

National Park Sparks Idea For House Plan

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

If you're a devoted tourist, with all the top American attractions under your travel belt, you'll notice something familiar in Avery and Nancy Nye's Sunset Beach home.

"What an unusual chimney and fireplaces!" you'd exclaim immediately after stepping inside. "Where have I seen that before?"

Never mind the musing. Avery is quick to settle the question with a chuckle and an air of satisfaction. "Remember the Ole Faithful Inn at Yellowstone Park?," he'd say. "I got the idea for this freestanding

chimney from the one in the inn."

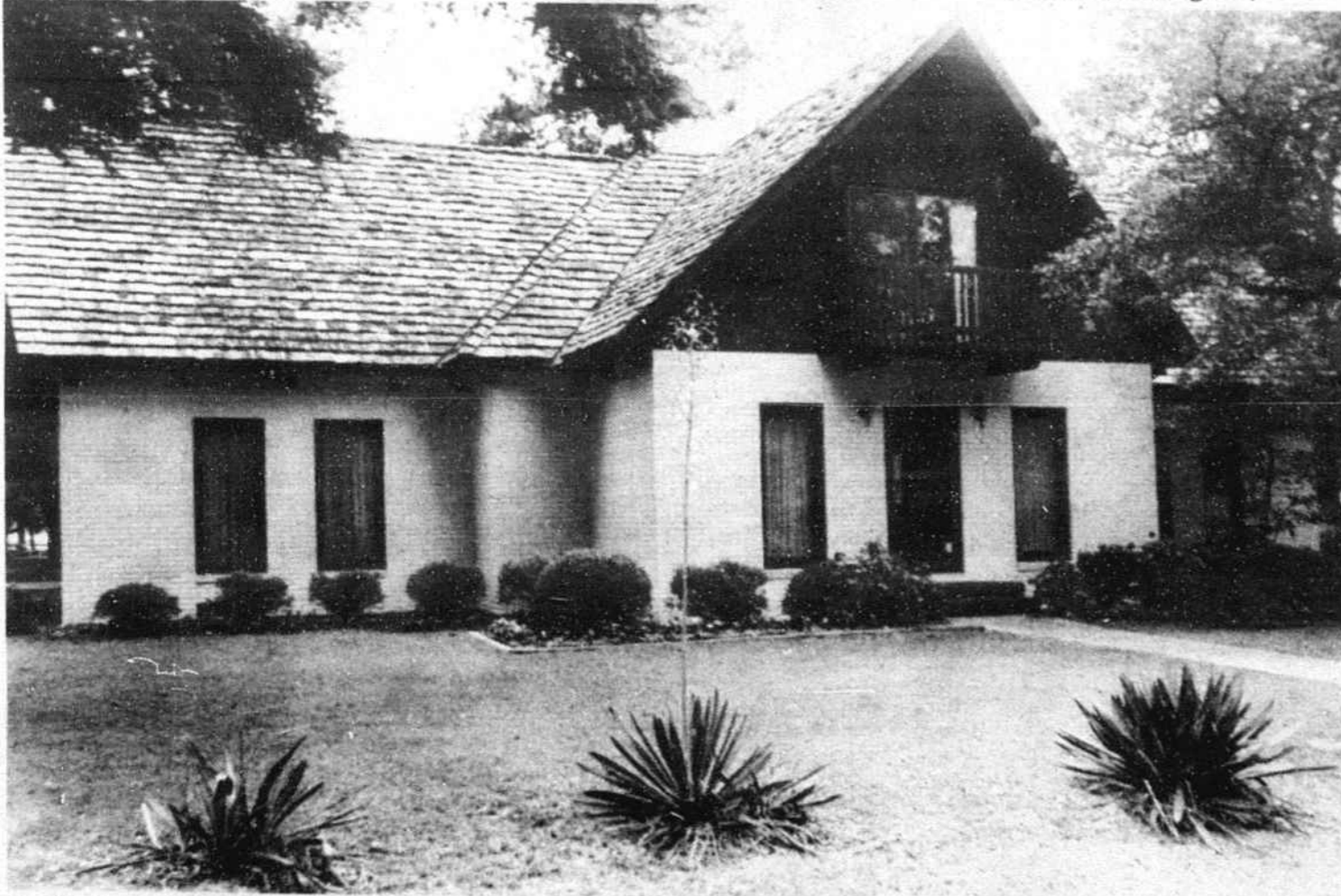
The retired building contractor told of making a model of the house he wanted back in 1975. The tricky part was his faithful replica of the huge stone chimney from Yellowstone, with a fireplace on either side. "I gave the model to my draftsman and told him to build our house from it," Nye related, "and he said, 'It won't work,' but I insisted it would."

Sixteen years later it is obvious that the chimney arrangement does work. Made of large stones shipped in from the Texas panhandle, and reaching to the second-story vaulted

ceiling, it dominates the house.

Nothing in the neat, white brick exterior of the house, built on the Intracoastal Waterway, prepares you for the early American, colorful and "country" decor inside. Circling the immense chimney downstairs are living room, den and dining room, informal and open to each other. Also open to view is the circle of upstairs rooms: a cozy sitting room alive with green plants, three bedrooms and a bath. What you can't see is the 800 square feet of closet space Nye carefully inserted in the plans.

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THE HIGH-PITCHED ROOF and contrasting brick and wood distinguish the exterior of the Nye's home in Sunset Beach.



STAFF PHOTOS BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN
 AVERY AND NANCY NYE pose beside the distinctive free-standing stone chimney that is the centerpiece of the circular living area.

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