

MELROSE HOUSE TO GET A "FACE-LIFT"

Melrose House opposite Burgers Park in Jacob Maré Street, one of Pretoria's most coveted national monuments, is soon going to present its "old" face again, showing what it really looked like in Victorian times.

The choice of colours will be based on a study of old photographs of the house, information gained from relatives and on-site research by means of which layers of paint on the walls were examined in order to define the original colours.

The colour of the house was originally yellow-white with dark-green woodwork and a red roof. The conservatory was white, and from about 1910 the two front gables were a dark-brown pinkish colour.

George Jesse Heys, a well-known businessman in Pretoria at the turn of the century, bought two erven in Jacob Maré Street in 1885, and commissioned a London architect, W.T. Vale, to design a house for him.

While the house was being built, George and his wife, Emma Jane, toured Europe and were so impressed with the ruins of Melrose Abbey in Scotland, that they decided to call their new house Melrose Villa. From about 1900 it became known as Melrose House, and today this late Victorian/Edwardian mansion is a museum under the management of the City Council of Pretoria.

During the Anglo Boer War, Melrose House became the British headquarters and Lords Roberts and Kitchener resided there.

The War was ended by the signing of the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging on 31 May 1902 in the dining room of Melrose House.

Through the years the house remained unchanged and today it is an excellent example of the technical developments which took place around the turn of the century. The whole house is consequently an example of Victorian ingenuity and craftsmanship.

The interior of the house was renovated after the end of the War, and the result is an example of the transition period from the late Victorian to the Edwardian periods of style in an English mansion.

The exterior remained the same, except for a change in the colour-scheme from time to time.

With the "face-lift" of Melrose House it is envisaged to paint the outside in the original colours of 1905 - 1910 so that the outside view may correspond with the period in which the interior is furnished, namely late Victorian/Edwardian.

Visitors to Melrose House should note that the house is closed on Mondays only. Visiting hours are as follows: Tuesdays to Saturdays: 10h00 - 17h00; and on Sundays from 13h00 - 18h00. The entrance fee is 20c for adults and 10c for children.

Jeugjaar

- Vervolg van bl 1

Van die aktiwiteite wat in die vooruitsig gestel word, is 'n jeugnaweek van 15 tot 17 Maart wat onder meer 'n redenaarskompetisie, sang en klank in die park, 'n kunsvlytmark, spitbraai en 'n straatparade sal insluit. 'n Jeugskou van 9 tot 12 Oktober, sal die hoogtepunt van die Jeugjaar in Pretoria wees.

Alle projekte wat vanjaar aangepak word, sal finansiële implikasies inhou. Die Pretoriase Jeugkomitee beskik egter nie oor eie fondse nie en sal gevolglik op fondse, borgskappe of ander vorme van bystand moet staatmaak. Belangstellendes kan aan Die Pretoriase Jeugkomitee, Posbus 17031, Pretoria 0001, skryf, of mnr Helmut Reiff by telefoon 55-3550 skakel.



Melrose House in 1895 - 1900.