

The History of my House

by Leah Virlee



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In the late 1830's the Lacock family moved 5 miles North west of Pinhook off Military road, and built a log cabin on the 160 acres of land which is now where I live.

The Lacocks homesteaded the land for approximately 5 yrs. until they were able to own it. In July, 1881 they tore down the log cabin and built a house. It had a Kitchen, parlor, cellar, an upstairs and a birthing room.

The Kitchen had a cookstove with an outside chimney that was made out of Mt. Vernon area brick. The parlor was used for weddings, funerals, and receiving guests. It had a wood stove. The cellar was excavated by digging and using teams of horses. It was built out of limestone block with an outside cellarway, and had a dirt floor until 1917 when they layed cement. The upstairs had 3 bedrooms. Downstairs was a bedroom used for births.

In 1903 the Lacocks added on a dining room.

In 1917 this house was one of the first houses in Linn township to have electricity. A Delco generating plant was installed in the basement.

1917
electricity

During the time the Lacoeks owned the house there were births - all the children were born here - weddings - Elizabeth Lacock and a Strother were married, and also funerals. These all took place in the parlor.

great
Point.
Now - all
these events
take place
outside of the
home

The only fire on the farm was in 1943, the two Lacoeks that lived here got in a fight, and mysteriously that night all the buildings burned down except for the house and two garages. The fire was never investigated.

Wow

In 1953 my grandmother and grandfather, Opal Yelstey and Alfred olsen purchased the land from the Lacoeks. During that year they got indoor plumbing, running water, and joined REA electricity. When they remodeled, Opal found 13 layers of wallpaper left on the walls. It took them 2 weeks to get it all off.

In 1981 my parents bought the farm from my grandmother. They put a wood stove in the dining room in '81. In '83 they added a new kitchen with skylights, and another bathroom. In '90 we put a fireplace in one of the basement rooms, and decorated it to live in. It's the only room in the basement for living in. Also in '90 we added a screened in porch on the west of the house. In '92 we redecorated the whole house.

Even though our house has been modernized, it is still very old. It was 100 yrs. old the year & month I was born. The house still has all the original windows, except for the bow window installed in 1981. The shutters are also original. The house was repainted (white with grey shutters) in '20. Before that it was green. All wood work is original. All the wood furniture in the house is antique. The house is made with real 2x4's and square rails.

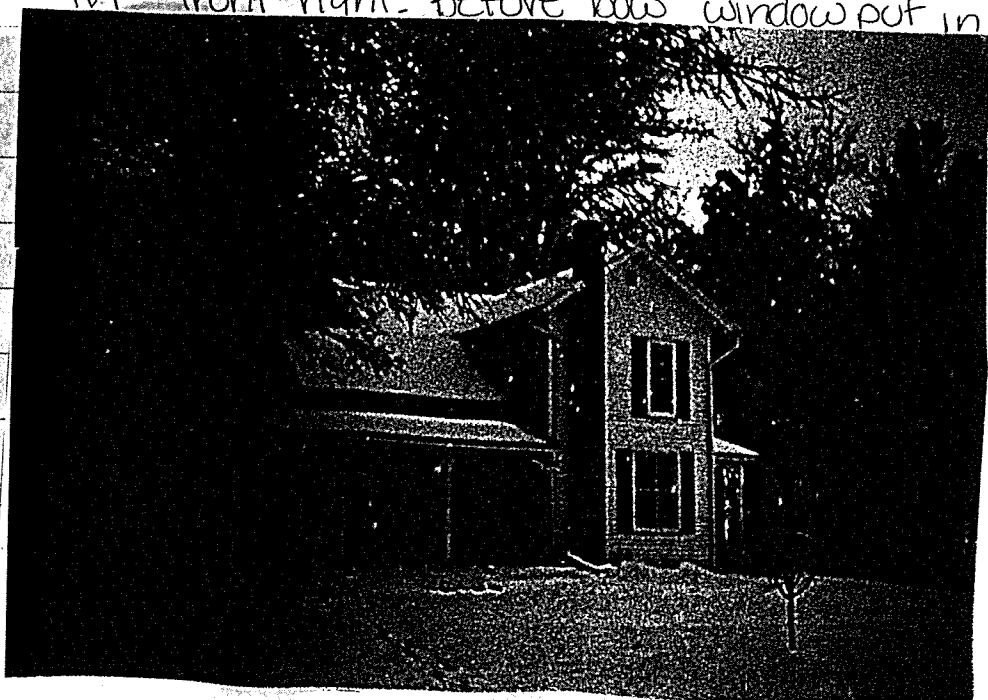
There are now 4 porches. There is an

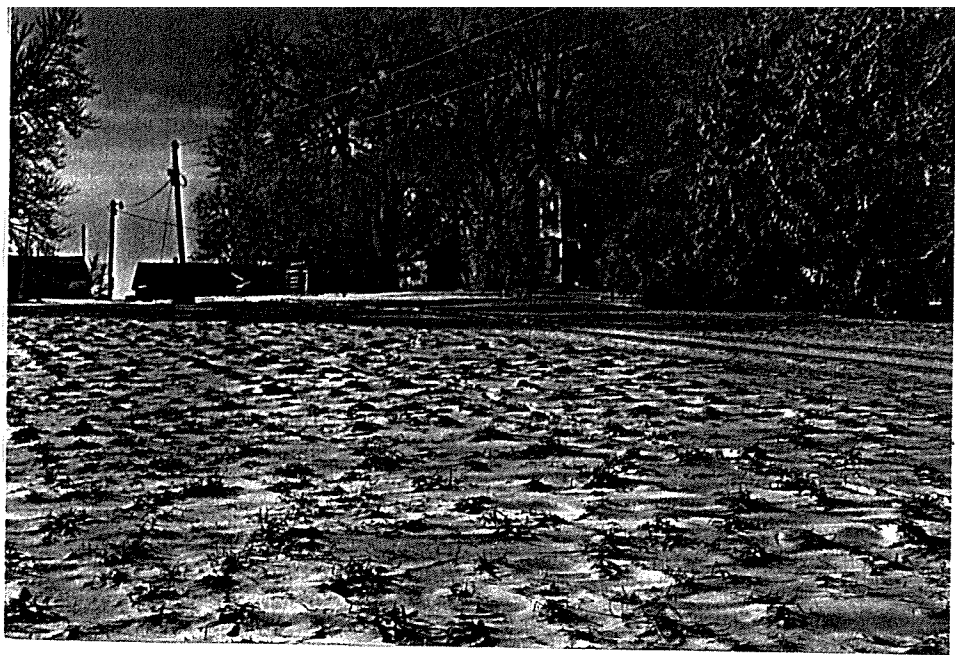
4
attic, but it's not for living. we have 17
rooms in the house. There is a total
of 28 doors in the house (interior &
exterior) No room in the house-downstairs
and basement - has less than 2 doors in ^{do you}
it. You can always go in one way and ^{ever}
out another. All the floors are wood, ^{get} ^{lost?}
some have been carpeted over though.
They are wide board pine, but stove room
is crossgrain fir, and Kitchen is oak.

Now, the official address of the house
is 202 Gaudy Rd. named after other
early pioneers who moved here.

outstanding
trophy

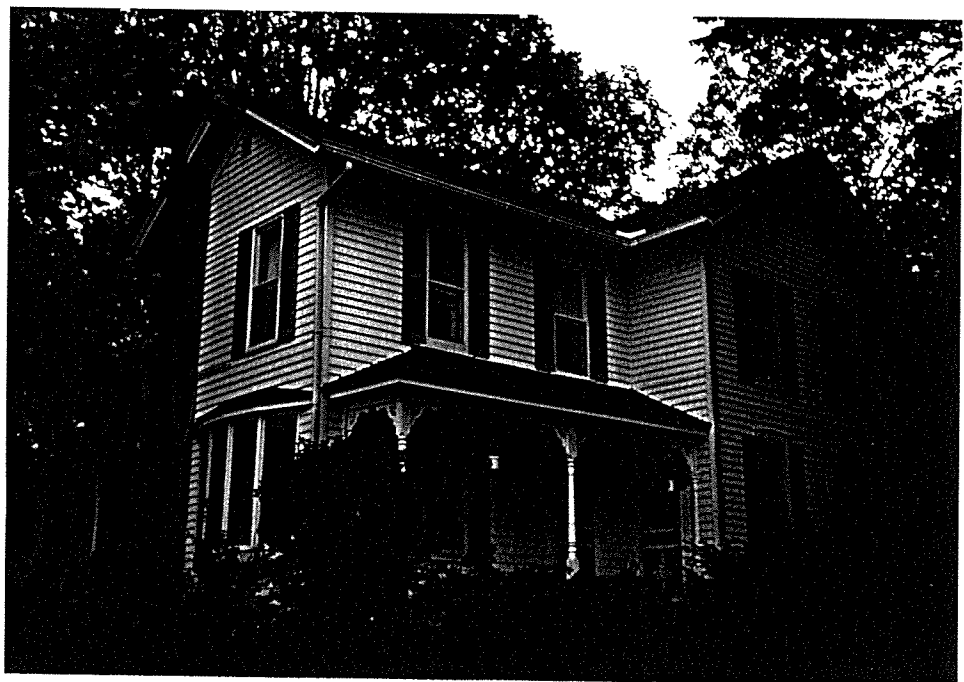
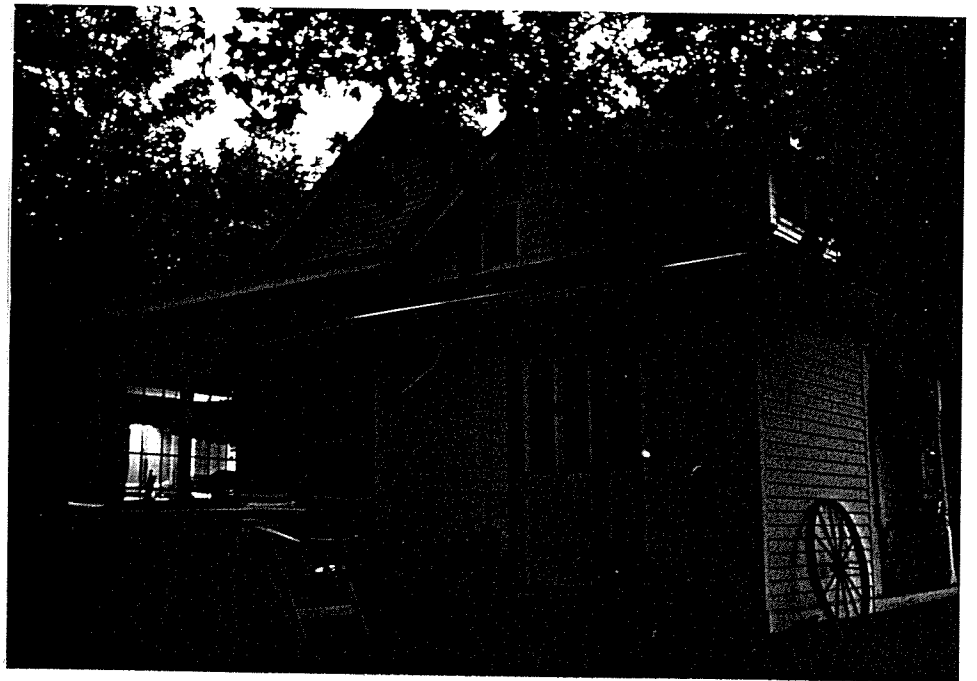
Picture of house before '87 - notice window
in front right. Before bow window put in.





farm
in
winter

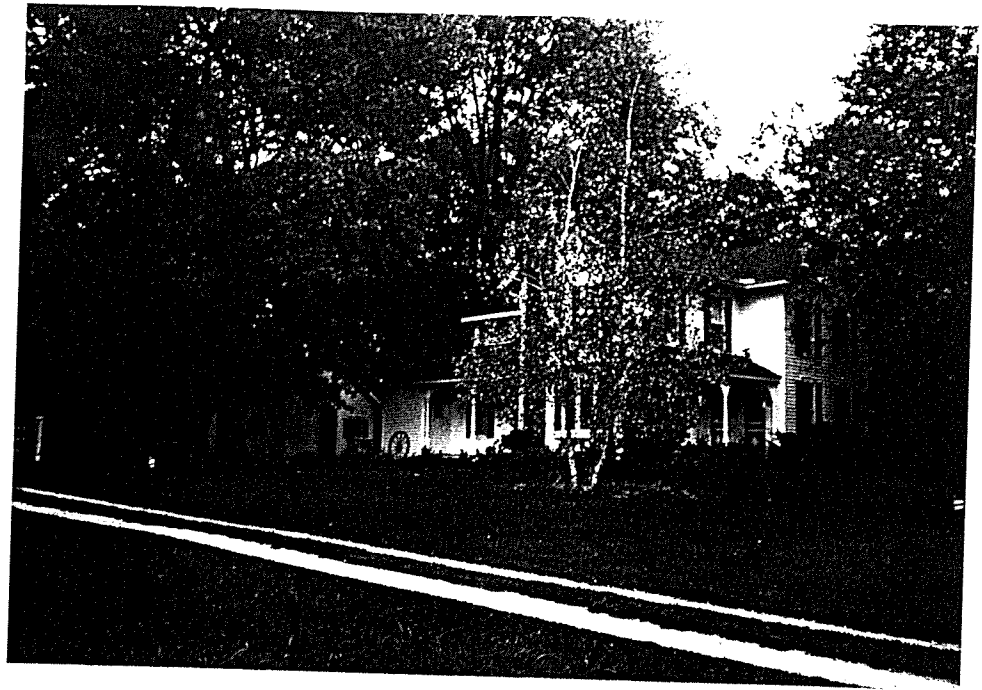
South
view
of
house



north
view.

My
room





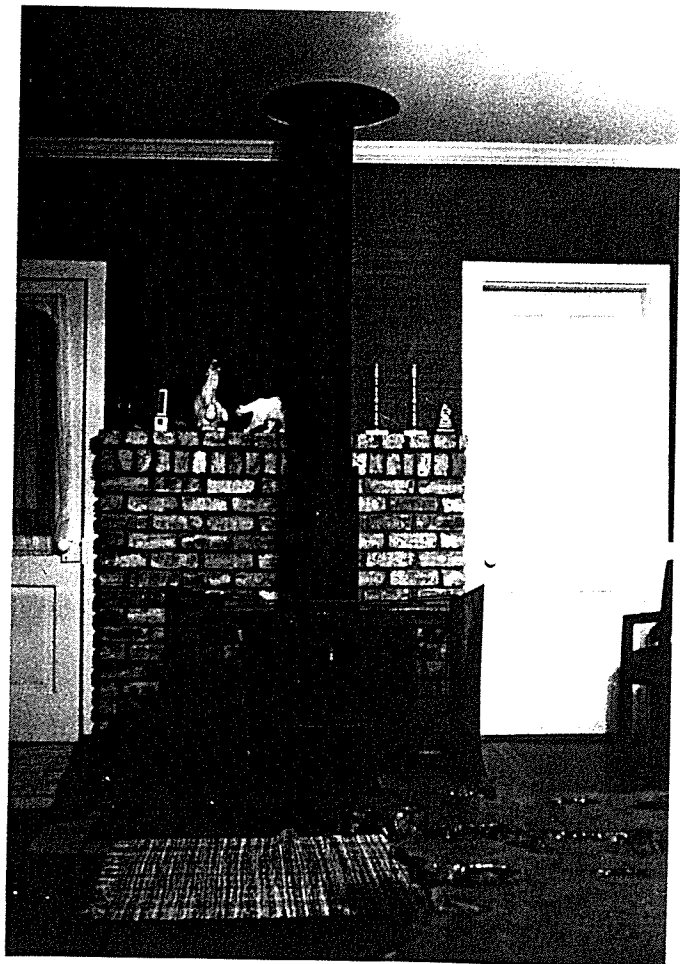
Above: same view - 75 yrs later
Below: picture taken @ 1920 of the farm.



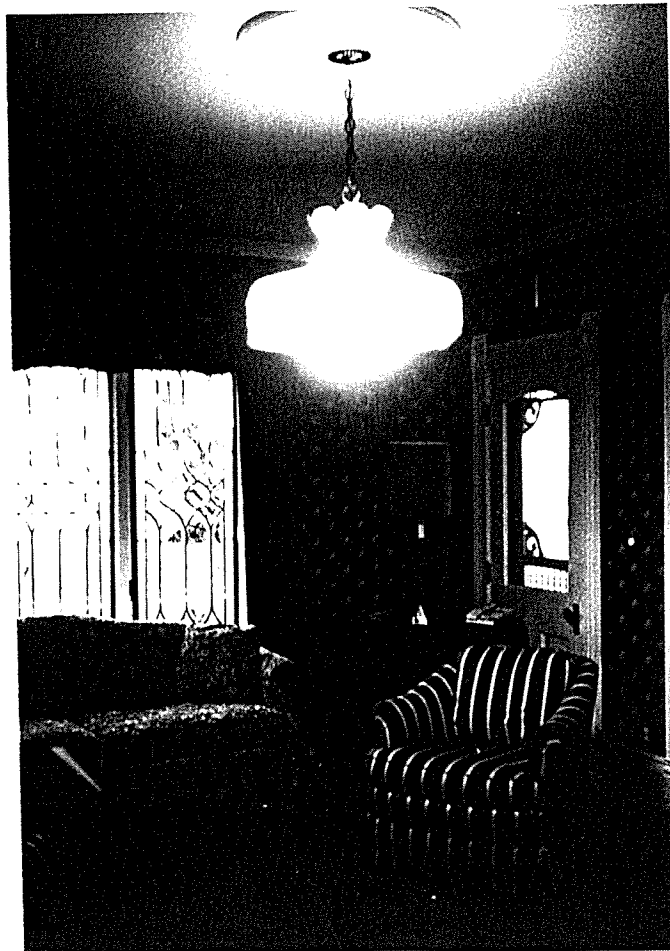


This is the skatol.
"Writing desk" in
Danish. Built by
My great, great, great,
grandfather in the
1700's.

This is the
stove room. It
used to be
the dining
room. Stove
put in in 1981.



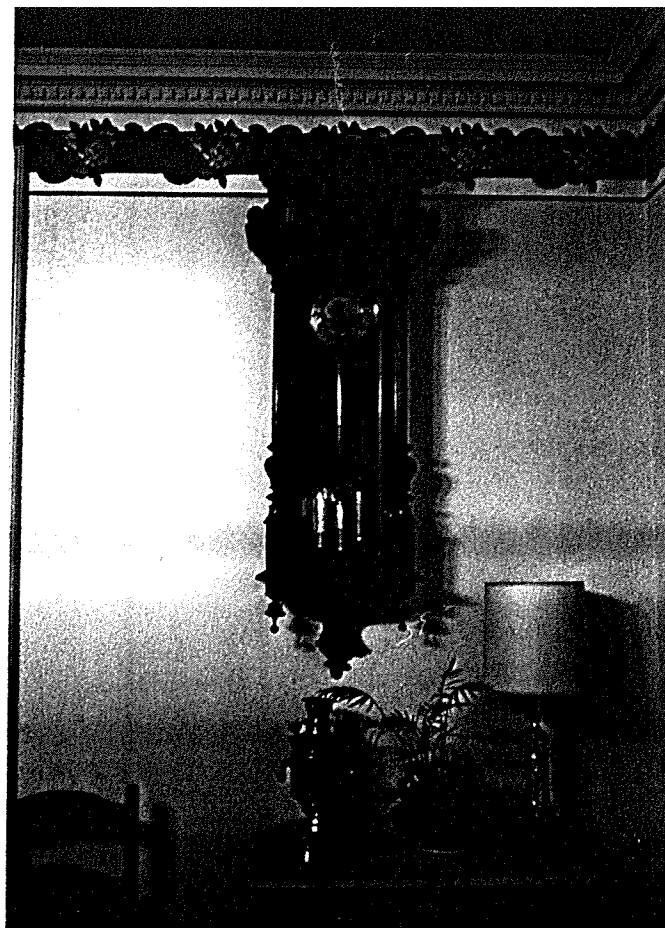
This is the round wall in what is now the library, and what used to be the birth room. It is original.



This picture shows the bow window (left) and one of the 28 doors (right)

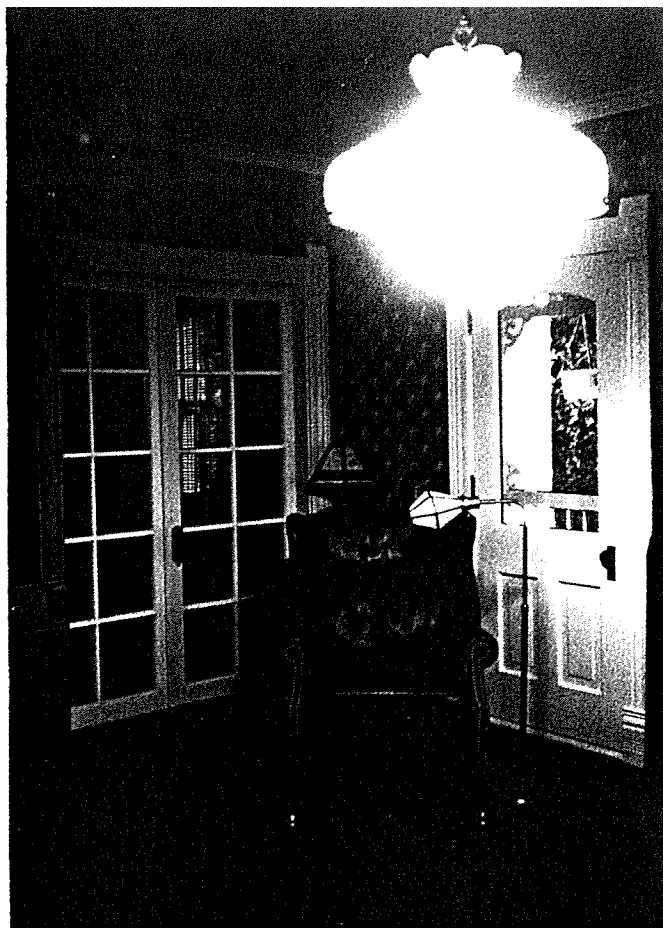
This wall clock hangs in the front room. It is from Austria. signed by George Becker - famous clock maker in 1837

Beneath clock is an antique samovar from Russia.



This is now the front room. It used to be the parlor. The medallion on the ceiling is original. The wooden chair to the left of the clock was brought to IA on a covered wagon by the Yersley family in 1836.

Piano is from the Vinton School of the Blind. 1923

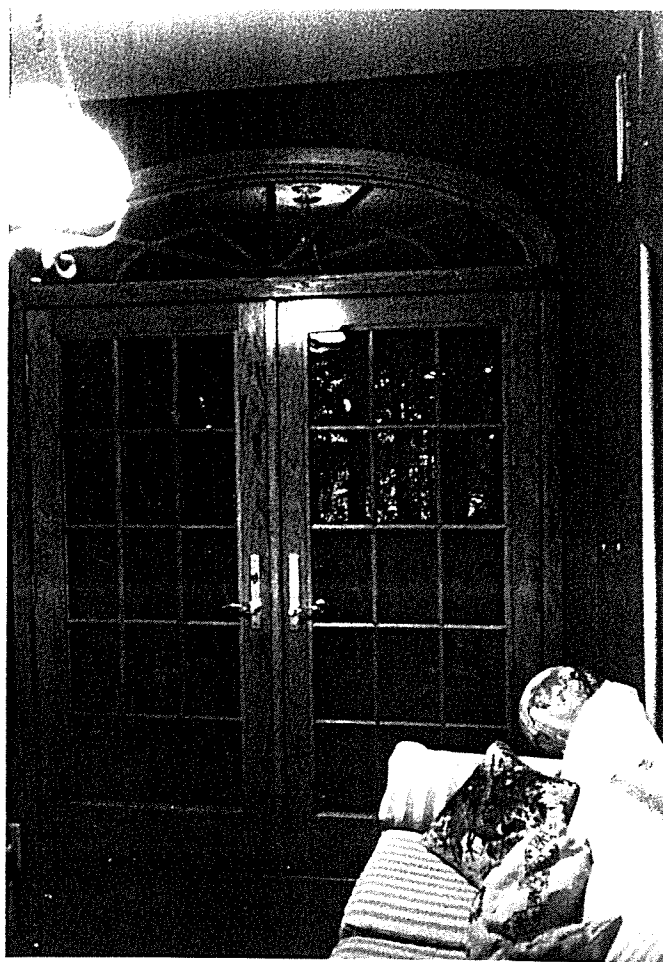


This is one
example of the
French (double)
doors in
our house.



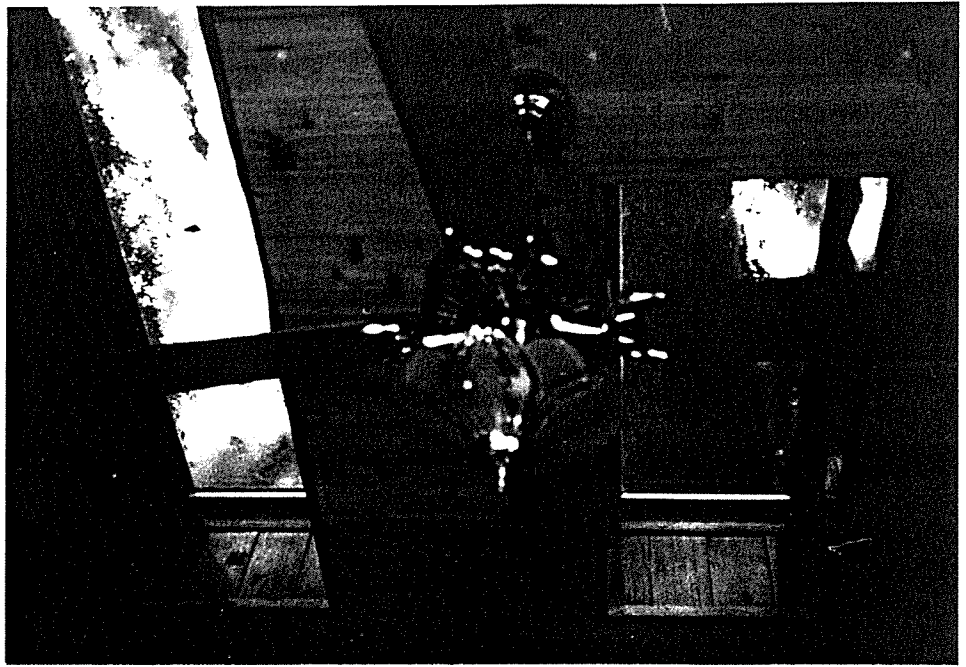
This is
another example
of French doors
in the house.

These lead
out to the
screened in
porch.



5,

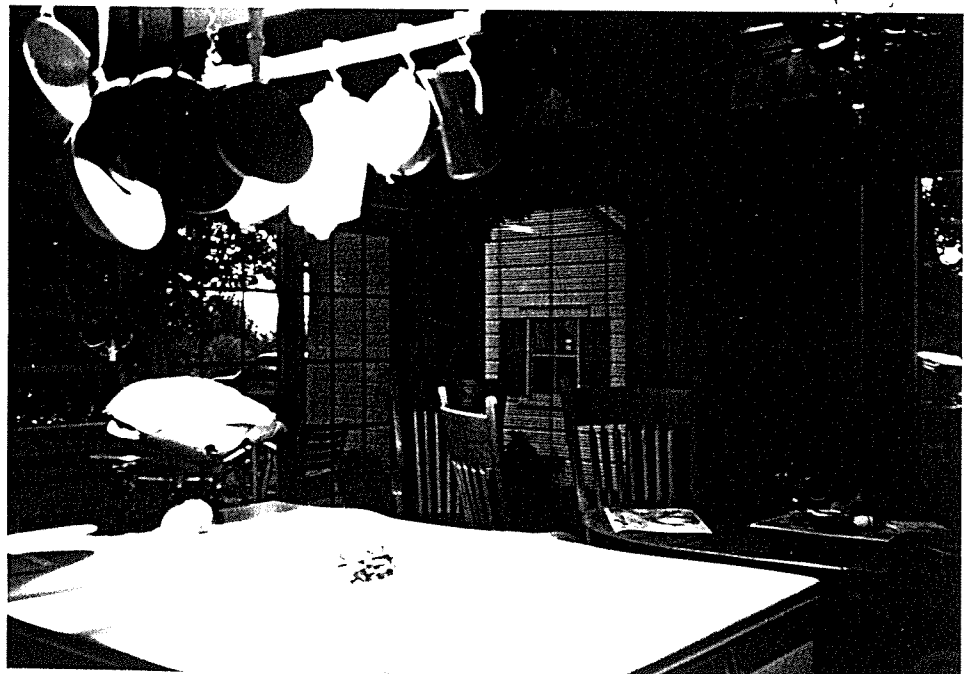


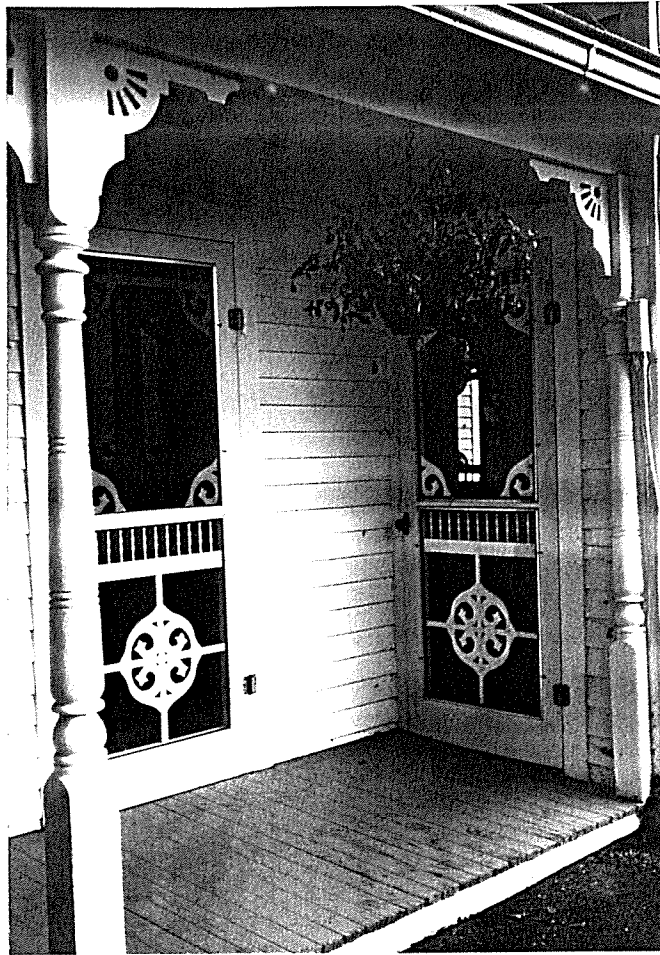


Above: Skylights in Kitchen: 1983.

Below: Kitchen: has 2 doors, 4 6 ft windows,
and 5 4 ft windows.

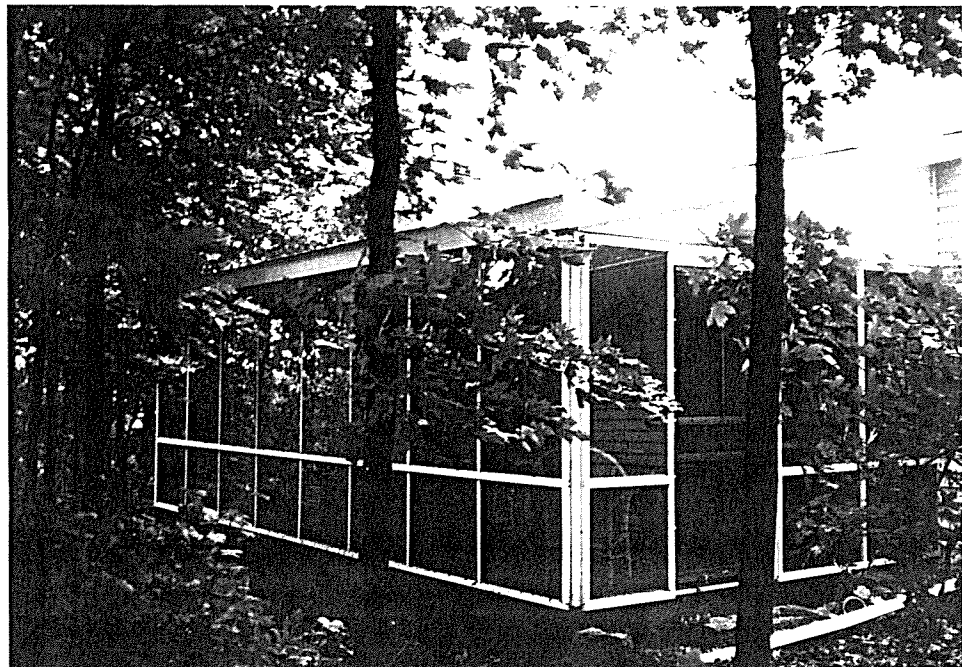
Cupboard on left dated 1836. wooden pegs





This is a picture
of the east
porch. It shows
the detailing
← and 2 examples
of doors.

Below: this is the screened in porch
that was built in 1990.





This is located on the south side of my house. It is a stepping stone for getting into carriages. From 1870-1880's.