronzing powders, asphaltum. Marble, graining, striae and sponge tools and glazes. Catalog, \$4.25. **Liberty Paint.**

365. Fireplace Repair — A full line of chimney/fireplace maintenance and repair products including gaskets, cleaners, caulking, patching, specialty paint products. Free catalog. **Rutland Products.**

439. Molder-Planer — Superior US-made construction and 2-minute cutter changes make this a fast, easy and dependable tool. 5-year warranty. Free information kit. **Williams & Hussey.**

525. Polishes & Waxes — Paste waxes for cleaning, protecting, and beautifying wood floors, furniture, antiques, and

paneling. How-to-booklet, .75¢. **The Butcher Company.**

531. Wood Floor Finishes — From tung oil to urethane to waterborne wood finishes. Proven products since 1916. Free product list. **Waterlox Corporation.**

FURNISHINGS

22. Nottingham Lace Curtains — Real Victorian lace, woven on 19th-century machinery, using original designs. Panels are 6" wide, 95% cotton, 5% polyester. Brochure, \$5.25. **J.R. Burrows & Co.**

42. Country Curtains — Curtains in cotton, muslin, permanent-press, etc. Ruffles, fringe, braid, or lace trim. Bedspreads, dust ruffles, canopy covers, and tablecloths. Free catalog. **Country Curtains.**

192. Hand-Tied Fishnet Canopies — Custom bedspreads, coverlets, dust ruffles, lap blankets, woven Colonial spreads and many other country items. Color brochure, \$1.25. **Carter Canopies.**

209. Victorian Oak Furniture — 3 barns full of antique furniture. One of New England's largest collections. For current selection, call (413) 527-1022. **Southampton Antiques.**

221. Restored Antique Fans — Restoring and selling of antique fans and parts. Large, changing inventory. The proprietor has written a book on the history of fans. Detailed brochure, \$2.25. **The Fan Man.**

490. Arts & Crafts Furniture — Authentic reproductions of Arts & Crafts movement furniture, movement style interiors with built-in cabinetry. For more information call: (914) 339-6146. **The Vulpiani Workshop.**

529. On-Canvas Replicas — Re-creating the colors, details, and textures of original oil paintings. Elegantly framed portraits, impressionists, landscapes, and more. 92-page color catalog. \$5.25. **The Masters' Collection.**

LIGHTING FIXTURES

4. Victorian Lighting Fixtures — Authentic reproduction Victorian and turn-of-the-century electric and gas chandeliers and wall brackets. Solid brass with variety of glass shades. Catalog, \$5.25. **Victorian Lighting Works.**

10. Craftsman Lighting — Reproduction Craftsman chandeliers and sconces fit into any Bungalow, Mission, Foursquare, or traditional home. Fixtures in solid brass or cast iron. Free catalog. **Rejuvenation Lamp & Fixture.**

26. Push-Button Switches — Quality reproductions of push-button light switches. Switch plates are available in either plain brass or ornamented. Brochure, \$1.25. **Classic Accents.**

400. Lighting Fixtures — Architectural ornaments and antiques dating from 1880 through 1930. Stock reproduction iron spiral staircase, as well as ceiling and wall lighting fixtures. Free brochure. **Urban Archaeology.**

METALWORK

55. Custom-Made Plaques — Historic markers for indoor or outdoor use. Standard solid-bronze cast plaques, 7 in. x 10 in., are \$90 plus shipping. Other dimensions and styles available. Free brochure. **Erie Landmark.**

122. Ornamental Iron Fencing — Custom made fences and gates. Matching of old fences using authentic Victorian patterns and castings. Complete catalog, \$2.25. **Stewart Iron Works.**

307. Fireplace Firebacks — Large collection of antique replica firebacks. Authentic cast-iron plates make fireplaces safer, more efficient and more beautiful. Catalog, \$2.25. **Country Iron Foundry.**

MILLWORK & ORNAMENT

2. Heart Pine Flooring — Flooring cut from 200-year-old-lumber. Heart-pine wainscotting, hand-hewn beams, mantels, and stair parts. For \$25 sample pack, call (800) 726-7463. Brochure, \$5.25. **The Joinery.**

13. Victorian Gingerbread — Authentic Victorian millwork for interior and exterior porch posts, corner fans, balusters, brackets, corbels, headers, gazebo, and more. Illustrated catalog, \$2.00. **Vintage Wood Works.**

43. Colonial Millwork — 18th- and 19th-century millwork: open and closed pediment doorways, Palladian windows, mortise and tenon sashes, panelled fireplace walls, featheredge wainscot, and much more. Catalog, \$3.25. **Architectural Components.**

44. Victorian Millwork — 19th-century designs in solid oak and poplar: fretwork, brackets, corbels, grilles, turnings, and gingerbread precision manufactured so product groups fit together. Catalog, \$4.75. **Cumberland Woodcraft.**

260. White-Pine Shutters — Constructed of white pine with 2-inch wide movable louvers. These shutters are available in custom sizes and are designed to fit circular windows. Free brochure. **American Heritage Shutters.**

PRODUCTS NETWORK

392. Heart Pine Flooring — Specializing in reasonably priced heart pine lumber since 1972. Plank flooring, over 150 years old, is also available. Free brochure. **Vintage Pine Company.**

442. Reproduction & Custom Woodwork — Mouldings, columns, redwood gutters, siding, balusters, and much more. Let them help you with your custom wood projects. Free brochure. **Blue Ox Millworks.**

454. Victorian Gingerbread — Interior/exterior Victorian wood work: brackets, spandrels, mouldings, pickets, porch parts, roof trim, etc. Catalog/newsletter, \$2.25. **Hicksville Woodworks Co.**

465. Virgin Heart Pine Flooring — All the information about virgin heart pine. Names and numbers of professional flooring installers and finishers are provided. Free literature. **Goodwin Lumber.**

487. Wood Products — Corner brackets, corbels, gable trim, spandrels, porch accessories, and more. Custom designing and manufacturing welcomed. Catalog, \$2.25. **Empire Woodworks.**

496. Architectural Accoutrements — Architectural embellishments carved in solid woods. Catalog available to the trades when requested on professional letterhead: 16506 Avalon Blvd., Carson CA 90746. Brochure, \$1.25. **Raymond E. Enkeboll Designs.**

517. Antique Building Materials — Remilled from virgin-growth southern heart pine/heart cypress. Flooring, stairtreads, doors, beams and more. Brochure and samples, \$3.75. **Albany Woodworks.**

518. Custom Turnings — Newel posts, porch posts, column bases, fluting, spiral rope twist, etc. Custom orders. Catalog, \$2.75. **Custom Wood Turnings.**

PLUMBING & HARDWARE

11. Old-Style Fixtures — Claw-foot tubs, showers, pedestal sinks, high-tank toilets, etc. Antique/reproduction. Hard-to-find parts. Catalog, \$6.25. **Roy Electric.**

18. Victorian Hardware — 18th- and 19th-century reproduction hardware for doors, windows, shutters, cabinets, furniture. High-security locks with period appearance. Catalog, \$5.25. **Ball & Ball.**

193. Bathroom Fixtures — Turn-of-the-century and country bath decor: Brass, porcelain and oak furnishings both reproduction and antique. Complete catalog, \$3.25. **Bathroom Machineries.**

397. Hard-to-find Hardware — Decorative hardware for doors, windows, furniture and cabinets. Brass, iron, glass knobs, and much more. All periods from 16th-century thru the 1930s. Catalog, \$3.50. **Crown City Hardware.**

303. Fancy Plumbing Fixtures — Product line includes pedestal lavatories, Victorian-style washstands, drop-in-basins, plumbing hardware, mantels, and more. Catalog, \$4.00. **Ole Fashion Things.**

RESTORATION SUPPLIES/ SERVICES

5. Pigeon Control — Get rid of birds with inconspicuous stainless steel needles that eliminate roosting places without harming your building. Free brochure available. **Nixalite of America.**

312. Chimney Sweeps — Maintenance, repair, restoration for your chimney. Tri-State area, call: (800) 479-7722. **Certified Chimney Sweeps, Inc.**

319. Porcelain Refinishing — Restoration and refinishing of worn and damaged bathroom and kitchen fixtures. Also sells franchises world-wide. Call (602) 885-7397. Free brochure. **Perma-Glaze.**

360. Custom Refinishing — Color blending, stripping, refinishing, and wood restoration of older homes and monuments. Free brochure. **Wayne Towle.**

367. Refractory Fireplaces — Don't send heat up the chimney. Less cleaning, no need for fans. Call: (800) 553-5322. **Sleepy Hollow Chimney Supply.**

424. Architectural Refinishing — A unique system for refinishing. Non-flammable, non-caustic, washes away in water. Money back guarantee. Catalog, \$1.25. **On Site Wood Restoration.**

500. Portraits Of Your Building — Original pen and ink renderings of your home, business or historic building. For framing, letterhead, cards. Free literature. **Architectural Caricatures.**

Literature Request Form

Circle the numbers of the items you want, and enclose \$2 for processing. We'll forward your request to the appropriate companies. They will mail the literature directly to you...which should arrive 30 to 60 days from receipt of your request. Price of literature, if any, follows the number. Your check, including the \$2 processing fee, should be made out to Old-House Journal.

1. Free	31. Free	125. Free	319. Free	439. Free	523. Free
2. \$5.25	32. \$2.25	176. Free	341. \$4.25	442. Free	524. Free
4. \$5.25	35. \$4.30	192. \$1.25	350. Free	446. Free	525. 75¢
5. Free	42. Free	193. \$3.25	354. Free	454. \$2.25	527. Free
9. Free	43. \$3.25	215. Free	360. Free	465. Free	528. \$1.25
10. Free	44. \$4.75	221. \$2.25	365. Free	479. Free	529. \$5.25
11. \$6.25	47. \$1.25	245. \$3.25	387. Free	487. \$2.25	530. Free
13. \$2.00	53. \$3.25	260. Free	392. Free	496. \$1.25	531. Free
18. \$5.25	55. Free	267. Free	397. \$3.50	500. Free	532. Free
20. \$1.25	73. Free	284. Free	400. Free	516. \$3.00	
22. \$5.25	83. Free	294. \$15.25	408. Free	517. \$3.75	
23. Free	91. Free	303. \$4.00	409. Free	518. \$2.75	
26. \$1.25	113. Free	307. \$2.25	410. \$2.25	521. Free	
27. \$10.25	122. \$2.25	317. \$2.25	424. \$1.25	522. Free	

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Total \$ _____

Postage & Handling \$ _____ 2.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to:
Old-House Journal, Products Network, 123 Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930
This card must be mailed before March 31, 1991

9012

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Products Network No.	Page No.		
20	AA Abbingdon Affiliates	49	44 Cumberland Woodcraft
31	Abatron	13	518 Custom Wood Turnings
203	Addison Hardware	75	245 Decorator's Supply Corp.
23	Ahren's Chimney Technique	73	528 Denninger Cupolas & Weathervanes
517	Albany Woodworks, Inc.	73	Durable Goods
83	Allied Windows	47	487 Empire Woodworks
260	American Heritage Shutters	57	496 Raymond E. Enkeboll Designs
354	Andersen Windows	5 Inside Back Cover
19	Anthony Wood Products	59	516 Epoch Designs
	Antique Doorknob Company	49	55 Erie Landmark Co.
500	Architectural Caricatures	7	221 The Fan Man
43	Architectural Components	57	177 Fastenation
	ARSCO Manufacturing Co.	75	294 Fischer & Jirouch
18	Ball & Ball	7	350 Fourth Bay
425	The Bank Architectural Antiques	45	465 Goodwin Lumber
193	Bathroom Machineries	9	317 Grand Era Reproductions
530	Belkov Yacht Carpentry Co.	55	387 Granville Manufacturing Co.
73	Bendheim Glass	7	479 Harmony Exchange
442	Blue Ox Millworks	15	454 Hicksville Woodworks Co.
27	Bradbury & Bradbury	12	390 Horton Brasses
389	Sylvan Brandt	15	2 The Joinery
	Bruce Post Company	61	430 Lamp Glass
408	Buckley Rumford Fireplace Company	49	341 Liberty Paint Catalogue
22	J.R. Burrows & Company	55	MacQuarrie & Niccum
525	The Butcher Company	21	173 Mad River Woodworks
59	Campbellsville Industries	73	Mahantango Manor, Inc.
91	Carlisle Restoration Lumber	49	9 Marvin Windows
192	Carter Canopies	63	529 The Masters' Collection
312	Certified Chimney Sweeps	21	410 Maurer & Shepherd Joiners
35	Charles Street Supply	19	215 Midget Louver Company
	Charlotte Cermic Tile School	61	16 Midwest Wood Products
47	Chelsea Decorative Metal Co.	13	6 Monarch Radiator Enclosures
94	Chicago Old Telephone Co.	71	113 National Supaflu Systems
26	Classic Accents	10	5 Nixalite of America
521	Coastal Millworks	21	527 North Fields Restorations
42	Country Curtains	71	32 The Old Wagon Factory
307	The Country Iron Foundry	55	303 Ole Fashion Things
212	Craftsman Lumber	63	424 On Site Wood Restoration
51	Crawford's Old House Store	75	53 Oregon Wooden Screen Door
397	Crown City Hardware	12	319 Perma Glaze, Inc.
			436 Phone Wizard
			Plantation Mantels
			Sandy Pond Hardwoods
			24 Reggio Register
			10 Rejuvenation Lamp & Fixture Company
			491 Resource Conservation Technology
			11 Roy Electric Co.
			365 Rutland Products
			Salt & Chestnut
			1 Schwerd Manufacturing
			7 Shuttercraft
			15 Silverton Victorian Millworks
			367 Sleepy Hollow Chimney
			30 Smith-Cornell
			209 Southampton Antiques
			Southington Specialty Woods
			297 States Industries
			Stencil World
			14 Steptoe & Wife
			122 Stewart Iron Works
			446 Sweet Antiques Gallery
			Touchstone Woodworks
			360 Wayne Towle, Inc.
			Treasure The Past
			67 Tremont Nail Co.
			469 Triarco, Inc.
			400 Urban Archaeology
			125 Vande Hey Raleigh
		 Inside Front Cover
			Vaughan & Bushnell
			4 Victorian Lighting Works
			523 Vintage Lumber
			392 Vintage Pine Company
			13 Vintage Wood Works
			490 The Vulpiani Workshop
			531 Waterlox Chemical & Coatings
			284 Whitco/Vincent Whitney
			439 Williams & Hussey
			230 Williamsburg Blacksmiths
			Wind & Weather
			524 The Woods Company

ADVERTISING SALES OFFICES

ADVERTISING OFFICE

123 Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930
(800) 356-9313

Becky Bernie, Sales
Ellen Higgins, Production
Bill O'Donnell, Advertising Director

MIDWEST SALES OFFICE

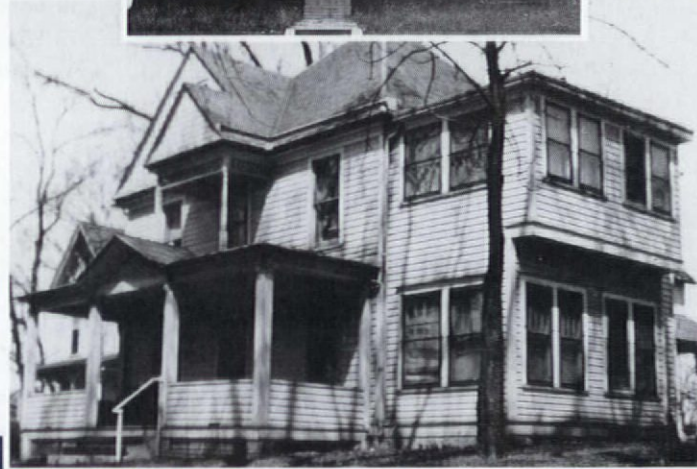
Robert R. Henn and Associates
20500 Hellenic Drive, Olympia Fields, IL 60461
(708) 748-1446

Robert Henn
Nancy Bonney

Additions That Subtract

“Sometimes a fate worse than destruction befalls old houses: They are converted into student rooms and small apartments. The location of this unfortunate house, just five blocks from the University of Iowa campus, almost ensured its remuddled fate.

“The earliest photographs of it are from around 1935 (right top), just before its conversion to multiple use. Fifty years old, it was already in less-than-pristine condition, with a two-storey sleeping porch that was almost certainly an early-20th-century addition. Yet most of its original charm remained: the complex roof line and shingled gables, the varied window-pane patterns, the spindle-



work, turned support posts, and Chippendale fretwork on the porch.

“By 1941, the approximate date of the second photo [left middle], most of that original detailing had disappeared, either ripped off or buried beneath siding.

“What can you say about its current appearance [left bottom]? It looks like it was built by a committee without a chairperson: The roof has exploded with small square additions; its sides and rear elevations swell with similar expansions. Yet amid it all, there remains the small second-storey gabled porch with its turned posts and eave decoration — the only hint of what was.”

— Jan R. Nash
Iowa City, Iowa

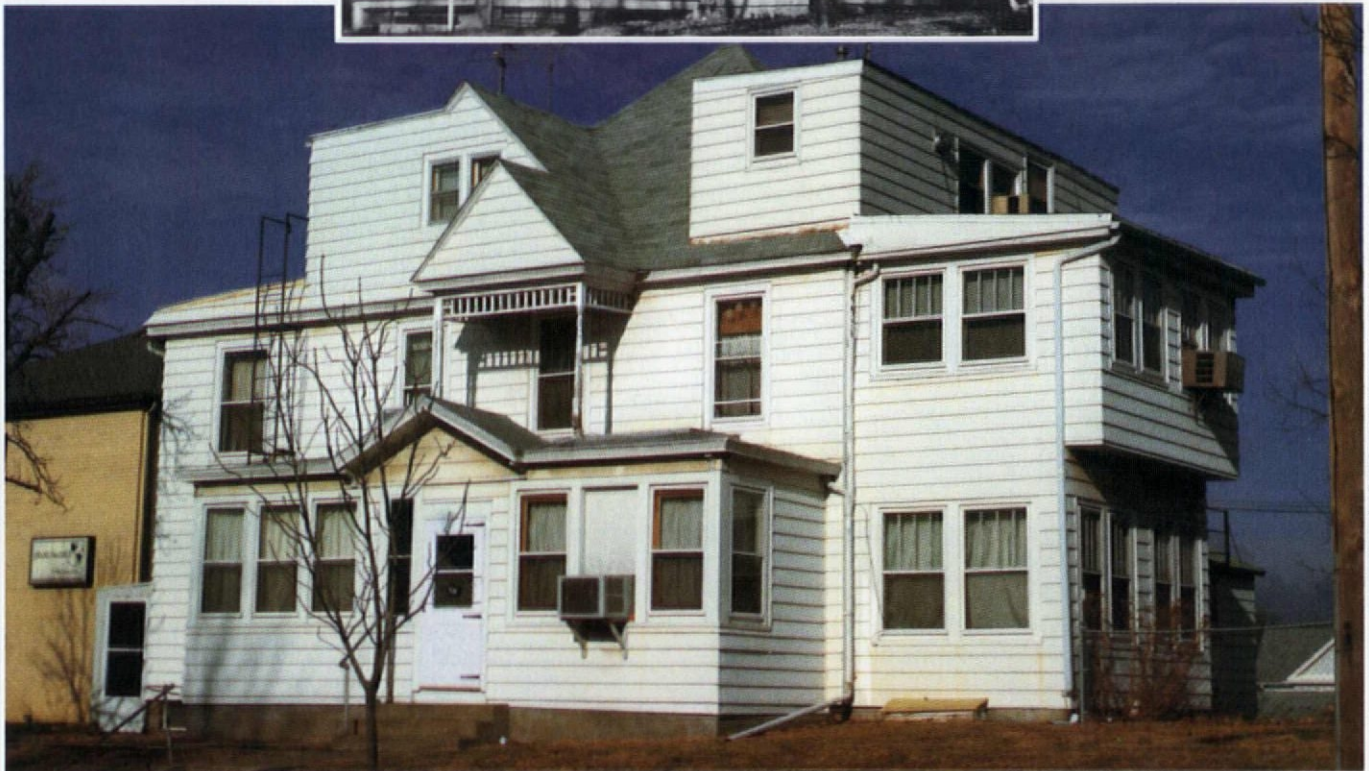
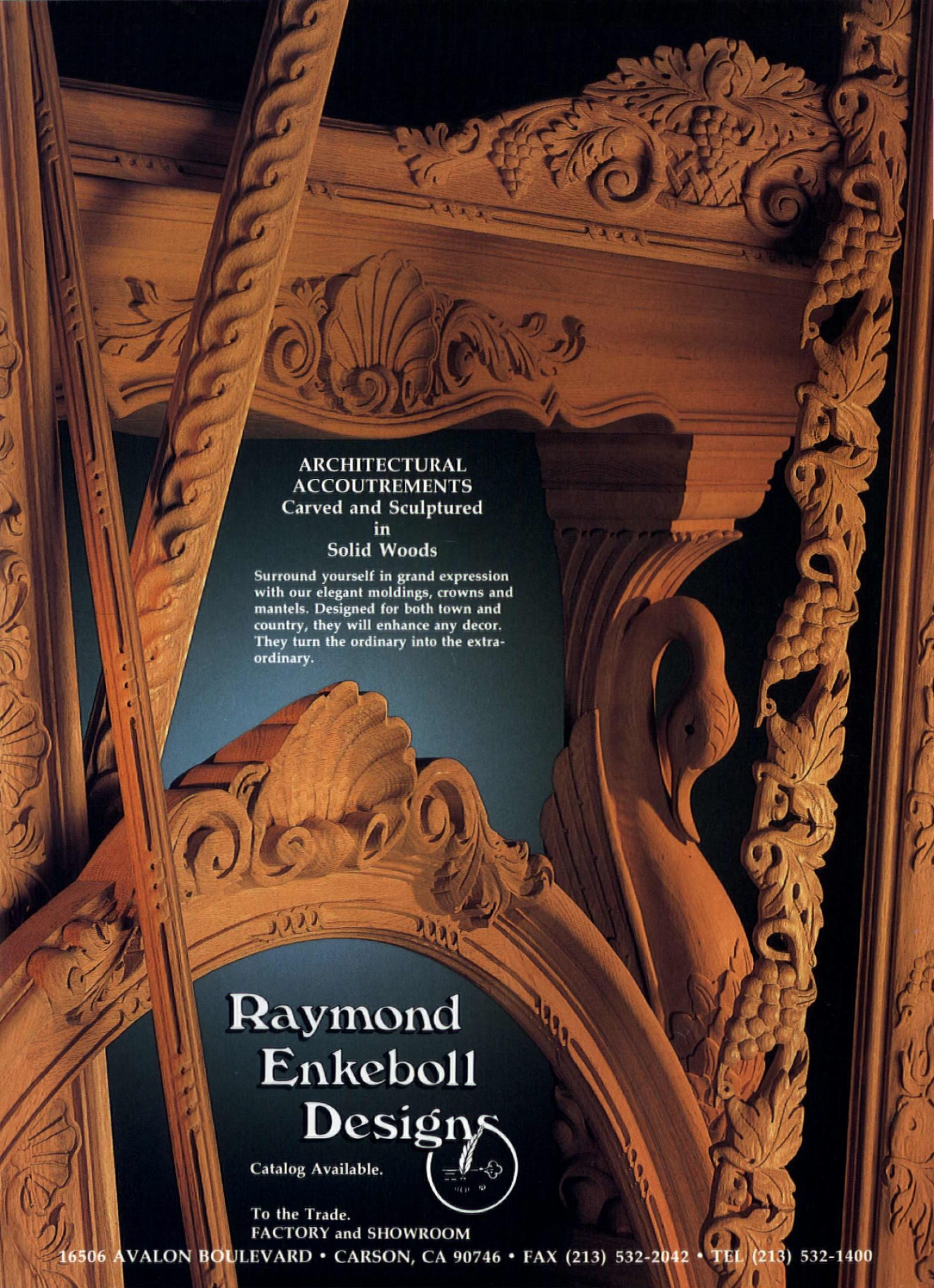


photo courtesy Fred Kent Photo Collection, University of Iowa Archives, Iowa City, Iowa



ARCHITECTURAL
ACCOUTREMENTS
Carved and Sculptured
in
Solid Woods

Surround yourself in grand expression with our elegant moldings, crowns and mantels. Designed for both town and country, they will enhance any decor. They turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Raymond
Enkeboll
Designs

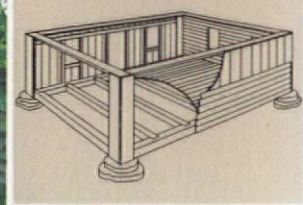
Catalog Available.



To the Trade.
FACTORY and SHOWROOM

16506 AVALON BOULEVARD • CARSON, CA 90746 • FAX (213) 532-2042 • TEL (213) 532-1400

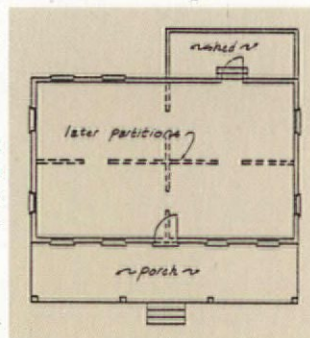
Vernacular Houses



Board-frame construction remained a viable, and often preferred, building technique in White County through the 1930s. Pictured above is the Ike Wood House (circa 1890).

Shown at the upper right are details of board-frame construction: Builders began with hewn 6- \times -8 or 8- \times -8 sills that were placed on rock or brick piers. Two boards were first attached to each corner. After the four corners were erected, a 2- \times -6 plate connected the corners. Wide boards called "boxing" were then nailed to the sill and plate to secure the walls. These structural boards served as a surface for both interior and exterior sheathing. Window openings were framed with 2 \times 4s.

The typical early board-frame house was a "single-pen" structure, with a full-length porch supported by plain posts. Later, rooms were created with the addition of simple non-bearing partitions (see plan drawing, right).



Arkansas Board-Frame Houses

Derived from the more elaborate plank-wall or plank-frame houses in New England, board-frame houses can be found throughout Arkansas, as well as in the area from the Appalachian mountains into Missouri and west Texas. In Arkansas, the houses date from as early as the 1870s to well into the 20th century.

Sometimes called "board shanties," board-frame houses were built as dwellings for seasonal labor and tenant farmers in rural communities or sometimes as temporary first houses on new farms. Later, the building method began to be used for the homes of more affluent farmers, and in White County, for instance, examples of these houses can be found with special features such as cut-stone chimneys, attached and recessed porches, and door, window, and eave trim.

The basic construction technique consisted of erecting a light wood frame of sills and joists. Vertical boards were nailed over this, creating a semi-rigid structure. In New England, 2"-thick planks were rabbeted into the sill, but the Arkansas houses frequently had only 3/4"-thick boards held together with nails. Horizontal siding was finally nailed over the vertical boards, making the structure a sound one. This three-board construction is remarkably similar to the sandwich-board system of Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian houses.

— David Brown, Steve Mitchell, & Michael Swanda

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Little Rock, Arkansas