

# *The History of my House*

*by Leah Virlee*



THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
MY  
HOUSE

BY LEAH VIRLEE

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.

During the time the Lacocks 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.

The only fire on the farm was in 1943, the two Lacocks 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.

In 1953 my grandmother and grandfather, Opal Yelstey and Alfred Olsen purchased the land from the Lacocks. 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.

1917  
electricity

great  
point.  
Now - all  
these events  
take place  
outside of the  
Home

now

A

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.

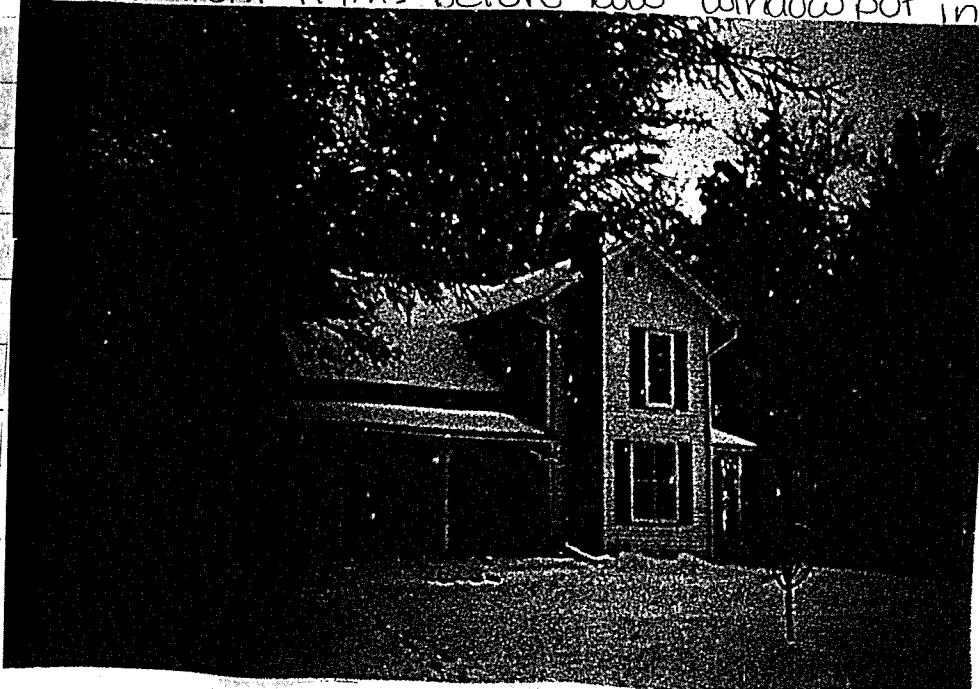
Even though our house has been modernized, it is still very old. It was 100 yrs. old the year & month I was born. The house still has all the original windows, except for the bow window installed in 1981. The shutters are also original. The house was repainted (white with grey shutters) in '20. Before 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 nails.

There are now 4 porches. There is an

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~~  
~~get lost?~~ out another. All the floors are wood, 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.

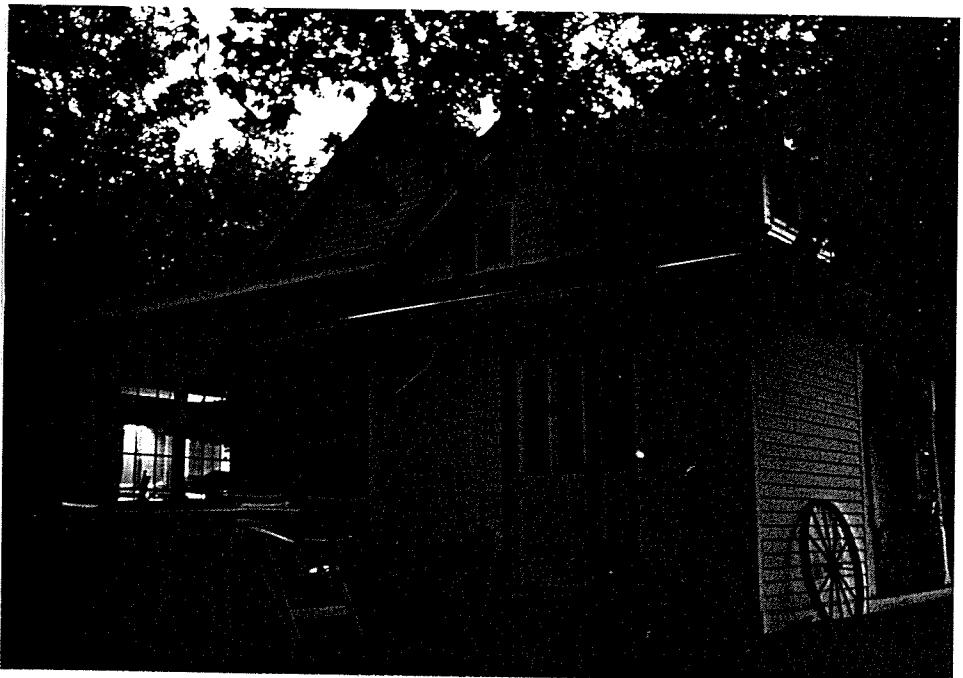
*outstanding project*  
Picture of house before '87 - notice window in front right. Before bow window put in.



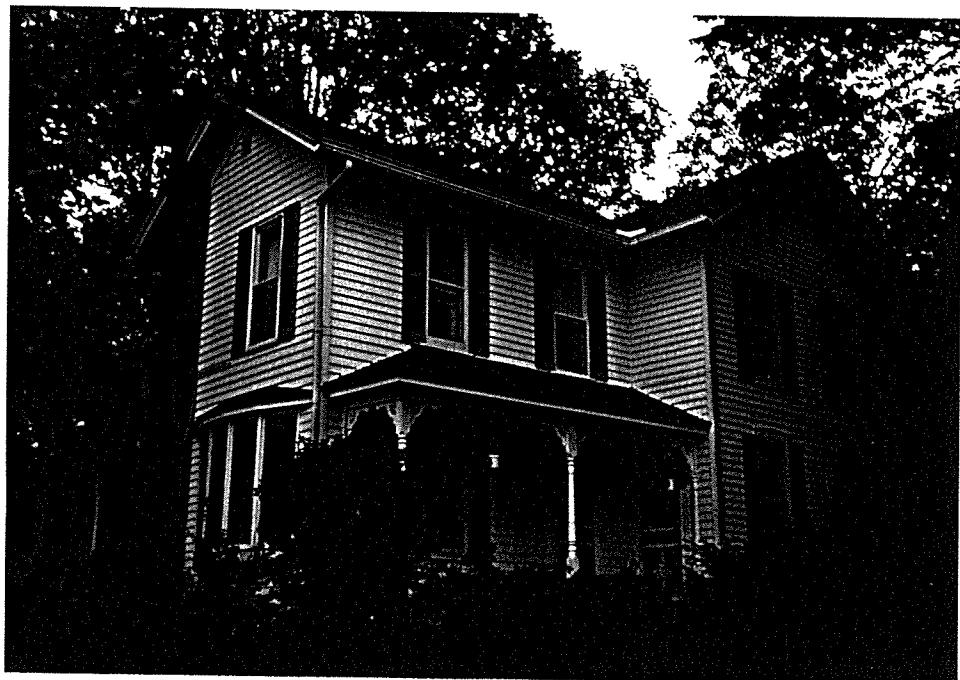
farm  
in  
winter



south  
view  
of  
house



north  
view.



my  
room  
←



Above: same view - 75 yrs later

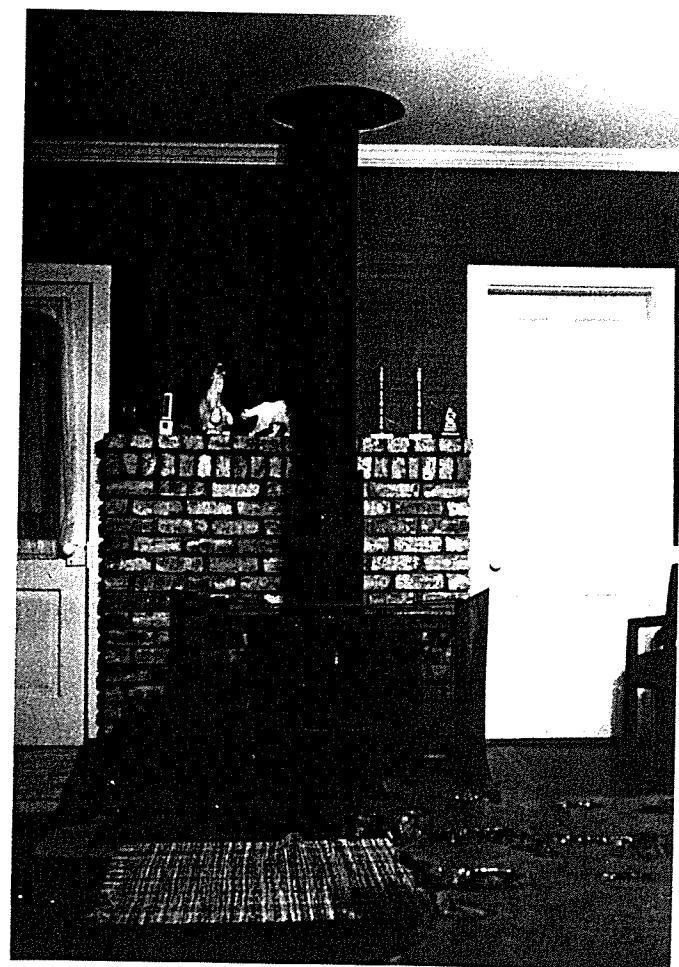
Below: picture taken @ 1920 of the farm.



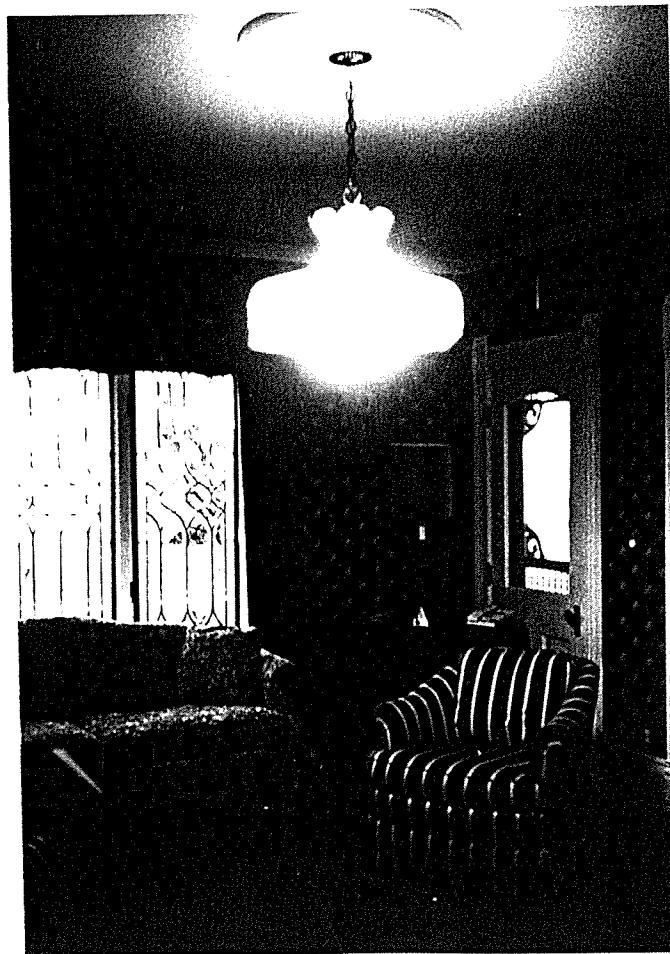


This is the skatol.  
"Writing desk" in  
Danish. Built by  
my great, great, great,  
grandfather in the  
1700's.

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



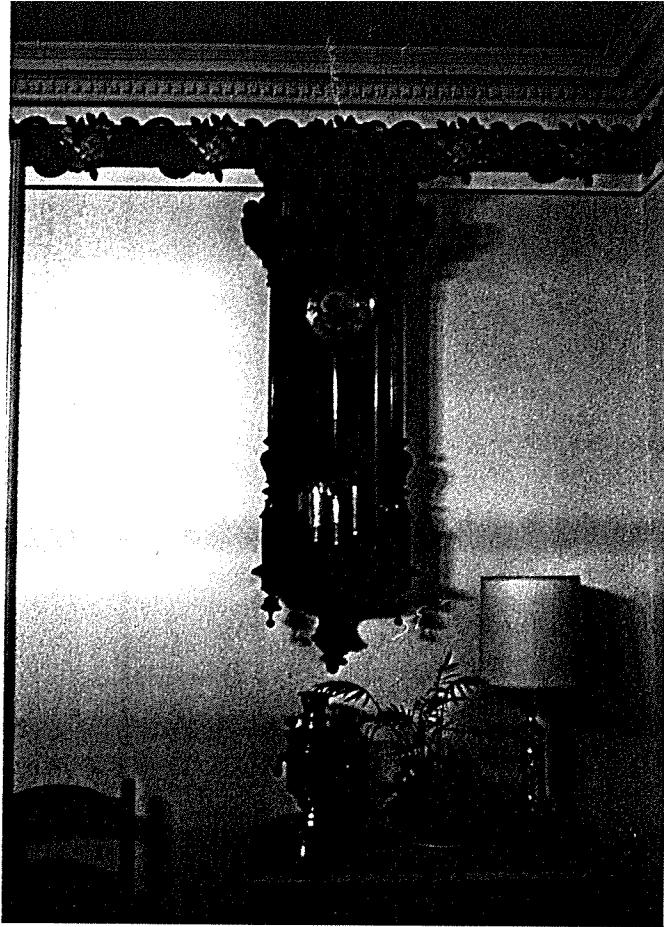
This is the  
round wall in  
what is now the  
library, and what  
used to be the  
birth room. It  
is original.



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

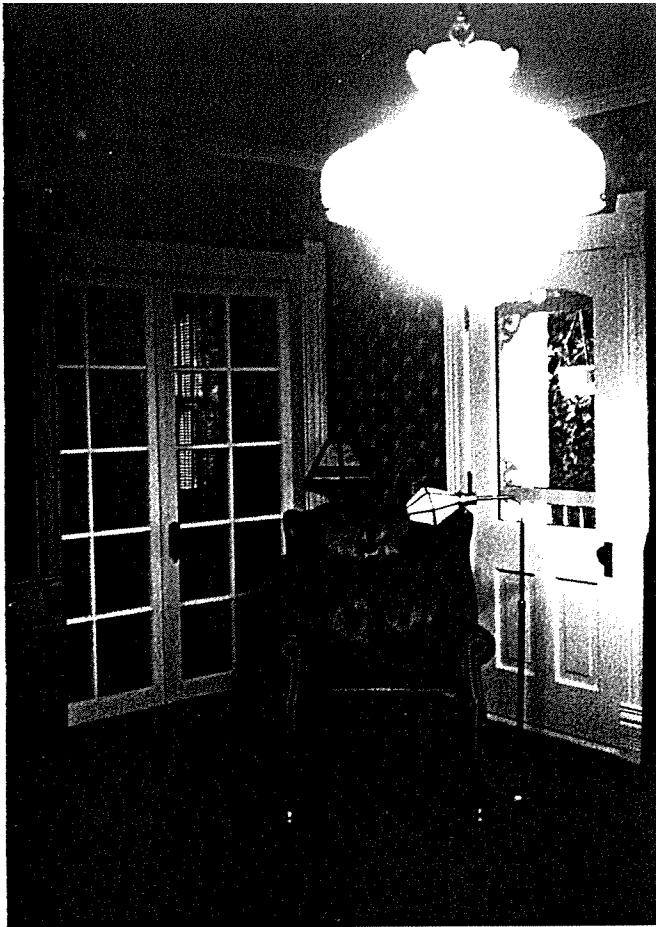
This wall clock hangs in the front room. It is from Austria. Signed by George Becker famous clock maker in 1837

Beneath clock is an antique samovar from Russia.

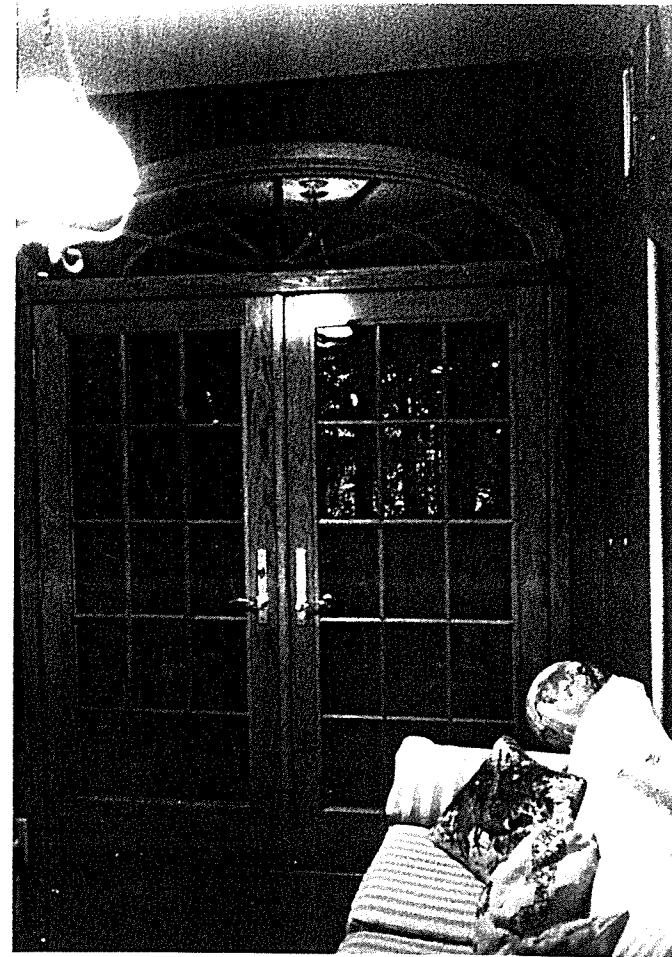


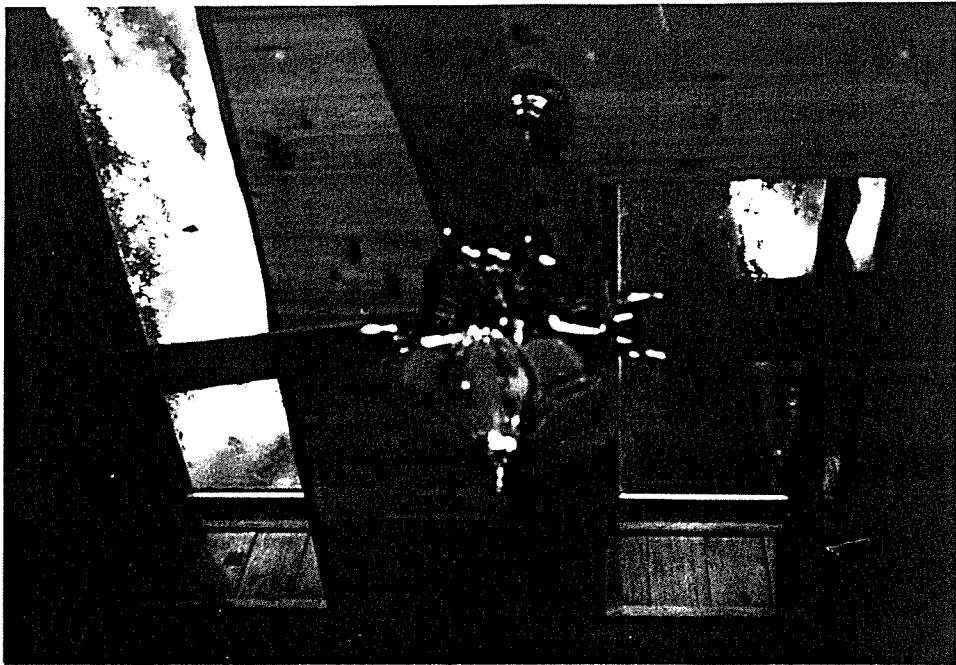
This is now the front room, it used to be the parlor. The medallion on the ceiling is original. The wooden chair to the left of the clock was brought to IA on a covered wagon by the Yerstey family in 1836. Piano is from the Vinton school of the blind. 1923

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.

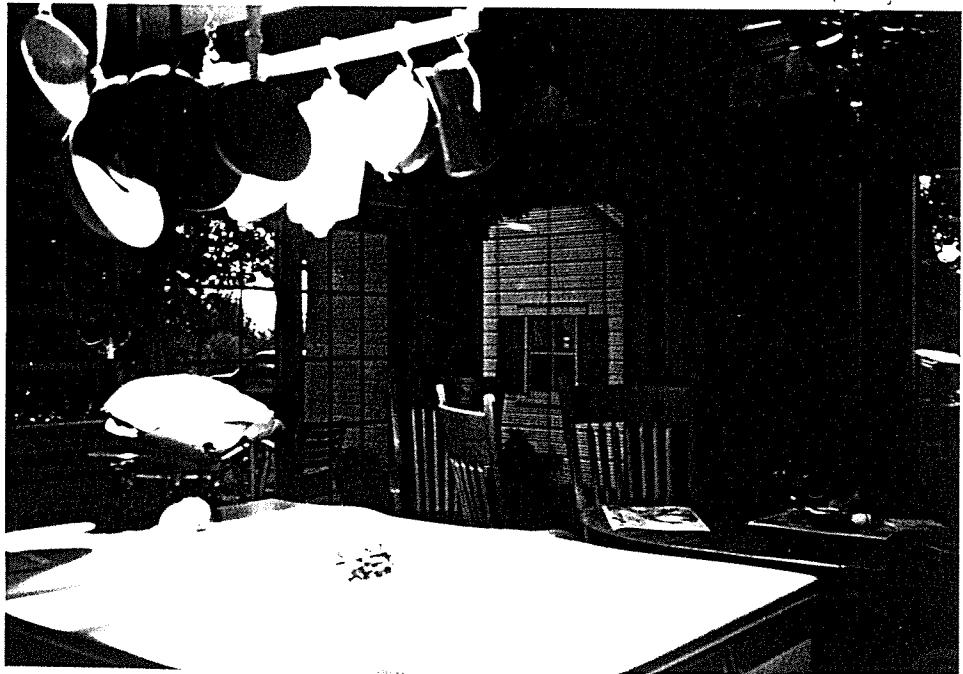


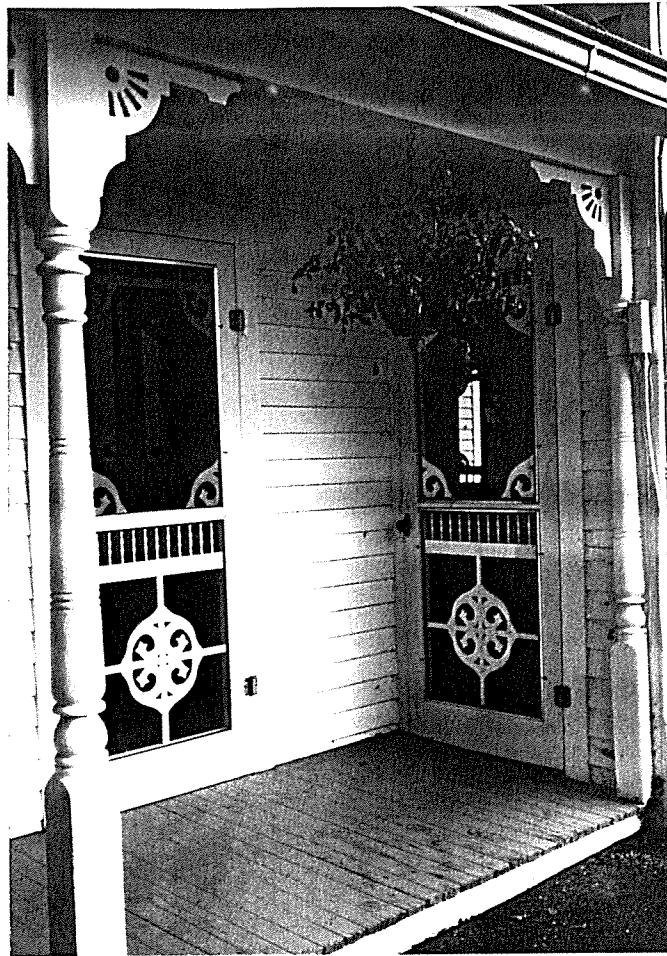


Above: Skylights in Kitchen: 1983.

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

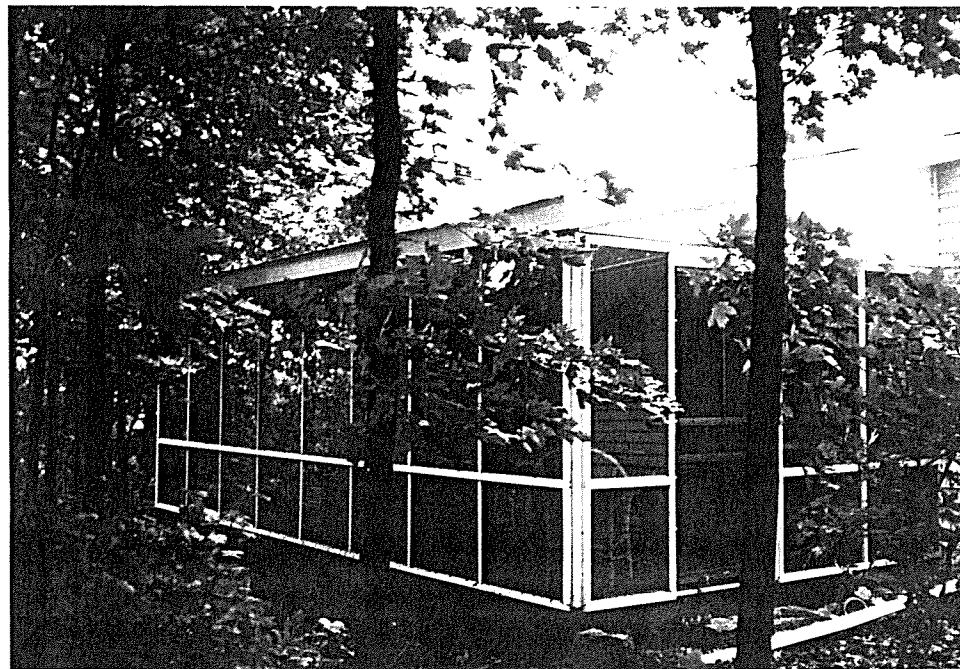
Cupboard on left dated 1836. wooden pens

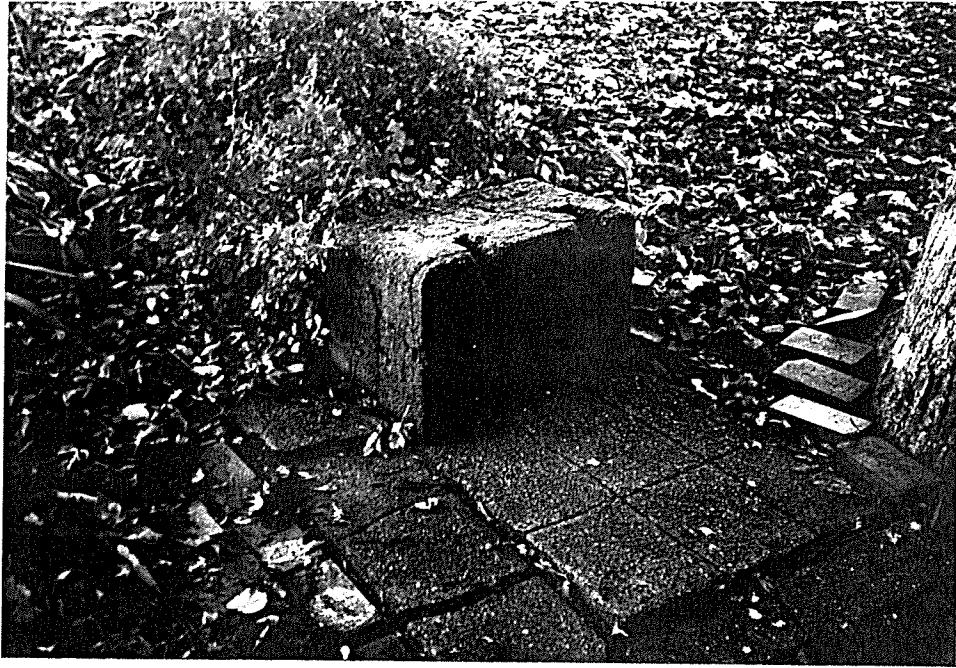




This is a picture  
of the east  
porch. It shows  
the detailing  
and 2 examples  
of doors.

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.