

Historical aspects enhanced

by Cindy Davidson

WALKERTON—Owning a house with historical value is one thing, but maintaining it is another.

Bob Flock, owner of one of the few heritage homes in Walkerton, found that out last summer. Flock, and his wife, Fran, bought the former Roland house on Jackson Street about six years ago. Last summer he decided to repair the balcony on the house.

It turned into an expensive project that started in the spring and lasted the entire summer. The results, though, are pleasing, he said, especially because the project enhanced the historical aspect of the house. The balcony is actually called a Riverboat Verandah, and is one of the special features of the home.

If Flock had just wanted to replace the verandah, it may not have been such an intense job, but it was important to him to try to restore it to its original state. He said he is confident the finished product is "pretty well 100 per cent" like the original, including the shape of the spindles and the color of the paint.

Though it was an expensive project, Flock was helped with a grant through Heritage Walkerton, a group that works to preserve heritage

in this area. Flock received the designated property grant under the Preserving Ontario Architecture Program.

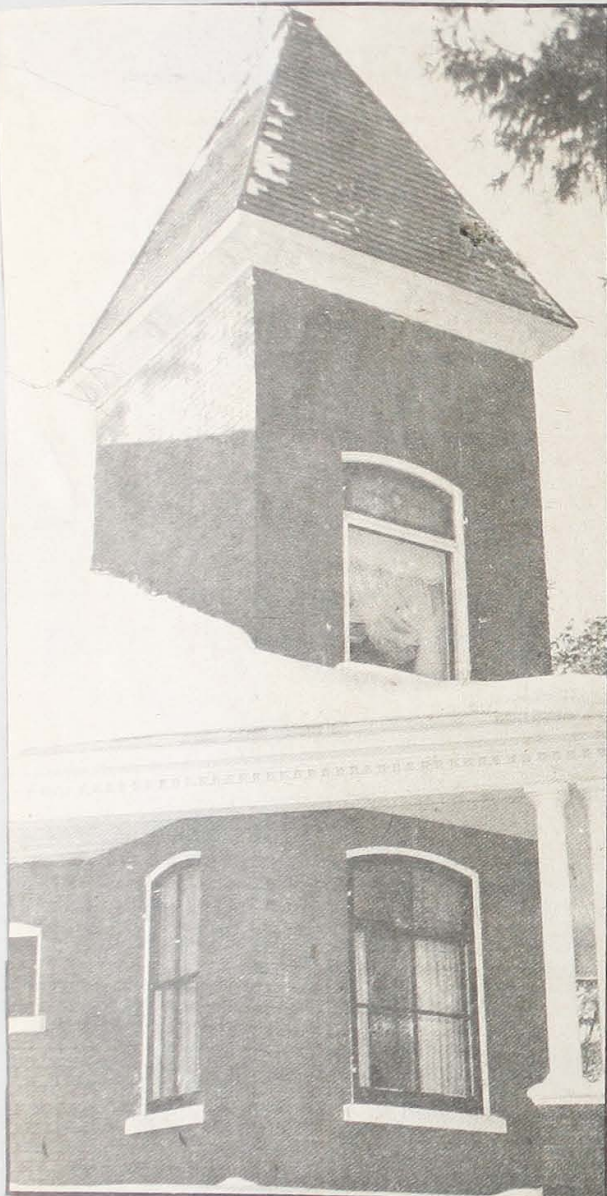
Flock was fortunate in that he had no trouble finding a contractor to handle the project. John Osthoff of RR 3, Hanover, has worked on other historical restoration projects and together, he and Flock tackled it themselves. They worked with the original blueprints of the house and found local people to supply the paint, turn the posts, and replace the sheet metal floor.

Since buying the house, Flock said the verandah project is the first major renovation they have undertaken. He said the home, which dates back to about 1906, is in remarkable shape. Before buying it, it had been in one family. When the Flocks bought it, much of the original furniture came with it.

The Flocks are in the midst of their next major project, painting the exterior of the house. Again, they will try to match the color to the original.

"We're trying to stay away from doing anything that would take away from the heritage aspect of the house. My purpose in getting

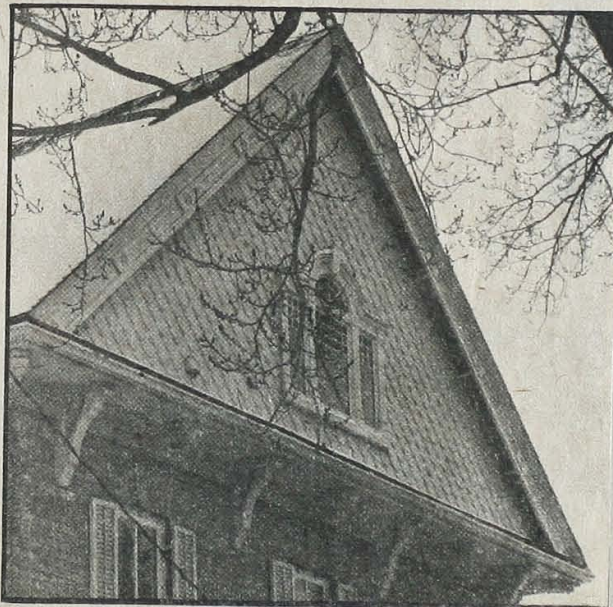
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THE SQUARED OFF TOWER on the Klein/McKenzie House is unique. The tower, American in origin, is another example of the Queen Anne style in town homes. (Stull photo)



THE RAREST EXAMPLE of the Italianate style in the province, including the projecting frontace piece, is found in the Alton house which is located on Colborne Street. (Stull photo)



WHERE ONE WOULD USUALLY FIND SHINGLES, the Dickson/Hall House boast pressed metal cladding. The house, now owned by Dr. Michael Hurley, also boasts a Palladian window taken from those used in Georgian style buildings.