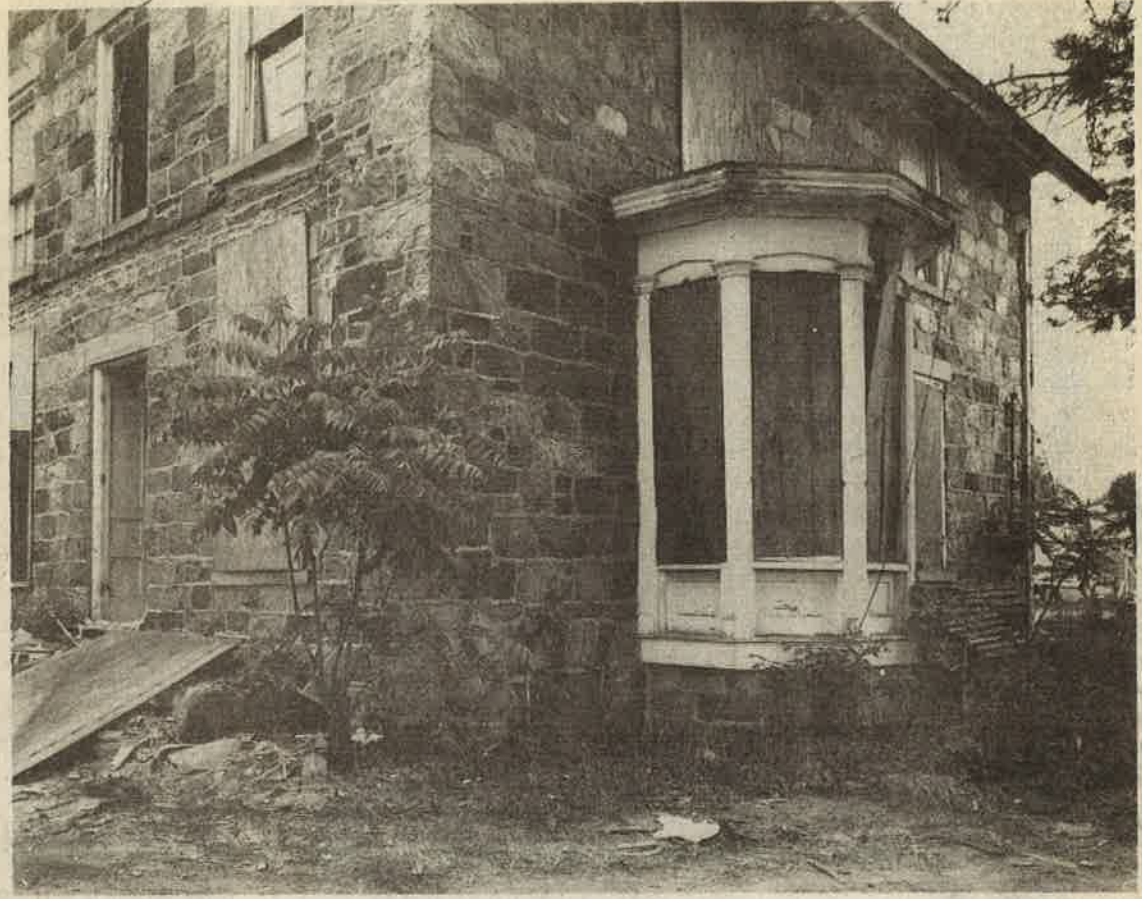


ARCHITECTURE - Bloomfield



The stone house on the corner of Lahser and 14 Mile, Bloomfield Township, subject of controversy for several years, is now on the road to a new life. It stood vacant and uncared for after its last occupant died.

The bay window which faces Lahser, with its mid-19th century exterior moldings, is in the living room of the historic house. The stone work, attributed to Irish stone mason Hugh Purdy, is the original.

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Stone house saved from demolition

The historic, stone house at the corner of Lahser and Fourteen Mile, Bloomfield Township, close to destruction just two years ago, is now being

the house — strongly supported saving the house.

Sometimes dubbed the "stone house" because of its native stone masonry



ence.

Developer John Shekerjian said he bought the house and surrounding land in Bloomfield Township two years ago "because I liked the house."

With the architectural firm of Luckenbach/Ziegelman, Shekerjian said his development of 12-cluster homes, "Pinehurst," on the adjoining land was designed to complement the line and look of the historic house.

Pinehurst, with steep gabled, cedar shake roofs, fieldstone trim and aggregate stone drives and sidewalks has a delightful timeless look.

THE BASSETT home's rocky past was about to end with previous owners, a group of doctors who hoped to put a tennis complex on the property. Even after Shekerjian bought it, the township was eager to have it demolished.

Shekerjian said the township considered the neglected, vacant house, with the boarded-up windows and overgrown shrubbery, an eyesore and "really wanted it down."

Several neighbors were opposed to its destruction. Leslie Kowitz of Birmingham wrote a letter to the Eccentric on its behalf. Paul and Anne Klepert of neighboring Beverly Hills and Sue Smith — daughter of the late Kay Smith, author of "Bloomfield Blossoms," who researched the history of

Daniel Bassett, with construction attributed to Irish stone mason, Hugh Purdy.

The Bassett family has a colorful heritage. Samuel Bassett, 1784-1873, was one of the original Bloomfield Township settlers.

A descendant of Henry I of England, he was born in Litchfield, Conn. One of ancestors came to Plymouth Colony in 1621 on the second Pilgrim ship, "Fortune," participated in the Boston Tea Party and fought in the Revolutionary War.

SAMUEL Bassett brought his wife and sons to Michigan in 1832.

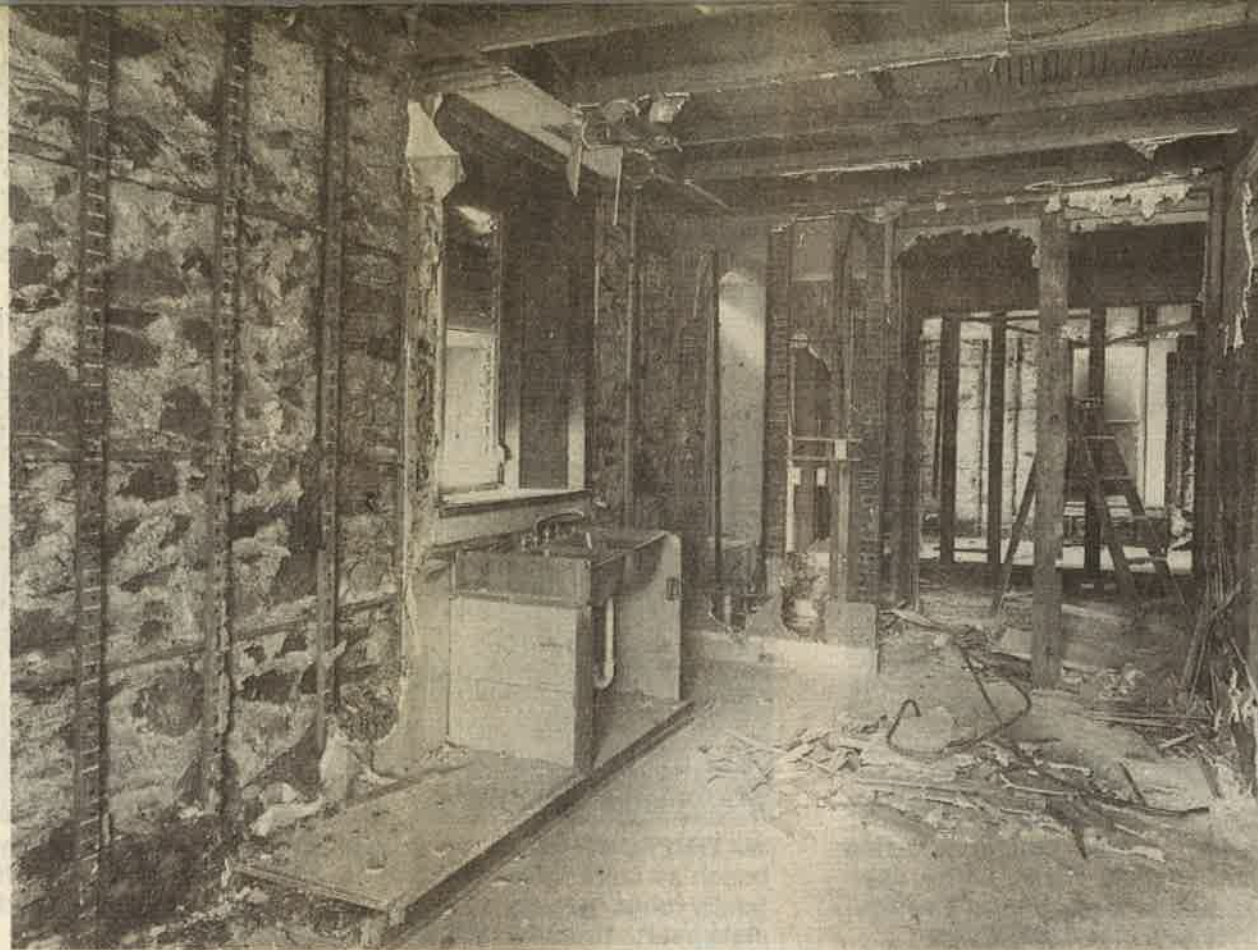
Daniel was born in 1833 in a log home built by his father on 1,320 heavily wooded acres which he bought for \$1.25 per acre.

In 1861 Bassett deeded 160 acres to Daniel and the house was built 12 years later.

It has a post and beam framing system developed in England and used widely in this country prior to 1900.

Daniel Bassett died in 1904 and his wife remained in the house until just before her death in 1909.

The renovation project is scheduled to be completed by fall and the new owners are following the daily progress closely.



The interior renovation, as evidenced by the photo at right of the kitchen area, is extensive. The estimated cost for completely updating the old house kept several of the house's defenders from plunging into the project. The new kitchen will have oak cabinets and moldings and modern conveniences.