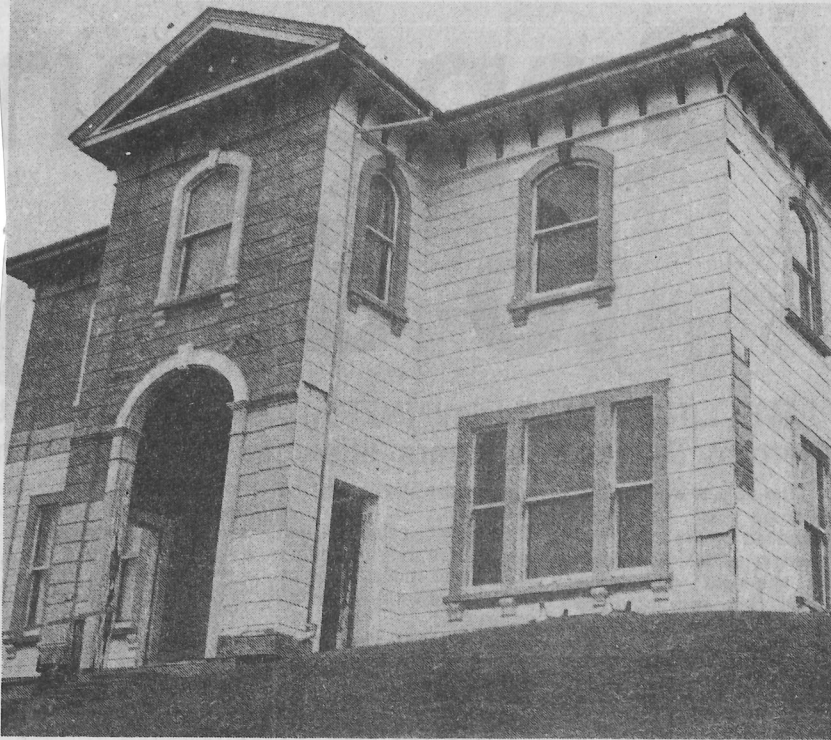


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3/7/86



Three years ago Patea farmer Jim Baker began cleaning up one of the town's oldest houses.

The 105-year-old house is a prominent feature for anybody heading north or south in the town. It is pictured above in its current state and below in its original glory.

It was built in 1881 for the resident magistrate Charles Wray and has six bedrooms, two lounges, and a bathroom on the landing.

"It was very shabby when we

bought it," said Mr Baker. "No one had done any work on it and the boards were rotting away."

Mr and Mrs Baker were hoping to move into the house nine months after buying it in 1983.

But the lack of money in farming recently, put a stop to those ideas.

"We get it done in stops and starts."

Both were reluctant to say how much the house cost them but said that it was pretty cheap.

