



THE ALLENDALE HOTEL before alterations were started.

Allendale Hotel Renovation Work Recalls Popularity Of Bygone Era

By PATRICIA HALL

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ALLENDALE — The Allendale Hotel, a landmark dating back to the end of the last century, is getting a face lifting. Repairs and renovations are being made by owner William J. (Joe) Dixon.

The building was the stopping place of berry pickers, salesmen and commission agents when Allendale was a renowned strawberry center and berries were shipped by wagon and later by rail into the cities.

Later on in the days of Benjamin Harrison, the post office was located in the building, and Lewis Rossner, whose son lives at 61 Myrtle Avenue, was postmaster at the time.

Dixon, who owns the Towne Cleaners, said that the first owner of the hotel that he knew of by name was named Braun and was the first fire chief of Allendale, organizing the department with the

aid of interested residents. The hotel used to have a tavern and restaurant back in the days when Allendale was a summer place to visit. At that time there was a grade crossing on Park Avenue and there was no wall cutting off the street as there is now. There were a few houses around the hotel and a few stores. An old building on the property housed the town's first fire house. The high tower of the hotel at one time was used for observation of the surrounding sights, and had balconies at the windows.

Naturally the building had become in great need of repair. Dixon bought the hotel about four years ago. Numerous repairs have been made, and Dixon is in the process of having the tower lowered and a peaked roof constructed over the structure.

Dixon would like to remove the porch of the building and raise it

over the second story on tall columns. He feels that it would enhance the architectural beauty of the building.

"I have a lot of ideas for improvement," Dixon explained, "But it depends on how far the town will permit me to go." Dixon was referring to the zoning code which could or could not limit him on future improvements.

At the present time the hotel has several apartments and some rooms. The building is one of the few reminders of days gone by.

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New Allendale Nursing Home Like Plush Hotel

ALLENDALE — The Allendale Nursing Home on Harreton Road was officially dedicated Saturday afternoon when Councilman Norman S. Lane put the cornerstone of the building into place.

The ceremonies began at 2 p.m. and attracted approximately 200 persons who, throughout the day, toured the building and viewed the home facilities.

Lane told the audience that he represented the council and brought "best wishes and greetings". He added that the nursing home will "enhance the reputation of Allendale."

The nursing home will house 100 persons and 35 beds have already been filled. Matthew Marciano, administrator, said that nearly two years were spent studying the nursing home field and visiting other nursing homes. The Allendale Nursing Home is a totally new concept of nursing care. Marciano added that the home has completely "eliminated the institutional and a normal life."

Located on a 14-acre site, the building is on one floor of almost one acre in size. The home is designed along the lines of a plush hotel, decorated with uncommon furniture.

The main entrance is decorated with a fountain. Marciano said that the fountain was placed in the entrance, not only as a pleasing decoration, but because of the idea that running water is known to be a sedative and relaxant.

Basically, the building is divided into two wings, each containing two sections. Each wing hallway is decorated with different colored wallpaper and the doorways are painted in sharp contrasting colors so that the patients can move around the building by use of color schemes.

The home, in full, is designed, not only to give the patient the utmost medical attention, but also to provide social entertainment and a normal life.