

Family's relocated 'forever home' full of history

Property

Jane Matthews

Nicola and Adam Warner knew their newly relocated 91-year-old home was full of history - but they didn't expect to discover it within the walls.

The pair had moved the former New Plymouth doctor's surgery 18 kilometres to Tikorangi, and while renovating the interior, builders discovered *British Medical Journals*, and a *New Zealand Medical Journal*, from 1943-44.

They were addressed to one of the previous owners, Dr Thomas Howard Thorp, who took over the clinic around 1940.

"They'd fallen down a wall and been forgotten about," Nicola said. "Some hadn't been opened.

"It was like he'd been away for three months."

Nicola is not sure what to do with them now, but is happy to give them to someone who's interested.

The home was built in 1929 and originally stood at 32 Vivian St.

Developers took over the site and offered the house for free to whoever wanted it - as long as they paid for the relocation costs.

Had no one come forward, the house would have been demolished.

Nicola has always loved old homes with character, and after a previous successful renovation, she and Adam decided to look at this one.

"It just has that good feeling about it when you walk in," Nicola said.

"This will be our forever home."

The home and doctor's practice was built for Dr David Blackley, and it had been used as an office space in



Adam and Nicola Warner have moved the 91-year-old house from New Plymouth to Tikorangi and are now renovating it. Inset: While working on the interior, builders discovered medical journals from 1943-44.

PHOTOS: ANDY JACKSON/STUFF



recent years.

Nicola said it was originally built at a cost of just under 7000 pounds.

"We got it for free - the kids love telling people that."

It was relocated to Tikorangi at the start of September and the Warners expect they will be able to move in within the next six months.

They are now looking forward to making their own memories in the eight-bedroom home with their three

children, Libby, 10, Esme, 8, and Conrad, 6.

Nicola has created an Instagram called Manor on the Move to document everything, and said due to the history of the building, there was a big interest.

They've mainly got to make cosmetic fixes now.

"It's basically exactly how it was built."

Relocating would have cost just

under \$100,000 and while they weren't sure on final figures, Adam thinks it will all be worth it.

"They don't build them like that any more," he said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If we didn't do it, someone else would have."

"It would have been so sad if it got demolished."

The home was built in 1929 and originally "lived" at 32 Vivian St.

