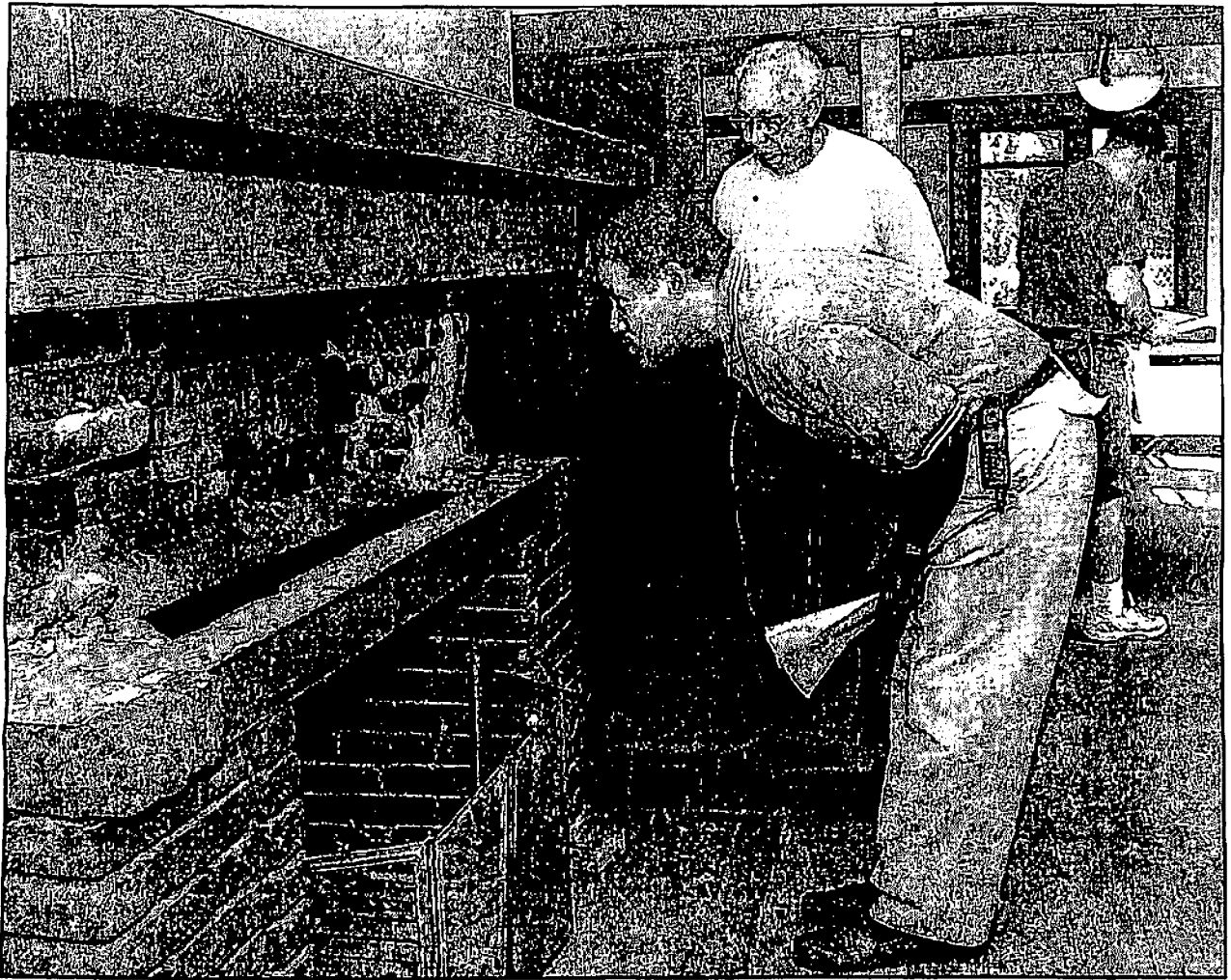


REVIVING LIFE IN 91-YEAR-OLD HOME



Staff photos by WALT MANCINI

KENNETH McPHEETERS, above left, and Robert Brown examine the fireplace at the Merrill house in Pasadena. Heritage Housing holds a walk-through tour for interested contractors, below.

Preservation group to fix, sell historic Merrill house

09-22-01

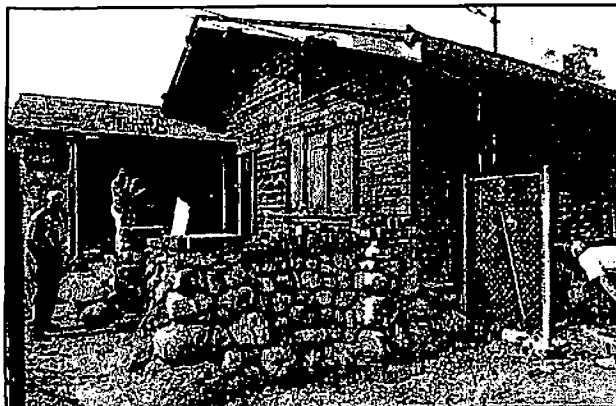
By Elizabeth Lee
STAFF WRITER *Star News*

PASADENA — The Sam Merrill house doesn't look too bad for a 91-year-old, especially one that has suffered years of neglect.

The 1285 N. Summit Ave. home, considered an outstanding example of the work of architects Greene & Greene, even survived a stint as a crack house not long before Heritage Housing Partners bought it in 1999.

But the contractors who toured it Thursday in anticipation of a rehabilitation project found the 1910 home had weathered the years gracefully.

"Oak, you know, it can take a licking," said Jeff



Jones of Sunwest Hardwood Floors, as he viewed the dull, rough, but intact floorboards in the living room.

The particular cut of wood he was examining, known as quartered oak, "was prominently used back in the time because it was such a stable

wood," Jones said.

The fixing-up of the historic home will be neither quick nor cheap — at least six to eight months, and probably more than \$100,000.

But once it's done, this formerly abandoned architectural treasure will once

again be home to a family. Heritage Housing, an arm of the historic preservation group Pasadena Heritage, plans to sell the home to a low- or moderate-income buyer.

Painters, floor refinishers, carpenters, and just about every other kind of tradesman visited the house last week to pick up bid specifications and see for themselves what needs to be done.

"I was expecting it to be worse, especially from looking at it from the outside," said Michael Logan from Angelo Michael's Painting, as he surveyed the interior.

"It needs a lot of work. But there are a lot of nice details if you look closely," Logan said.

The house was built for

Please turn to MERRILL / A4

