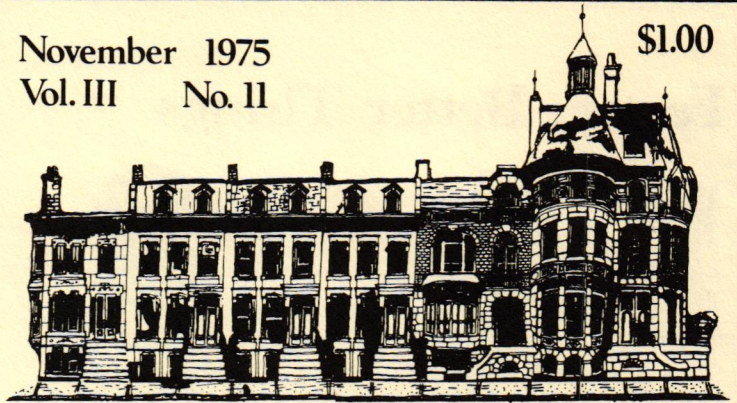


# THE OLD-HOUSE JOURNAL

November 1975  
Vol. III No. 11

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Renovation And Maintenance Ideas For The Antique House

Part II

## Wood Mouldings In Early American Detail

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### Coming Next Month

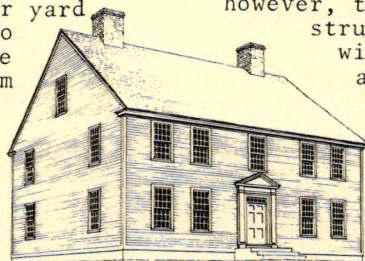
REPAIRING SLATE ROOFS

**T**HERE ARE MANY REASONS why a home-owner might want to add architectural detail to doorways, windows, walls, or mantels. Some or all of the architectural trim may have been destroyed over the years; a new addition may require the kind of decoration found in the older part of the house to unify the whole structure; or the house may have been built originally without these important details.

THERE ARE MANY OLD HOUSES that were constructed by a builder who was so rushed he didn't have time to put in all that he could have. Or perhaps the owner couldn't afford any more than the plainest construction. If the window of a house has nothing better looking than plain, flat boards covering the gap between the frame and the plaster wall, there is no reason why the present owner shouldn't add the kind of detailing that is appropriate to the period of the house.

WOOD MOULDINGS from the local lumber yard will add visual interest and is also the kind of project that can be done a little at a time. The added charm that results can also increase the value of the house.

THERE ARE SOME RULES to keep in mind before lifting hammer or saw. Exterior and interior trim should be related. Additionally, the



moulding used on the mantel should be the same as that used around doorways and windows. The trim on exterior windows should relate to the entrance way.

**A**LSO, the period of the house must be taken into consideration. A small survey of surrounding old houses built around the same time, and a review of pictures in the local historical society, library, or architectural books will provide a focus and some ideas. Keeping the house in period is not so difficult as it sounds; the home-owner who will be using stock mouldings in a fairly simple, classical manner will find that arrangements of crown mouldings, picture frame mouldings, etc, are appropriate to the popular Federal and Greek Revival periods.

THE VICTORIAN STYLES are another matter and usually require more than stock mouldings to reproduce. There are some interior features, however, that are relatively simple to construct with stock mouldings and they will be shown in further issues about about wall treatments.

THE FARMHOUSE can often benefit from added architectural detail. So often built as economically as possible, these old Federal or Greek Revival rural dwellings  
(Continued on page 9)



Perspective...

## Fewer, Better Things

WE HAVE MADE A NEW RESOLUTION at The Old-House Journal brownstone—spurred by the review of catalogs and brochures we made in putting together the Buyers' Guide.



RESOLVED: From now on, we are going to buy fewer, better things!

WE HAVE BEEN AMAZED at the number of companies (most small, but some big) who are making high quality products that are appropriate for old, traditional houses. We judge quality on two counts: (1) Top-quality materials; (2) Top-quality craftsmanship. Design is a matter of personal taste. But materials and workmanship are objective realities!

THE THINGS WE VALUE from the past almost invariably are well-crafted from fine materials—whether it's a house or a piece of furniture or a decorative object. If it didn't have these two characteristics, it wouldn't last long enough for anyone to be able to call it an "antique" a century later.

IN AN AGE OF INFLATION, alas, good materials and good workmanship don't come cheap. Many of the items turned out by craftsmen seem expensive when compared with injection-molded plastic. We have been conditioned by countless commercials to buy the cheap thing, and then to buy a new one when the first breaks/crumbles/disintegrates. When the goal is immediate gratification, low initial price becomes the controlling factor.

**B**UT I, FOR ONE, am getting tired of a life cluttered with disposable, breakable things. So not only have we resolved to buy only the finest quality things for our old house—but whenever possible to buy them from a craftsman we know personally. This means we'll be buying fewer things—and waiting longer between purchases. So be it.

FOR EXAMPLE, we recently needed some lamps for The Journal office. After poring through our catalog collection, we found some lovely brass student lamps. They are hand-made by one of the craftsmen we have written up in The Journal. They weren't cheap...but we didn't have to take out a second mortgage to buy them either. Not only are our new lamps a joy to look at, but there's an extra sense of satisfaction in owning a finely crafted piece that was made by someone you know.

THERE ARE MANY REASONS why a throw-away economy is bad in the long run for the world's resources. But most important of all, an economy built on cheap junk is bad for our souls!

*Clem Labine*

## THE OLD-HOUSE JOURNAL

Published Monthly For People Who Love Old Houses

|                            |  |
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Notes From The Readers...

### Drawbacks Of Waterproof Gypsumboard

To The Editor:

I have found that waterproof gypsum board (Aug. '75, p.12) is not as satisfactory as one would hope for such applications as partitions behind tiled showers. Despite the water-repellent treatment on the paper covering, the board will absorb moisture, which leads to fungus growth within the board. This in turn creates a musty or mildew odor in the room.

In my experience, the best product to use behind glued-on tile is waterproof plywood. It can be set flush with the adjoining gypsum board partitions, then tiled over in the conventional manner.

Alvin Ubell, Accurate Building Inspectors—Brooklyn, N.Y.

### Silicone Coating For Brass

To The Editor:

Lacquering brass is a pain in the neck—and it never lasts. About nine years ago, I cleaned up an old 12-arm brass ceiling fixture and coated it by hand with a light coat of Slipit. Slipit is a silicone-containing lubricant that is sold in hardware stores for easing sticky windows, drawers and the like.

In nine years the brass has darkened only slightly...the fixture won't need re-polishing for many years. The Slipit coating isn't sticky; you can just blow the dust off. I will never lacquer brass again!

T. Steinway  
New York, N.Y.



# A SCOTTISH MANOR IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



By Carolyn Flaherty

**H**UNDREDS OF PEOPLE in the last few years have knocked on the door of the "funny old house" in Redlands, California. Some have been invited to tour, and some just want to see the progress being made since Russell and Jean Wilmot bought this unique "round-top" house in 1970.

AT THAT TIME the house was run-down and vacant with the usual symptoms of abandonment. The Wilmots knew they were acquiring a lot of problems but also a soon-to-be-lovely home. They didn't realize at the time that they had also acquired a bit of California history.

ORIGINALLY KNOWN as "The Donald Home," builder Davis Donald designed the house for his own use to resemble the Scottish Manor he had previously built in his native Scotland. Less grand than the homes he built for others, it was a one-storey house with a dome and was painted gold with white trim as it is again today.

**I**T WAS COMPLETED IN 1892 and constructed of redwood and hardwoods as many homes were in California at that time. In 1908 Davis removed the dome because the support beams that filled the attic took up most of the space he needed for a bedroom for his grandsons. One of his grandsons, Jim, and his wife Clara, occupied the house until 1946, ending the half century in which the Donalds had kept the house a Redlands showplace. Eventually it was abandoned and the formal garden overrun with vines and tumbleweed.

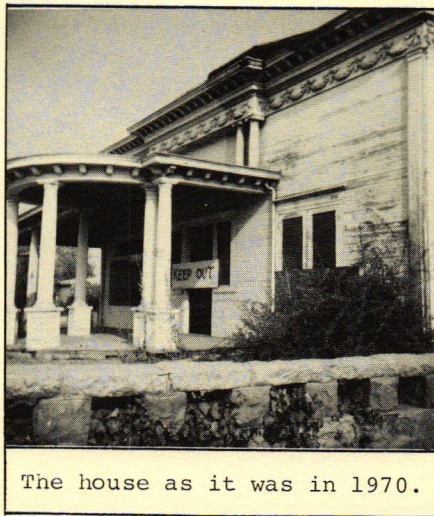
ONE DAY, shortly before their marriage, Jean and Russ passed the house and noticed that someone had cut down the bushes that had previously hid it from view and added a "for sale" sign.

IMPULSIVELY, Jean said, "Oh, I'd love to live there!" Of course, she didn't really mean it. She had never thought about old houses before and Victorian was something "icky" her mother and her mother's friends used to like.

**B**UT THE NEXT DAY Russ called at her office and asked her to come see the house on her lunch hour. He had spoken to the real estate agent and found that they were having great trouble keeping transients out of the house. Russ and Jean had to climb through a window. All the original brass hardware had been removed, all the windows were broken, and trash and hypodermic needles were strewn on the floor. It had become a "hippie hotel."

**T**O ADD TO the general disaster, a huge vine, "like something out of Disneyland," had grown into the house. It had separated the exterior siding from the house as well as destroying some of the inside trim. Jean announced that she had better things to do on her lunch hour.

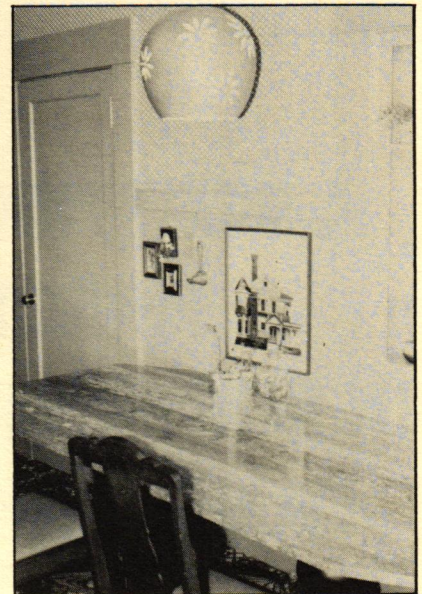
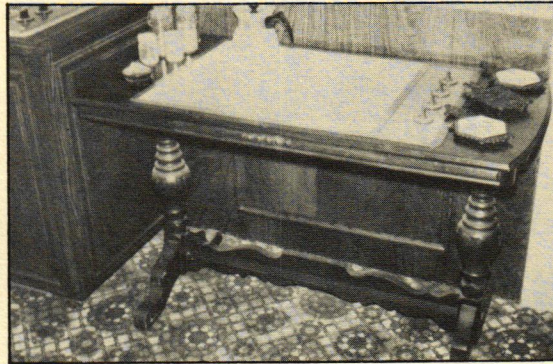
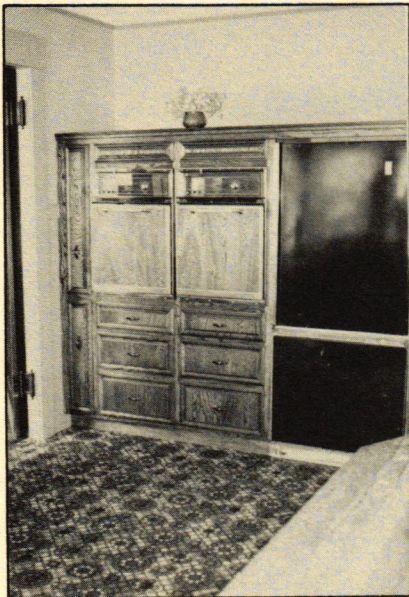
BUT THEN SHE WALKED INTO the three front rooms that still had the original, natural woodwork, and thought, "That's where I would like to put my Christmas tree." The Wilmots moved in two months after their marriage. With six children from former marriages, they needed the space the large house provided.



The house as it was in 1970.

**F**ORTUNATELY, Russ was able to do all the wiring, plumbing, and small building himself. But many Redlanders thought the Wilmots were crazy to take on such a job. And since the house is located on a fairly busy corner, the people in the town were able to watch the progress. They soon began to drop by with words of encouragement. It is now a pleasant and unusual home,





Left: Grained cabinets pull ovens and refrigerator together visually. Above: Old library table topped with a Corning cooking surface. Right: Marble-topped kitchen table adds to traditional ambience.

retaining some of its 1890's charm, but with all the comforts of 1975.

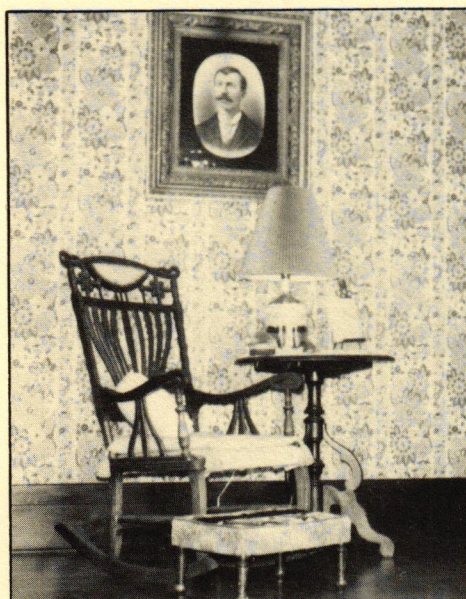
**P**ERHAPS Jean's favorite room is the kitchen. Clara Donald told her it formerly had a cast iron stove and marble counter with a sink. An additional marble counter was located under the windows specifically for bread and candy making. The kitchen is much more modern now. No attempt has been made to restore out-of-date facilities but rather to decorate with textures that are varied and, if possible, traditional.

THE CUSTOM-MADE CABINETS are grained (a painted imitation of wood). Graining was a popular Victorian method of decorating kitchen furniture. The cabinets are also given a traditional appearance by the addition of wood picture

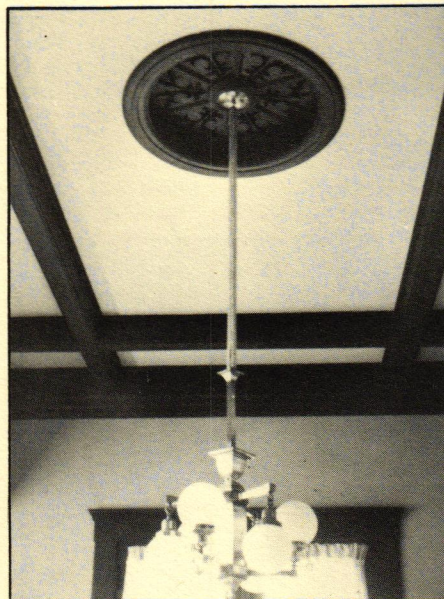
frame mouldings to the drawer and door surfaces. All the necessary Formica, as in sink top, is a plain brown. The nylon carpeting simulates the appearance of an old-fashioned linoleum rug. A table was made by placing a piece of Travertine marble (picked up in a San Diego junkyard) on two large pedestals.

**W**ALLS ARE papered in an orange and white pattern and woodwork is painted soft orange. But the most unusual piece in the kitchen is the second-hand library table with a Corning cooking surface set on top.

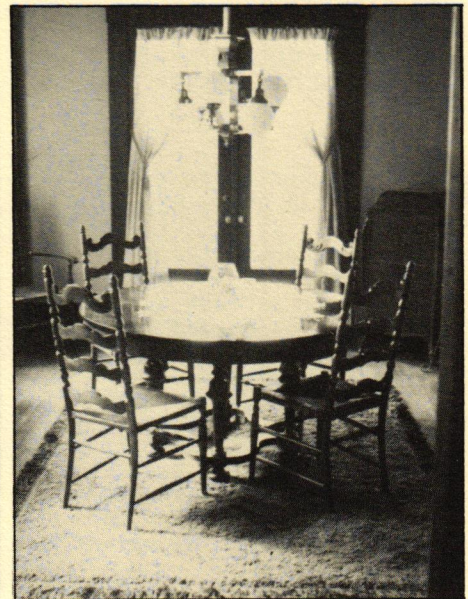
IN THE DINING ROOM there is a sideboard that was built by Daniel Donald and was in storage for 24 years. It was given to the Wilmots by Clara Donald, the last daughter-in-law to live there, in appreciation for the return of her



Rocker in parlor belonged to Jean's grandmother and picture is of Russ' grandfather who was a builder.

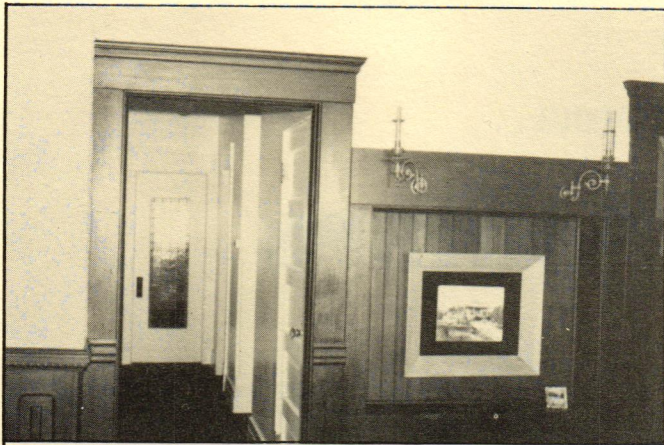


Dining room features an unusual ceiling medallion and beams made of native California redwood.



Brass chandelier from the oldest house in Mendocino was originally designed for both gas and electricity.





The entry way is large enough to hold a 12 ft. Christmas tree with room to walk around it. The candle holders are gas lamps from the Dibble House of Palm Ave. Framed picture is the photo of the house taken before 1908 (see below).

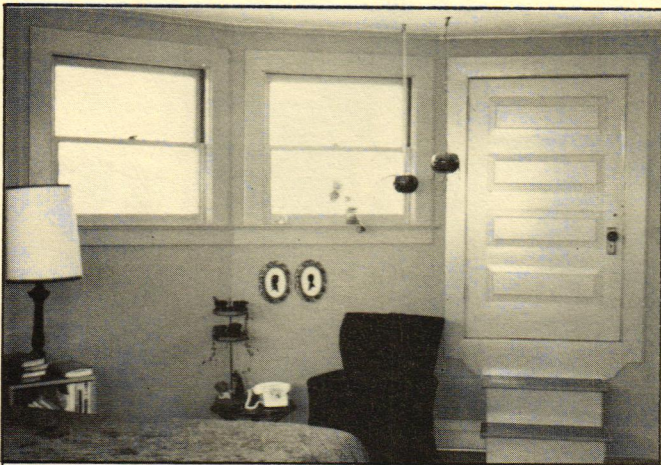
engagement ring which they found in the yard after being lost sometime in the early 40's.

**T**HERE WAS a great deal of repair work to be done inside the house before the Wilmots could begin decorating. The room now called the "Blue Room" had to be taken down to lath because of wall and ceiling damage. Russ put up drywall. It was originally the master bedroom and is now a family room.

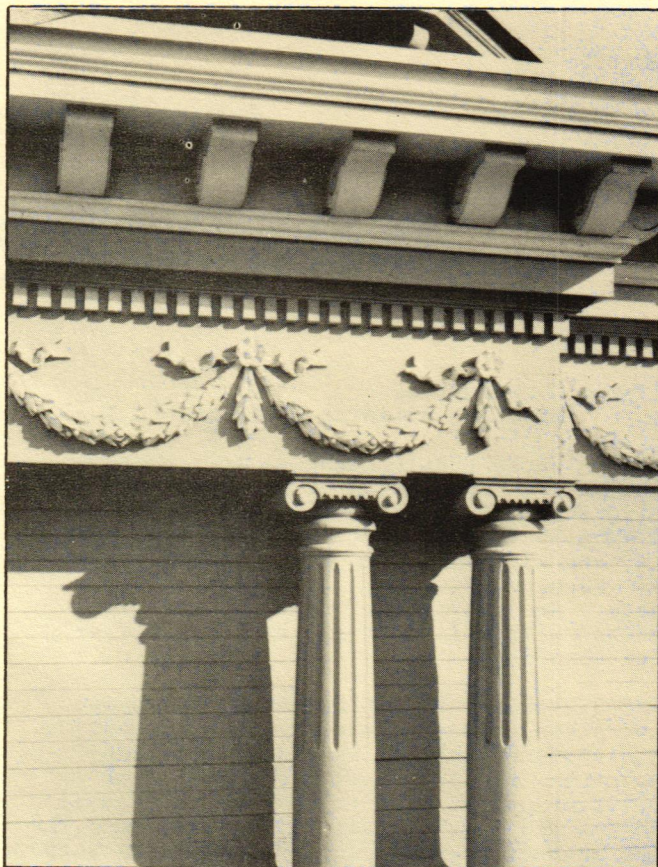
THE HOUSE has ten rooms and two baths in all; Linda has a yellow bedroom and Pam and Tish share a pink one. Nan and Tim's bedroom is the former maid's room where one whole wall had been destroyed by the vine.

THE OLD OAK FLOORS in the house were splintery with large gaps between the boards. Continuous waxing has brought them back to life.

THE GROUNDS, formerly festooned with roses and other ornamentals, had died from neglect. The



The most unusual room is the 16-sided round master bedroom and bath which is reached by a steep staircase. The door opens onto the roof providing a walk-around view of the valley and mountains.



Detail of short columns and large garland frieze over front door.

Wilmots have planted 8,000 square feet of dicondra, surrounding three sides of the house, and 20 trees. One of the survivors from the old formal gardens is a 60 yr. old Belle of Portugal rose which has grown up about 30 ft. into the trees. There are also some original orange and lemon trees and grape vines. The grounds will be completely restored in time for the Redlands Centennial in 1988. ■■



This is the way the manor looked before the decorative dome was removed. The Wilmots hope to have a fiberglass dome put back on and the railings restored for the Redlands Centennial in 1988.



Specify The Correct...

# Masonry Sealers

By James G. Diedrich,  
American Building Restoration, Inc.

**W**ATER IS PUBLIC ENEMY #1 to a masonry wall. Absorption of moisture can seriously damage many older masonry structures. Most old brick buildings were made with soft common clay bricks that will, when unprotected, absorb water like a sponge. And many stone buildings were constructed with soft mortars that are similarly water absorbent.

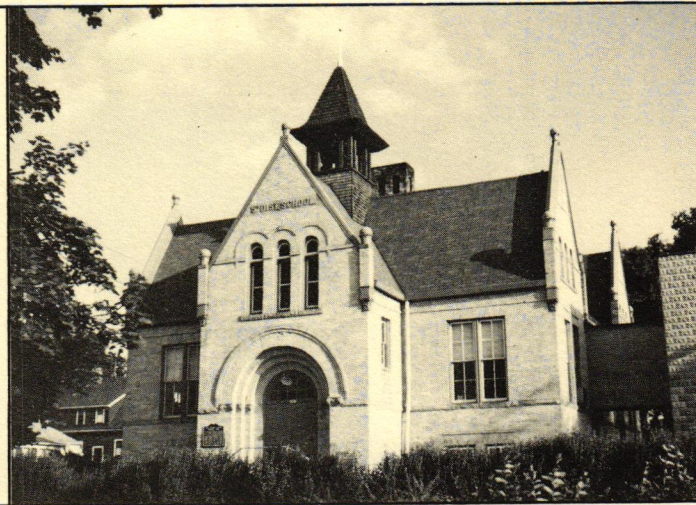
WATER'S EFFECTS ARE INSIDIOUS and pervasive. Penetration of water into the masonry can cause surface spalling and flaking during freeze-thaw cycles. Left unchecked, this deterioration can lead to serious structural problems and hefty repair bills. And once the outer masonry skin is pierced, water can seep through to interior surfaces, causing destruction of plaster, beams, paint and woodwork.

WATER CAN ALSO CAUSE serious visual degradation. One common unsightly sign of a moisture condition is the appearance of efflorescence—a white powdery stain usually caused by water getting inside a masonry wall and washing crystallizing salts from the brick,

mortar or stone out to the surface. (Once the moisture condition is corrected, the efflorescence can be removed by washing with water and a stiff-bristle scrub brush, or by a dilute muriatic acid wash and rinse.)

PROPER PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE is the first line of defense against water. A masonry structure should be checked at regular intervals for such things as: Condition of brick or stone; condition of mortar; tilting or deterioration in parapet walls; gaps or cracks in stone capping and copings; integrity of metal flashings and drip caps; disintegration of roofing; openings and cracks in wood mouldings and cornices; defective gutters and down-spout drainage system. Masonry sealers will not cure any of the above problems. Water repellent chemicals are not an effective substitute for sound materials, proper design and good maintenance.

**A**FTER ALL OF THE ABOVE FACTORS are looked into, there are still many old masonry walls that benefit from a waterproofing treatment—to prevent absorption of water by the masonry materials themselves. The trick is in proper selection, application and maintenance of the water repellent coating.



Two buildings that have had exteriors restored by American Building Restoration: At the left is an elegant 1860 Italianate style mansion in Milwaukee that now serves as offices for the architectural firm of Miller, Waltz, Diedrich & Assoc. At the

right is an 1887 Romanesque style schoolhouse in West Allis, Wis., that has been converted to a Museum by The West Allis Historical Society. Masonry on both structures was sealed with a 20% paraffin sealer applied hot.



## Masonry Sealer Selector

|  | Paint   | 5 % Silicone   | 10 % Silicone  | 10 % Acrylic  | 20 % Paraffin   |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Typical Service Life                           | 4-6 years   | 2-3 years  | 5-8 years  | 2-3 years   | 10-15 years   |
| Ease Of Application                            | Easy  | Easy   | Easy   | Difficult   | Needs Professional Application  |
| Effect On Masonry Color                        | Opaque Film   | None   | None   | Moderate  | Slight  |
| Effect On Adjacent Surfaces During Application | None—Cleanup with mineral spirits                             | Can etch metal & glass—requires quick cleanup with mineral spirits                 | Can etch metal & glass—requires quick cleanup with mineral spirits | None; difficult to remove if not cleaned quickly with mineral spirits | None—Cleanup with mineral spirits   |
| Attraction For Dust & Pollutants               | Slight  | Moderate   | Moderate   | Considerable  | Slight  |
| Approximate Material Cost                      | 8-10¢/sq. ft.   | 3-6¢/sq. ft.   | 5-7¢/sq. ft.   | 8-10¢/sq. ft.   | 10-12¢/sq. ft.  |
| Remarks  | Build-up of paint film eventually makes maintenance difficult | Most economical in initial cost, but requires frequent renewal to remain effective | Most effective sealer that can be applied on do-it-yourself basis  | Most successful applications are in new construction                  | Most cost-effective sealer in the long run, but requires professional application |

NOT ALL STRUCTURES AND CLIMATES require waterproofing. Some sealers have been known to lock moisture inside the masonry and prevent its evaporation...creating problems that were worse than if there had been no waterproofing at all. The need for waterproofing for a particular building should be made by a qualified architect or contractor.

A GOOD WATERPROOFING FORMULA should accomplish four things for the building owner:

- Prevent water from entering the masonry while remaining permeable to water vapor migrating from the interior;
- Arrest or contain further deterioration of the masonry;
- Reduce long-term maintenance and repair expenses for both exterior and interior surfaces;
- Keep the building cleaner by minimizing dirt and pollutant accumulation.

THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF DISAGREEMENT as to what type of waterproofing sealer is best for old structures. As contractors specializing in exterior restoration of old buildings, we have spent a lot of time evaluating the claims made for various materials. And we have accumulated a lot of day-in and day-out experience with what works and what doesn't. So we have some very definite ideas about what makes for effective waterproofing.

**S**OME PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS and architects prefer the old way of waterproofing brick—which was to paint it. Paint is far from the perfect waterproofer, however. Sometimes moisture will become locked behind a paint film, causing the brick to spall and the paint to chip away. Also, once a wall has been painted it requires fairly frequent repainting in order to keep the paint film intact. Eventually, the paint buildup becomes so thick that the whole coating has to be stripped off.

SILICONES are the most widely used clear waterproofer. They have the advantage of being cheap and relatively easy to apply. However, I view silicones more as "damp-proofers" rather than "waterproofer." Silicones do tend to decompose fairly rapidly under atmospheric conditions. Thus their ability to repel moisture diminishes with the passage of time.

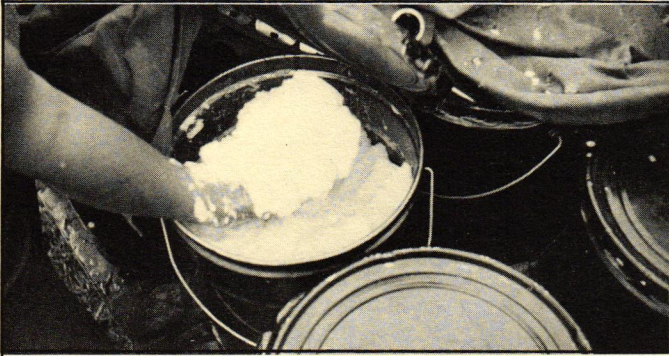
THE TYPICAL SILICONE MASONRY SEALER has a 5% solids content. We feel this just isn't adequate for most jobs. Typically, this kind of sealer will retain effectiveness for only two or three years. Then you have to apply a fresh coat of sealer all over again.

AS A ROUGH RULE OF THUMB, the solids content of a masonry sealer is an approximation of the number of years of life you can expect from the coating. Thus, from a 5% silicone a 3-year life is typical and you'd never expect more than 5 years. By doubling the silicone resin content to 10% you effectively double the service life—so that you could expect to get 7 to 8 years of service from the more concentrated silicone.

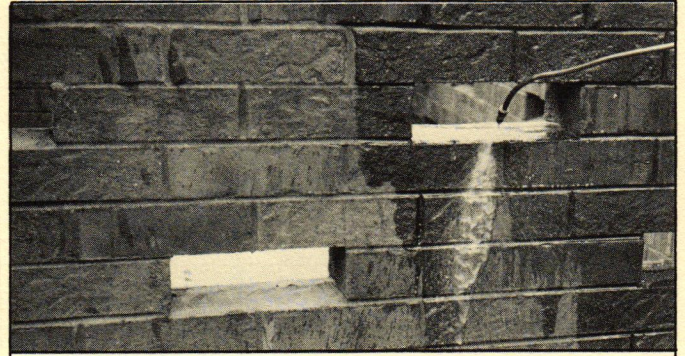
FOR JOBS WHERE LOW INITIAL COST and ease of application are factors, we have developed our own silicone sealer—called Hydro-Seal 100. It contains our own proprietary blend of silicone resins (10% solids) plus mineral oil gums in an aliphatic thinner. This product can be used by the individual homeowner on a do-it-yourself basis.

TO APPLY HYDRO-SEAL 100, surfaces should be clean and dry. It can be applied by brush, roller or airless spray to saturation with a 12-inch run-down. Flooding action assures penetration and an even appearance. It is best to test apply a small area before starting general application.

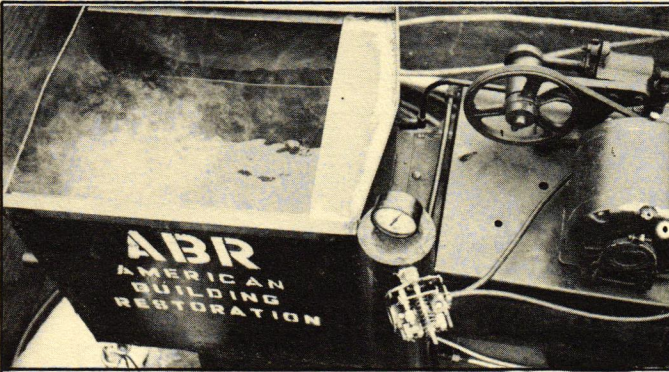




1. The high solids content of Hydro-Seal 200 solidifies at low temperatures.



3. Hydro-Seal 200 is flowed on at low pressure while hot.



2. Material is liquefied by heating prior to application.

HYDRO-SEAL 100, like any silicone, will etch metal and glass. Therefore, any spill-over on adjacent metal or glass surfaces should be cleaned off with mineral spirits within one week.

THERE IS ALSO a family of sealers based on acrylic resins. In general, we have not found these suitable for restoration work. Acrylics are more expensive than silicones, and tend to form a film on the surface of the masonry—a film that is sometimes shiny and glossy. This film can also peel or flake off, leaving a blotchy appearance. Also, acrylic coatings are hydrophilic—they need to attract moisture in order to stay pliable and flexible. But in attracting moisture, the film also attracts dust and pollutants from the atmosphere. Thus the building gets dirtier faster.

**F**OR JOBS THAT REQUIRE THE BEST possible waterproofing, we have developed our own formulation of a 20% solids paraffin-based preservative that is applied hot. This formula came about after extensive research with preservationists in both the U.S. and Europe.

THE FORMULATION, which we call Hydro-Seal 200, is a transparent, non-yellowing, non-staining, acid-resistant, breathing type sealer. In addition to the aliphatic paraffin oils, it contains cohesive agents and a distillate carrier. Under a microscope, the preservative film appears like a thick-set body of spikes. Droplets of water are repelled by the spikes, but water vapor within the masonry can evap-

orate between the particles of these specially designed waxes.

HYDRO-SEAL 200 penetrates brick and stone surfaces from 1/8-in. to 1/2-in. deep. Because of its high solids content, it will actually plug up hairline cracks. For special problems, we can increase the solids content in the sealer. On one job, we applied a Hydro-Seal coating that had a 50% solids content!

TO APPLY HYDRO-SEAL 200, the material must be properly heated. Masonry surface should be at least 55 F. or higher. Surfaces should be free from cracks and all tuckpointing that is needed should be done before application. If alkali is apparent, use a brick cleaning compound or 15% muriatic acid. The sealer should be applied to saturation without run-down. Brush, roller or airless spray may be used. One flood coat normally is sufficient to supply the required waterproofing.

TEST A SMALL AREA OF SURFACE before starting general application to make sure the proper results are being obtained. Normal coverage is 100-125 sq. ft. per gallon. Cleanup can be done with mineral spirits.

THE COMBINATION OF the paraffin base, the unusually high solids content and the hot, low-pressure flow-on application gives this sealer its unusually long life. This is what we use on our own restoration jobs when the client wants the best possible result.

### To Obtain ABR Sealers...

Originally established as a Milwaukee-based contracting firm, American Building Restoration, Inc., is now setting up a network of dealer-applicators around the country to handle the growing demand for its proprietary strippers and sealers. Although Hydro-Seal 200 requires professional application, the Hydro-Seal 100 silicone sealer can be purchased directly from the company. Direct all inquiries to: James G. Diedrich, Vice President, American Building Restoration, 9720 S. 60th St., Franklin Industrial Park, Franklin, Wis. 53132.



(Continued from page 1)

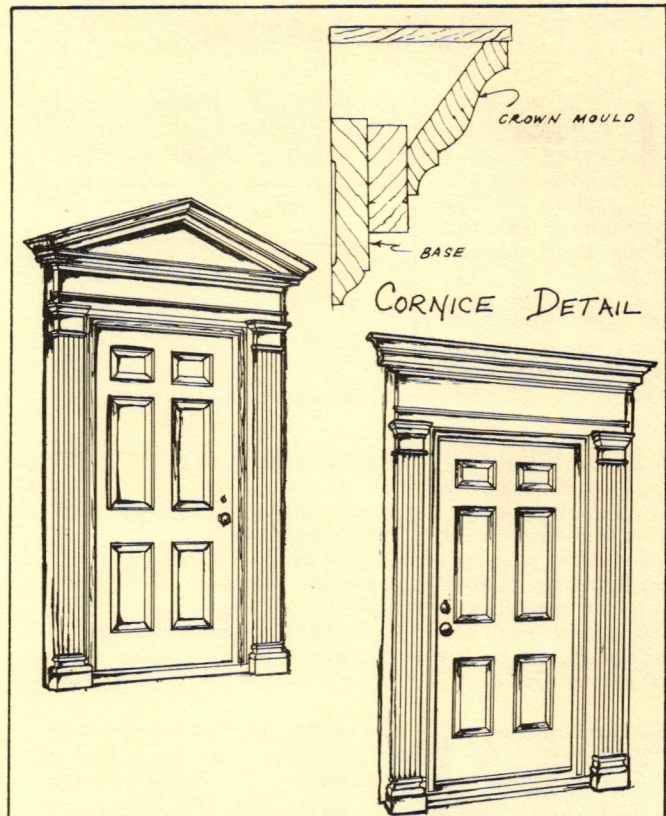
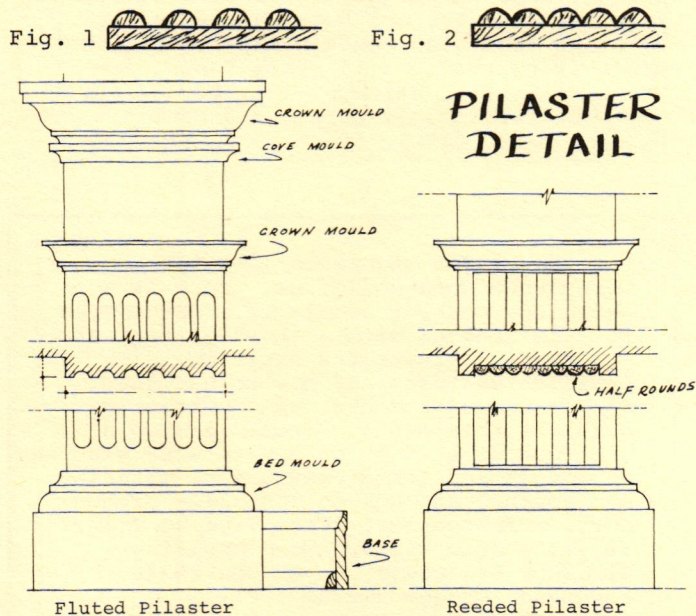
often are enhanced by adding woodwork that the original owner was not able to provide. As long as the additions are in keeping with the original style and feeling of the house, appropriate wood mouldings add visual interest and richness to the structure. Only the most die-hard purists would object.

## Exterior Doorways

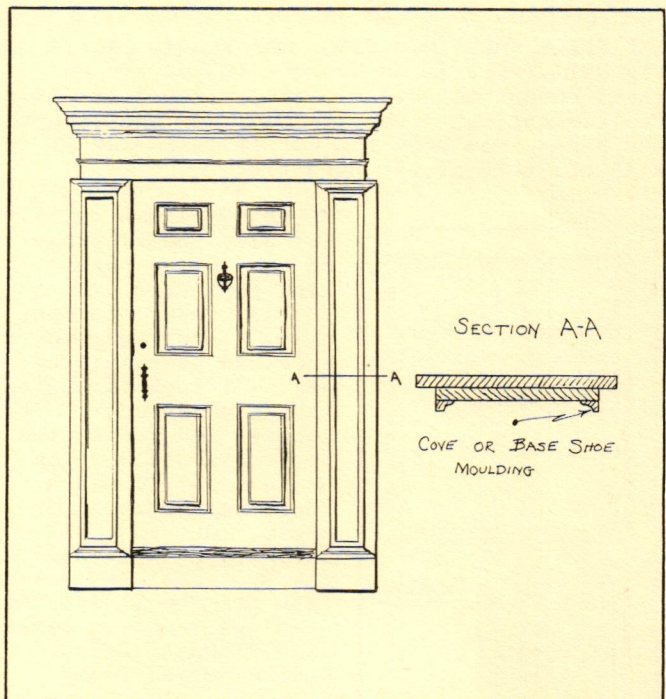
**B**EGINNING WITH A likely place, the exterior door, some ideas for appropriate details are presented. Many of the parts that can be constructed with wood mouldings are also found in many interior features: mantels, interior doorways, window trim. To aid the do-it-yourselfer with the diagrams that follow, here is a brief review of the terms used:

- **PEDIMENT:** In classic architecture, a triangular member resembling a gable over the front of a structure. It is low in height compared to the width of its base.
- **PILASTER:** A flat, slightly projecting mass doing duty as a column and given the architectural detailing of a column.
- **FLUTING:** Decoration made by grooves or channels, usually found on columns. Fluting can be done by a handyperson who is adept at using a router, but it is not easy.
- **REEDING:** A series of convexities, like a bundle of reeds, the opposite of flutes, used in place of fluting in columns and pilasters. Reeding can be duplicated with half-round or round mouldings.

There are two ways to construct reeding. The half-rounds can be placed in parallel lines (Fig. 1) with a flat space left in between. Or the rounds can be placed with each side touching the next, leaving no space in between. (Fig. 2) The ends of the rounds are brought right to the ends of the shaft portion, butting against the mouldings on top and bottom.



Two versions of classic Early American doorway, with reeded or fluted pilasters. Pediment can be constructed with crown mouldings, similar to cornice.

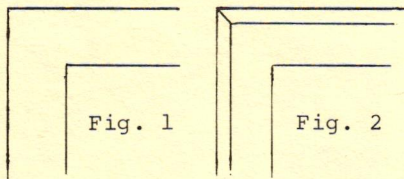


Simpler form of pilaster construction—found in some New England homes of the 1700's and early 1800's—uses a simple cove-type moulding as a backband on a flat board (see p. 10).

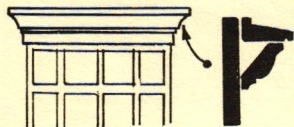
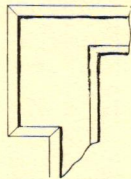


## Windows And Doors

**I**F THE TRIM AROUND DOORS OR WINDOWS consists of nothing more than plain, flat boards or casing that covers the gap between the frame and plaster, then it can probably benefit from some added trim. (Fig. 1) The easiest way to add some detail to a plain door or window frame is to add a "backband" as in Fig. 2.



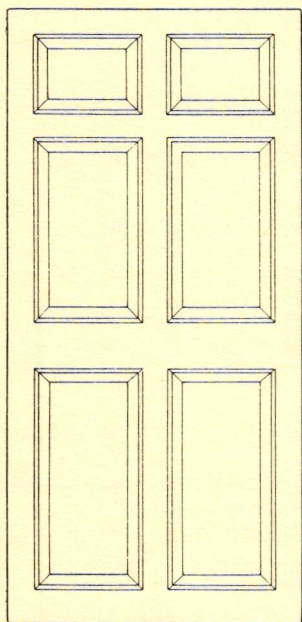
A MORE SOPHISTICATED treatment for window or doorframes is a double-mitred backband--a style known as crossetting. This form has been used for centuries and can be made more elaborate by choosing a more complex moulding for the backband strip. This treatment may require extending the head casing with a piece of plain board.



A DECORATIVE TRIM FOR windows or doorways is the cap. Many houses have had their windows "de-capped" during remodelling. The cap can

be made from a crown, bed, or cove moulding. However, if a cap is added to an exterior window, a little shelf, or top piece also has to be added to keep out the rain and snow. It should then be caulked for added protection.

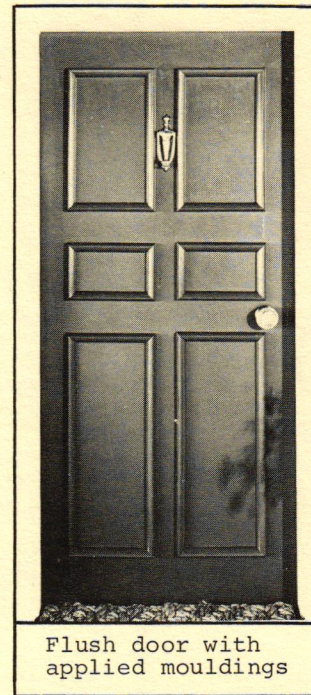
ONE PLACE WHERE MOULDINGS can really make a big difference is on doors. If you are unlucky enough to have a plain, flush door--as a replacement, on a partition or new addition to the house--you know how out of character it is with the rest of the woodwork.



MOULDINGS ALONE will not give the richness of the raised panel kind that were used in the 18th and 19th centuries. But the appearance can be simulated, and will look far better than a plain door. The squares and rectangles for the mouldings can be laid out to match the other doors in the house. Or, if a different type is wanted, the best ones to imitate are the photos and drawings found in books of old houses and museum period rooms.

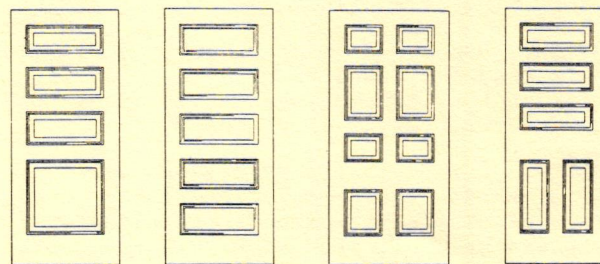
DURING THE 18th and most of the 19th centuries, doors were divided into four or six panels as in the drawing on the left.

**M**OULDINGS applied to simulate a six-panelled door also works very well for exterior doors. The photo on the right is from the Western Wood Moulding and Millwork Producers. The door has been painted all one color, but a nice, traditional effect is also achieved by painting the mouldings in a contrasting shade.



Flush door with applied mouldings

THE FOUR DOORS shown below are taken from "Details Of Building Construction," published in 1899. They give some idea of the variety of ways that doors were designed by the turn of the century.



ALTHOUGH THERE IS a wide variety of stock mouldings available, there are times when a handyperson will want to duplicate an existing moulding that is no longer manufactured. Or, the skilled carpenter may just like the experience of making a decorative moulding out of a plain board. There are wood moulding planes, made in Europe of hornbeam, available from two sources, and both have excellent catalogs that also contain many other fine woodworking tools: (1) Frog Tools, 548 North Wells St., Chicago, Ill. 60610, 50¢. (2) Woodcraft Supply Corp., 313 Montvale Ave., Woburn, Mass. 01801, 50¢.

For the reader who would like to know more about wood mouldings, there is an excellent booklet available. "From Tree To Trim" begins with a short history of mouldings, illustrates basic moulding profiles and uses and how to use them in ceiling treatments, window trimming and wall treatments. There is also a very useful section on how to work with mouldings and jamb--measuring, mitering and coping, and how to install a prehung door. The booklet, "From Tree To Trim," is \$1.50 from Western Wood Moulding & Millwork Producers, P. O. Box 25278, Portland, Oregon 97225.



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## Helpful Publications You Can Send For

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### Buyers' Guide

COMING OFF THE PRESS November 15: The Old-House Journal Buyers' Guide...a directory of sources for parts, fittings and services for the old house. It's the result of the first comprehensive survey of the old-house market in the U.S.

THE BUYERS' GUIDE CONTAINS a total of 1,082 listings; the products and services of 298 companies listed in 205 categories. In compiling the Buyers' Guide, the editors concentrated on the hard-to-find items, rather than filling pages with the obvious and self-evident. In general, you won't find things listed that are available at most hardware stores and building supply centers. For example, the Buyers' Guide won't tell you that U.S. Gypsum makes Sheetrock. Rather, the Buyers' Guide will direct you to sources for shutter hardware, reproduction cresting, heart pine flooring, handmade window glass, exotic finishing supplies, custom-made wrought iron, replacement ceiling medallions, and the like.

LISTINGS IN THE BUYERS' GUIDE represent a considerably amount of editorial selectivity. Companies were not listed merely because they claim to make something. The two major criteria used in selecting companies for free listings were:

(1) Their interest in serving old-house owners as evidenced by their answering a detailed questionnaire mailed to them by the editors;

(2) The appropriateness of their products or services as determined by a review of the literature they were required to furnish in support of their application for a free editorial listing.

THE OLD-HOUSE JOURNAL Buyers' Guide will prove an invaluable time-saver for both the homeowner and restoration professional. Single copies are available at \$5.50 (\$3.50 when ordered with a subscription). Quantity discounts for orders of five or more. Order from: The Old-House Journal, Reprint Dept., 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217.

### Old Tool Catalogs

FOR THE CRAFTSMAN or collector who is interested in antique tools or artifacts, there is a fascinating catalog available. Iron Horse Antiques publishes two catalogs a year filled with illustrations and prices of their large stock of old tools. There is also a book catalog of even wider interest containing some very good basic reference books and some really esoteric volumes about tools, trades, implements, utensils and history, including

reprints of old catalogs and directories. You receive the Iron Horse catalogs by subscribing--\$3.00 for third class mail, and \$4.00 for first class. Write to: Vernon U. Ward, President, Iron Horse Antiques, Inc., Star Route, Bomoseen, Vermont 05732.

### Early New England Houses

"REVELATIONS OF NEW ENGLAND ARCHITECTURE" is a handsome new book that is far more than just another book about New England houses. It presents a way of seeing what the lives of the people were like through the buildings that remain. The Puritans, the Yankee farmers, and the China traders all built very different kinds of homes and churches. The exceptionally good photographs by Curt Bruce take in examples from 200 years of architecture. Jill Grossman creates an engrossing story of the people who lived in these houses by "reading" the architecture. In a knowledgeable but un-stuffy style she gives us a wealth of information--from some comments on the drinking habits of the strict Puritans to an understanding of the visual changes in the architecture as the settlers became Yankees. To order, send \$15.95 to The Viking Press Inc., c/o Allan Lang, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

### Trowelling Techniques

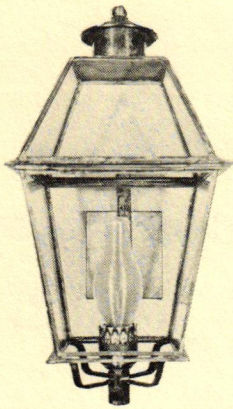
THE MARSHALLTOWN TROWEL COMPANY, manufacturers of high quality trowels and related tools, has available an excellent little booklet called "Trowelling Tips and Techniques." It covers concrete, brick laying and gypsum wallboard repairs with accompanying illustrations. To order a booklet, send 50¢ to G. W. Miller, Sales Manager, Marshalltown Trowel Company, P. O. Box 738, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158.

### On Antiques

MANY OLD-HOUSE PEOPLE are also interested in antiques and "collectibles." Ralph and Terry Kovel publish a lively newsletter that is full of information for the collector. Featured is news of upcoming events and recent sales, a question and answer column, and articles on preserving various types of antiques. There is also a Buyer's Price Guide giving some current prices on furniture, glass, pottery, toys, etc. The Collector's Gallery section prints pictures of your favorite antique with an estimate of its date and value. "On Antiques" is \$8.50 for 12 monthly issues. Write to Ralph and Terry Kovel, On Antiques, Box 4994, Dept. O. H., Des Moines, IA 50306.



# Products For The Old House



## Exterior Lighting Fixtures

TWO BROTHERS run a lighting fixture business in Stamford, Conn. Old-house owners and restorers themselves, they have brought to their business a love of fine materials and workmanship that is so typical of old-house people.

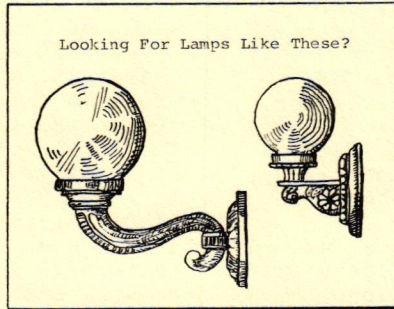
IN BUSINESS FOR 50 YEARS, MarLe Co. specializes in lanterns—most for exterior use, but also some that are suitable for interiors. Lanterns are made of extra heavy pure brass, fashioned individually by workmen who have plied the trade for many years. Designs are taken from MarLe's collection of 18th and 19th century antique lanterns. The

reproductions have been used in many landmark restorations.

MOST OF THE LANTERNS would be called Early American in style. However, their standard line does include a handsome Victorian carriage lamp, ideal for mounting beside a front door. Lanterns can be supplied electrified, or fitted for candles.

MARLE CO. will also custom-make lanterns. If you send a photograph or drawing of a special lantern you need, they will quote you a price quickly.

THE COMPANY would like to expand its line of exterior Victorian lighting fixtures—but isn't sure the demand is sufficient to warrant making new molds and dies. Stanley

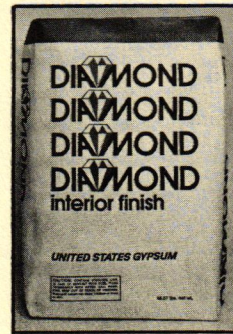


Looking For Lamps Like These?

Levine, one of the proprietors of MarLe, has sent us a couple of the old designs that he is considering making once again. If you are in the market for this kind of exterior lighting fixture, let Mr. Levine know soon. Good-quality reproductions of late 19th and early 20th century fixtures are very

rare. Any company considering entering this market should be encouraged!

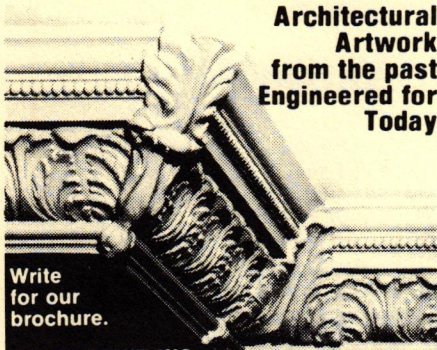
MarLe normally charges \$2.00 for its 16-page catalog. But Mr. Levine says he'll mail it out at no charge to fellow Journal readers who write to him: Stanley H. Levine, MarLe Co., 170 Summer St., Stamford, Conn. 06904. Be sure to mention you saw it in The Old-House Journal. Their telephone number is (203) 348-2645.



Interior  
Wall  
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U.S. GYPSUM has just introduced a new finishing material for use over gypsum lath. Designed as a faster-drying finish than plaster, the material has interesting possibilities for the homeowner because it retains workability longer than finishing plaster. It can be troweled to a smooth finish, or can be tooled for a variety of textures. One possible application is recreating the effect of old plaster walls on top of new gypsumboard partitions. For more information on Diamond Interior Finish, write: U.S. Gypsum, Dept. 160, 101 South Wacker, Dr., Chicago, IL 60606.

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- 205 Product & Service Categories

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**Classified advertising** is a monthly feature of The Old-House Journal, appearing in a special insert section. Rates are 25¢ per word with a \$5.00 minimum. Post Office box numbers and telephone numbers count as two words; abbreviations and zip codes one word. Check or money order must accompany copy and be received prior to closing date (5th of the month preceding month of issue). Classified Display is also available at \$15.00 per inch. Minimum one inch. Payment should also accompany orders for Classified Display. Send to: Classified Department, The Old-House Journal, 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217.

## Reproductions

### Cresting

**T**HE CROWNING TOUCH to a Victorian house. Lightweight, strong fiberglass reproductions of cresting that are easy to install and will never need painting. These reproductions are strong "like iron" and not cheap, dime-store plastic. The black color is permanent. Currently, four patterns to choose from at \$10 per running foot or will match any pattern for additional charge.

**S**END 50¢ for pattern and order sheet to:  
Lafayette Square Reproductions, 1809 La Salle, St. Louis, MO 63104.

**HAND CARVED DOORS**--Mahogany and rosewood. Write for free color catalog. Will custom-make all old designs. Elegant Entries, Inc., 45 Water St., Worcester, Mass. 01604

**ARCHITECTURAL MOULDINGS**--Accurately scaled reproductions of period cornices and medallions. Precisely cast from lightweight, easily handled polymers. Easy to install with nails or wood

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**EARLY AMERICAN SPINNING WHEEL** in kit form. A full size, working replica with all parts sanded solid maple. Send for free brochure. Midway Ornamental & Mfg. Co., Dept. 105, 1708 State Route 558, Salem, Ohio 44460.

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ation work. For Dealer & Catalog Information Write: Period Brass, Inc., Dept. S, P. O. Box 217, Jamestown, New York 14701.

**STAINED GLASS**--restoration, repair, new work, etched glass. Deal with the oldest leaded glass company in the U. S. Est. 1857. J & R Lamb Studios, 151 Walnut Street, Northvale, N. J. 07647, (201) 767-3333.

**EARLY AMERICAN REPRODUCTIONS**--You assemble your own. All parts accurately crafted and sanded ready to finish; stain included. Send 50¢ for color catalog showing over 50 furniture kits, paints in authentic colonial colors, hand wrought nails and hinges, plus beaded edge pumpkin pine clapboarding. Cohasset Colonials, 335 Ship St., Cohasset, MA 02025.

**VALANCE PATTERNS:** Authentic elegance easily created. Pattern pieces for festoons and jabots fits single and double windows. Envelope is \$3.00 from Heritage Patterns, Box 595, Mendham, N. J. 07945.

## Craftsmen Wanted

**CARPENTER**, skilled craftsman, to work on restoration of unique 1833 Town House Museum. National and City Landmark located in downtown Manhattan. Under direction of Restoration Architect. Semi-retired or part-time considered. Tel. (212) 598-2070. Ask for Mr. Roberto.

**PERSON KNOWLEDGEABLE** in restoring old pull wire bell call system wanted for work in old downtown Manhattan landmark Town House museum. Remnants existing of the pre-electric system. Tel. (212) 598-2070, Mr. Roberto.

## For Sale

**LARGE COLLECTION** of Victorian Lighting Fixtures, Antique Iron Fencing and Gates. If you need one piece or more call or write: Brad Oliver, Mountainhome, PA 18342, (717) 595-7689.



## Books & Publications

**HISTORY OF THE GOTHIC REVIVAL--** Complete unabridged reprint of the 1872 classic by Charles Locke Eastlake. Text traces development of Gothic style in England. 31 full pages of engravings of Gothic structures --many now demolished. Informative introduction by Alan Gowans puts Eastlake and Gothic Revival in historical perspective. 439 pages, paperbound, sewn binding. Published at \$5.95, now available at \$4.75 (postpaid) to Journal readers. Order from: American Life Foundation, Watkins Glen, New York 14891.

**NEW LIGHT ON OLD LAMPS--** full of the kind of practical, detailed information needed to understand the myriad of lamps and lighting fixtures used in the 18th and 19th centuries. A classic reference work with illustrated explanations of the way old lamps worked and the parts they require. To order "New Light On Old Lamps" send \$9.75 (includes postage and handling) to: The Old-House Journal, Reprint Dept., 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, New York 11217.

**VICTORIA ROYAL--**A witty and scholarly introduction to the Victorian Era and the force that shaped its architecture. With many line drawings, it is quick and entertaining way to learn more about the period. 192 pgs.; hardcover. \$4.95 from: Old-House Journal, Reprint Dept., 199 Berkeley Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11217.

**VICTORIAN DECORATION HANDBOOK--** Incorporating "Hints On Household Taste" by Charles Locke Eastlake and an abridged version of "The House Beautiful" by Clarence Cook. Both of these volumes, published in the latter part of the 19th century, give advice on how to furnish homes of that period. A hardcover book with illustrations, "Late Victorian Decor" is \$8.00 (which includes postage and handling) from: The Old-House Journal--Reprint Dept., 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11217.

## Restoration Services

**STAINED AND LEADED GLASS--** Custom fabrication and repair. Ernest Porcelli, 125 7th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., 11215, Tel. (212) 857-6888.

**BLACKSMITHING--**Hand forged hardware for doors and shutters custom made. Work done for many restorations including the Richmondtown Restoration and the John Jay House. Albert Eriksson, 417 Arthurkill Road, Staten Island, N. Y., 10308. (212) 984-6886.

**ANTIQU LIGHT FIXTURE REPAIR and Restoration--**Careful work by meticulous craftsman. Laurence J. Reilly, 138 Jackson St., Trenton, N. J. 08611. (609) 393-6729.

**PAINT STRIPPING--**Specialist in stripping woodwork in place in your home. No need to take woodwork down for dipping. New York metropolitan area only. Joseph Balzamo. Tel. (201) 721-2651.

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