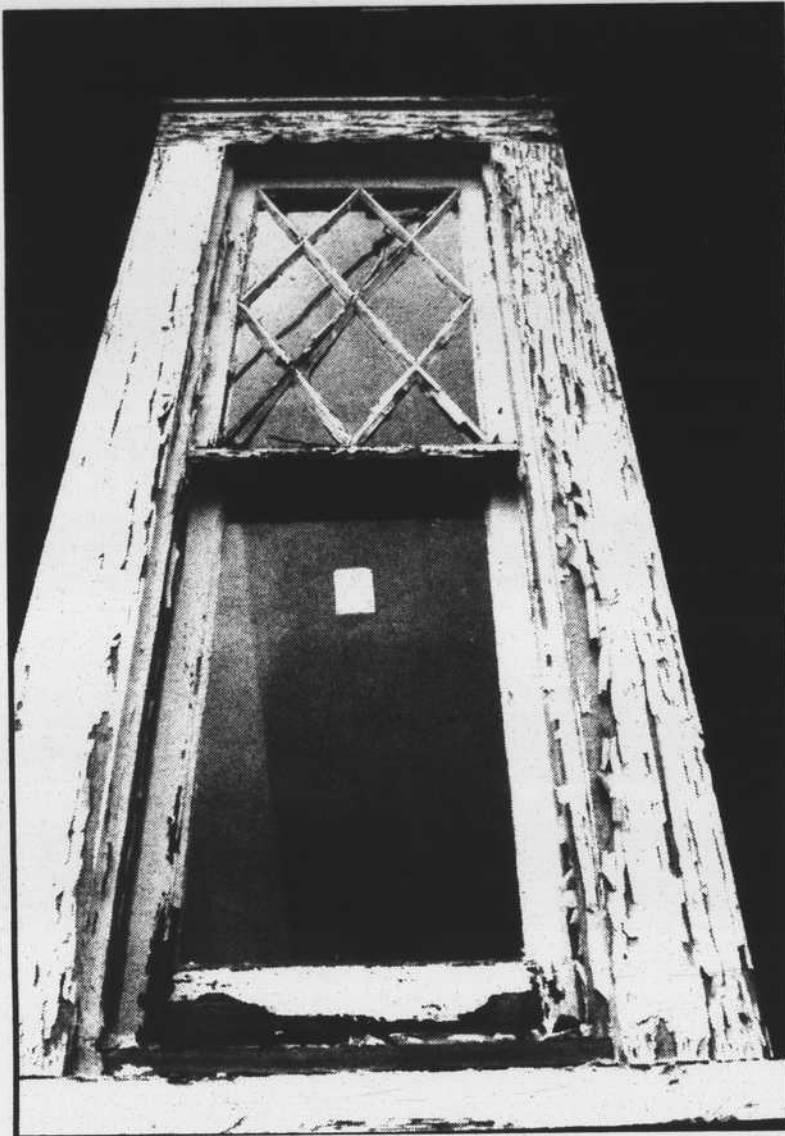


Continued from page 1

Deitz House



Neil Furr/CITIZEN

PAINT IS PEELING ON THE OLD WINDOW FRAME of this east-facing window in the Deitz house. The window is just one of the features of the 1916 arts and crafts house.

Neil Furr
IREDELL CITIZEN

THE BUNGALOW-STYLE HOUSE that has occupied the corner of Walnut and Mulberry St. in Statesville since 1916 has run out of time and will soon be demolished. Yet, in a sense, its essence could live on, though not in Statesville.

On a recent weekday, Raymond Tarlton and Chip Wells of Benjamin Bromiley Historic Building Consulting and Construction Management of Knightdale, NC, carefully removed and marked window frames, cabinets and

other items that make the house at 410 Walnut St. endearing and interesting.

"Have you seen the pocket doors back there with the stained glass?" Tarlton asked as he carefully prepared and marked a window frame.

Those pocket doors, the window frames, cabinets, beveled glass and stained glass windows, river rock porch and planters could all reappear in a house nearly identical to the Deitz house in the North Carolina mountains, according to some sources. The timbers, the foundations, the walls, the floors



THE SUN STREAMS BRIGHTLY into one of the east-facing rooms of the Deitz house but will soon be fading; the house faces demolition in the near future. The cabinetry and other unique items will be saved and restored.

and gardens of the real house on Walnut St. are officially marked for demolition, however.

Mitchell Community College's landscaping plans show parking spaces at the corner of Walnut and S. Mulberry.

The house was, for a long time, the home of Iredell County's first female aviator, Virginia Deitz Malcolm. After her days in aviation Mrs. Malcolm devoted her time to her Oriental garden in the back, which is now overgrown, and to her work with the Fourth Creek Chapter of the DAR and the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Noted in later life for having a large number of cats in and about her house, Mrs. Malcolm died in 1988. The house was purchased by Mitchell Community College in 1997 from Ron Briere for \$119,900. At the time the Mitchell Board sent a letter to Briere stating it "has no intention of demolishing it."

Over the last several years, though, the back garden became weedy and unsightly and the porch and rear roof disintegrated. For years a blue tarp has covered a portion of the roof. Intentions have changed.

Now, slowly and painstakingly, unique items of the house are being readied for a new existence elsewhere.

NAACP Plans Meeting

The Statesville Branch NAACP will convene its regular monthly membership meeting Sunday, Dec. 5, at American Legion Post 217 on Wallace Springs Road. The meeting convenes at 4 p.m. A primary agenda item will be the installation of Branch officers and executive committee for 2005-2006. Members and interested public are invited.

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