

Historical homes

Home built by Economist founder

Senator David Reesor House

by Merilyn McKelvey This article is part of a series of articles on buildings in the Town of Markham.

David Reesor is one of Markham's most famous native sons. Born in the Township in 1823, he was a grandson of Christain and Fanny Reesor, among the earliest pioneers of the area, from Pennsylvania.

Appointed a magistrate at the age of 26, David Reesor founded the Markham Economist newspaper (later to merge with the Sun) in 1856. It was a Reformist paper and Reesor used it to outline his ideas and policies when he ran for political office.

Reesor was elected to represent the people of the township at all levels of government. He was a member of the Markham Township council, York County Council and the King's Division of the Legislative Council of Canada, from 1860 to the year of Confederation.

With Confederation, Reesor was appointed by Prime Minister John A. Macdonald as one of Canada's first senators. He subsequently retired as a newspaper publisher and sold the Economist to Henry Ryan Corson.

It was during his years as a Senator, in 1873, that Reesor built a new home at 166 Main Street North in the Village of Markham. The round-headed windows suggest the Italianate style of architecture. On the north side, a portecochere provides protection to travellers getting in and out of their vehicles.

The house at 166 Main :Street North served as the Senator's home for only three years, for in -1876, he and his wife Emily McDougall moved to Rosedale, Toronto,



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where he lived to the age of 79. The Reesor's children included Augusta Coburn, Jessie Holmes, Annette Reesor, William D. Reesor and

Nellie Stinson.

Reesor house were Mr. and Mrs. Arnot Cournans. The house had been divided into three apartments when Mr. Dixon bought it in 1957. It is now the Dixon-Garland Later owners of the Funeral Home, with an

floors. The main rooms are receiving rooms and a chapel and garage have been added to the rear of the original house. The fireplace and mantel can be found in the living

apartment on the upper room and most of the moulding still graces the doorways, baseboards and windows. An ornate, quarter round staircase winds up from the central hallway to the second

"Retirement"

THE FOURTH QUARTER

By LESLIE HOLBROOK-Satisfactory, afadequate to the latest in particularly costly.

fordable housing is high on most mature folks' priority lists.

It runs in third spot judging from my "fan mail" - next to general money matters (rising food prices, inadequate pensions and such) and health and sex after sixty.

This week I get back to our shelter for seniors series by starting a study of modular (so-called mobile) housing. Modular housing

communities have little or nothing in common with trailer camps and those recreational vechicles (RV's) you pull (trailers) or drive (motorhomes). The only thing

"mobile" about the modern modular home is that first and only trip it takes from factory to a permanent site.

ranges from barely home in the south can be

luxury living, at prices below what you would pay for similar accommodation in a conventional single-dwelling

There is evidence to support the developer's sales pitch that you can buy two modular homes with the proceeds from the sale of your old family home (thus having the best of two worlds -Canada in our warmweather months, the sunny south in winter). Older couples tell me how they have done just that

year round. But it is becoming more difficult to do this as mobile home prices keep going up - seemingly at a faster rate, now, than increasing values of conventional housing. Mobile housing Currently that winter

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and report on the joys of

mild temperatures the

My wife and I have just examined (April 1978) an excellent Florida mobile home community, for adults only, Canadian owned and operated.

Prices started at a basic \$22,990 and ran to \$57,000 for the top model. It's a bit like buying a car because to these basic prices there are additional costs for Flordia rooms, bay windows, shutters, dishwashers,

To those prices you had to add 13 per cent (in 14'. Their monthly ground April) to compensate for rent is \$50, taxes are \$20 the shrinking Canadian dollar and a 4 per cent State sales tax.

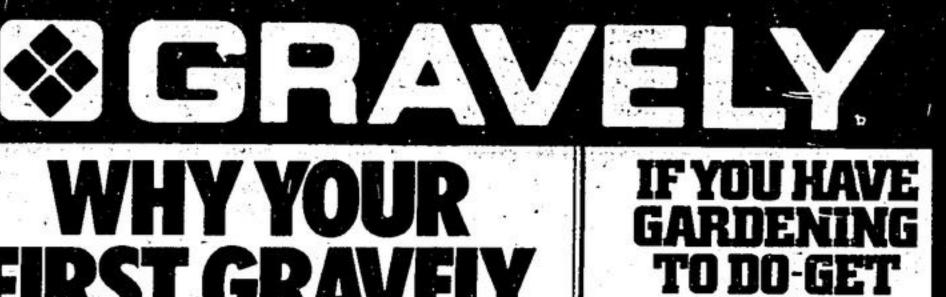
furnish the home. (It is outlay, including not practicable to move telephone and cable TV, many of your Canadian is under \$130. belongings down.) estimate \$5,000 for this but you could trim it quite a bit if you stuck to essentials.

Monthly ground rent and maintenance ran from \$100 to \$135.

There are, of course, less expensive mobile homes which many would find sufficient. One couple reports a high level of satisfactory living with a modest. place in the south and quite a good mobile home. in a large Ontario mobile community. They paid \$17,900 for

their Canadian mobile home, measuring 68' by per month and hydro (including electric heating) runs about \$500 Then you have to per year. Total monthly

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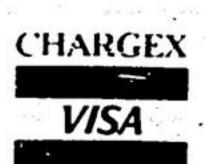
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