

FEATURE

Yesteryear FOR SALE

Grand old lady on market after 80 years in one family

Pictures: **ADRIAN MALLOCH**
 Story: **AVALON WILLING**



TO THE POINT: Wooden finials above each bay are all part of the original owner's attention to detail; and brass coat-hooks wait patiently in the hallway.



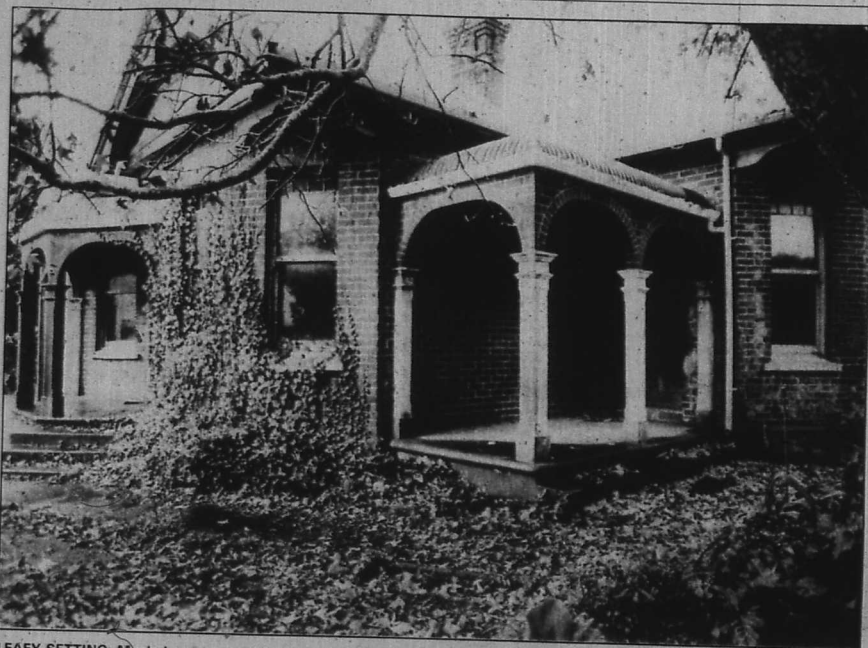
NESTLED among the maple trees and Virginia creeper on a property on Waitara's main street lies an old character.

Built of bricks from the local brickmakers kiln on Big Jim's Hill and heart-rimu supplied by New Plymouth timber merchants Boon Bros, the three-bedroom villa goes up for auction next Saturday — 80 years after it was built by the grandparents of current owner, Maisie Lewis.

Something of a landmark in central Waitara because of its distinctive appearance, the villa is presented in original condition — right down to kauri tubs in the outside laundry and the tiny bathroom, complete with a claw-footed bath and handbasin.

The stately formal lounge reeks of a bygone era of bridge parties and soirées, and the kitchen is, well, a renovator's dream.

Mrs Lewis' grandfather, Tom Elliot, soon after he married Alice Black, bought the full block of land bordering McLean, Grey, Harris and Domett streets



LEAFY SETTING: Maple leaves carpet the lawn in front of the side entrance which leads into the formal lounge.

— apart from the section on which the post office now stands — in about 1880, soon after he married Alice Black.

The couple built their first home on the site of the current telephone exchange.

Work on the house at 59 McLean St started in 1913. The exterior and interior walls are built of double brick, with plastered walls and ceilings. Records reveal that such was the attention to detail every brick and piece of timber was inspected and discarded if it was found to be of inferior quality.

Alternate copper bricks were moulded into a 120° angle, rather than the traditional rectangular shape in the quest for a more solid looking home.

The house later passed from the Elliots to their daughter Amelia Nosworthy and she, in turn, passed the property on to her daughter, Mrs. Lewis. Apart from a brief time during the war, she has lived there

since she was 12-year-old — until a few weeks ago when she moved out.

Over the years, land was gradually sold off leaving the present 3220m² section. During the 1940 and early 50s, the exchange site was a peach and pear orchard and the apple orchard was sited on the land where Sharrocks Motors Ltd.

Partly-zoned commercial, the property has a current Government Valuation of \$87,000.

Real estate agent Murray Arms said that being such a landmark in the town, the house's May 29 auction had attracted a lot of interest. During one open home more than 200 people had taken the opportunity to have a look through the house.

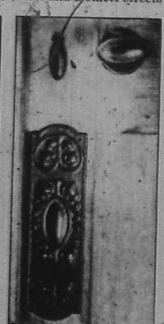
"It's created a lot of interest. Everyone goes past and admires it, but most people have never been inside."



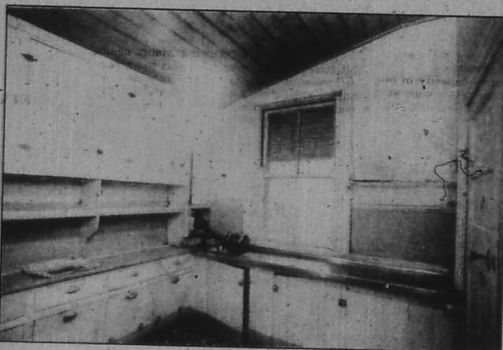
UNDER COVER: The trellised verandah is an unusual feature of a house of its age.



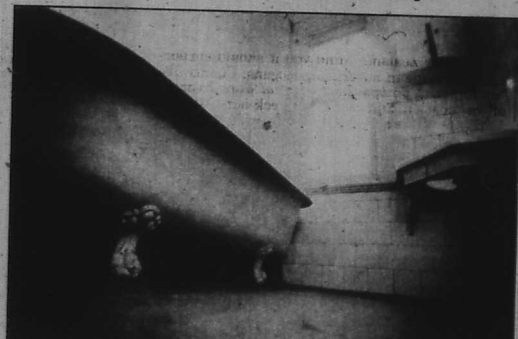
WASHED OUT: The original kauri tubs in the washhouse, at the back of the house, have seen better days.



PROTECTIVE: Finger plates on the doors.



KITCHEN CAPERS: The kitchen is described, in real estate-speak, as a renovator's dream.



BATHING SUITE: A four-legged bath and an ornate if slightly small, and fatally damaged, handbasin in the bathroom.