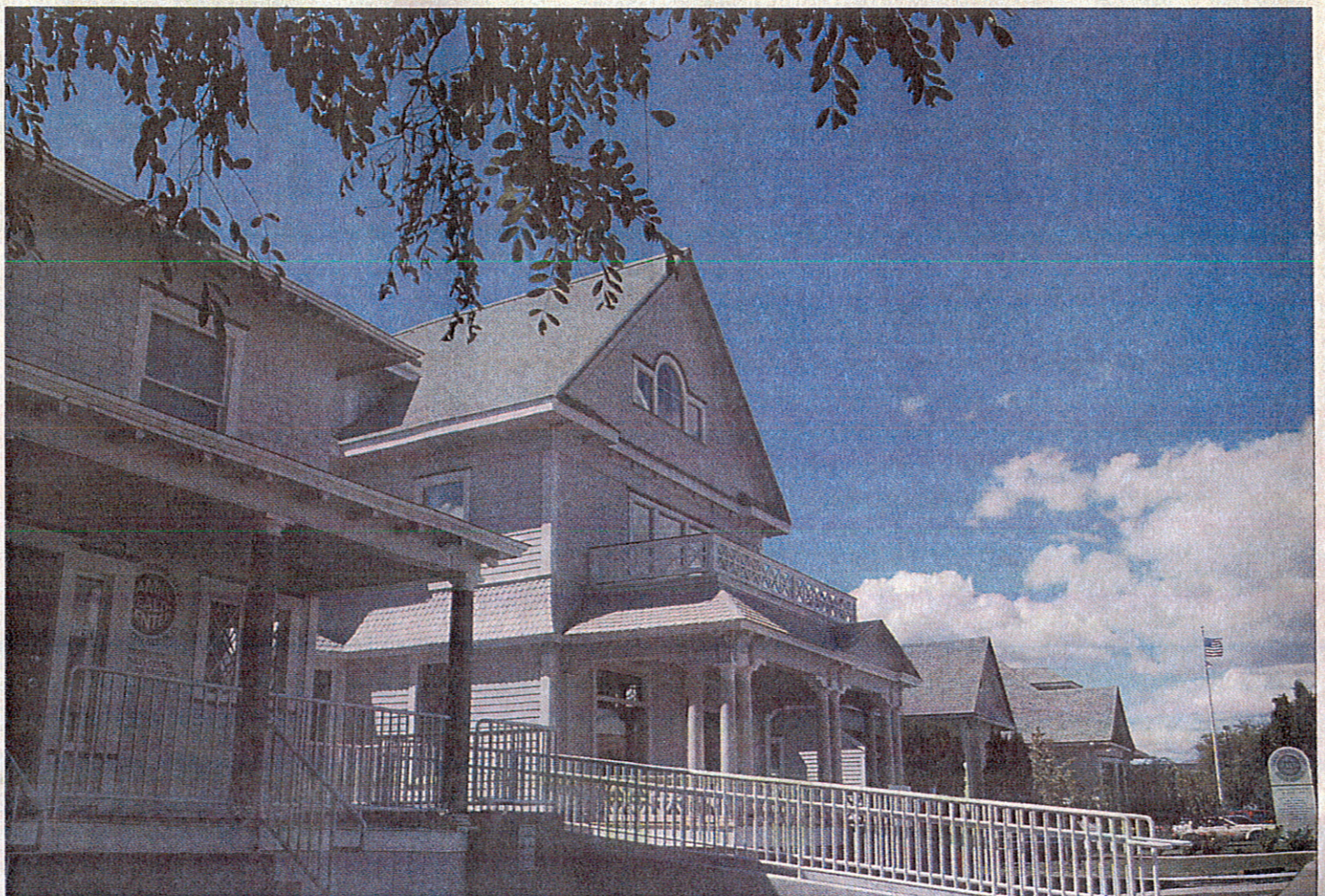


The
*Richey
House*



LEFT: The Richey House while it was being built in 1901 on North Naches Avenue.

BELOW: The Richey House as it looks today, flanked by two other buildings for Yakima Neighborhood Health Services on South Eighth Street.



Familiar to many, the house gets new life in a new location

By ED STOVER
YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

Rhonda Hauff taps the old postcard with her finger. "Take a look at this," she says, displaying the photograph on the front of the card.

The faded picture shows a house — a handsome, three-story, not-quite-completed Queen Anne-style structure, the sort of family home that was popular with affluent Americans at the dawn of the 20th century.

Five workmen stand in front of the home. They have taken a break from their travails to pose for the photographer. Judging by the sunlight's slant and the workmen's clothing, it is likely mid-morning of a late spring or summer day.

The men appear relaxed, perhaps relieved to be in the final stages of what must have been a whopper of a construction project. Hauff turns the card over. There's a note on the back:

"Find me if you can!" the handwritten message teases.

What's it mean? Hauff is asked.

"Probably one of the workmen mailed this (the card). It was donated to us."

"Us" is Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, the 27-year-old private, nonprofit health clinic, where Hauff is primary care services administrator.

And the house in the photograph, "The James Richey House," is familiar to many in Yakima, particularly in recent years. That's because the house, like the mischievous messenger in the postcard, has been engaged in a much-publicized, find-me-if-you-can game of its own.

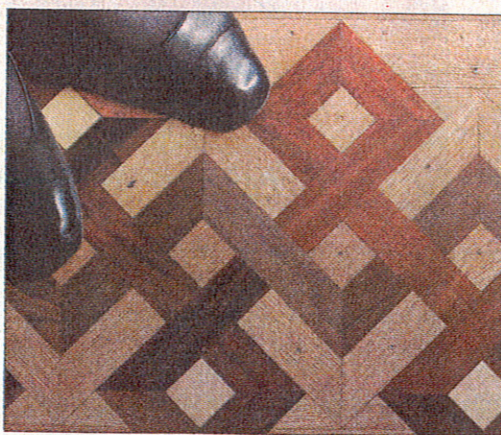
The towering structure has had no less than three addresses in the past seven years:

- There was the original site, 206 N. Naches Ave., the location in the postcard where, in 1901, workmen constructed the home for one C.H. Bartlett. Bartlett sold it in 1902 to orchardist James Richey and his wife, Ann, which is how Richey House got its name.



Each of the main rooms of the Richey House features intricate molding on and around the ceiling. The leaded glass window in the center of the large window is one of the original windows preserved from the house. Painter Carlos Calderon puts away his paint roller after working in the house last week.

Photos by
GORDON KING/
Yakima Herald-Republic



Anita Monoian stands on one of the Richey House's parquet floors. Each of the main rooms has a parquet floor with a different pattern.

- Then, in 1995, empty and a candidate for demolition after years of family, business and other uses, including apartments, Richey House was moved to the southeast corner of Fourth and E streets where it sat for six years, becoming grist for big ideas — one plan called for it to be a "Wine Country Information Center."

None panned out. Its future was very shaky.

- But in the summer of 2001, the house got a reprieve. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services purchased the wayward mansion and moved it to 12 S. Eighth St., where it sits today, one of several vintage former homes that make up the clinic complex.

For seven years, Richey House had drifted through real-estate wilderness — a house without a home. However, as of Aug. 22, those

days of uncertainty will be over.

On that day, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., the clinic will celebrate "Richey House Reborn," a public unveiling of its most recent addition, a \$1.2 million restoration and renovation project.

The project includes not only the 5,000-square-foot Richey House, but another 5,000-plus square feet of work space that will tie the clinic's buildings together, integrating space and services used by 400 to 600 patients and clients who visit the clinic each day.

"Our goal is to be a first-class battleship, not a yacht," observes Yakima Neighborhood Health Services board chairman Don Hinman, emphasizing the clinic's mission as a primary health-care service provider to low-income families, as well as for a growing number of seniors.

Those services include medical and dental care for adults, children and a growing population of seniors, as well as providing services for expectant and new mothers. The clinic

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LIFE

RICHEY HOUSE/This Is Third Location for House Built Back in 1901

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even hands out free car seats for children.

On this day, Hinman and Hauff and chief executive officer Anita Monoian are showing off the new facilities, of which Richey House, towering head and shoulders above the other buildings, is the undisputed star, bustling again with workmen as on the postcard of old.

This group of workers are with Craig Schultz Construction, which is coordinating the restoration.

Hinman admits that with the estimated \$500,000 it cost to move, restore and renovate Richey House, the clinic probably could have built a new structure. But it wouldn't have fit in.

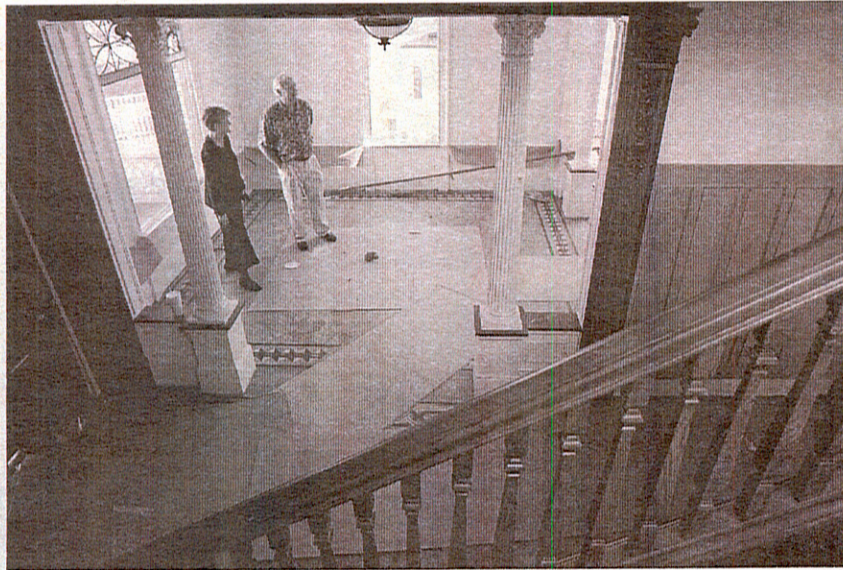
"We've always been into old houses; we're very sentimental about it," agrees Monoian, who has been with the agency since 1979. She points with pride to the inlay work on the original hardwood floors, which are being refinished.

"There was some water damage," says Monoian, referring to the years the house sat idle. That damage is being carefully repaired. Paint Smith, a local painting contractor, is restoring the delicate scrollwork on the main floor. Steve Vingo, a local stained-glass craftsman, is restoring the glasswork around the front entry, but much of the original leaded glass in the house is intact.

"We're like kids in a candy store," says Monoian, pointing to the front-room area where her office will be, a welcome change from the cramped quarters she's worked in for years.

The workmen are just as excited as the staff, she says. It's about the biggest thing to happen at the clinic since former first lady Rosalynn Carter visited in 1992.

"We're all enjoying bringing



GORDON KING/Yakima Herald-Republic

Anita Monoian and Don Hinman talk about the progress of the renovation during a tour of the Richey House last week. They are standing in the front room of the house; the banister in the foreground is part of the original woodwork that was preserved in the restoration of house.

have no goal to be the biggest, but we do want to be the best clinic in the state."

He says the organization stuck out its fiscal neck a bit when it rescued Richey House, taking out a loan and dipping into the clinic's operating revenues to get the half-million dollars it took to save the his-

toric structure.

"We're looking to have a fund-raising drive to get some of that \$500,000 back," says Hinman, adding that he hopes the community will respond.

Meantime, people can attend the Aug. 22 open house and see Richey House for themselves. The house and the rest of the

expansion will be open to patients in early September.

"Probably the day after Labor Day," Monoian estimates.

■ Features reporter Ed Stover can be reached by phone at 577-7628, or by e-mail at estover@yakima-herald.com.

Celebrate Richey House Reborn

Yakima Neighborhood Health Services will host "Richey House Reborn," a special unveiling of the restored Yakima landmark mansion, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Aug. 22.

The clinic is at 12 S. Eighth St. The open house, according to spokeswoman Rhonda Hauff, will feature not only Richey House, but new construction.

Presentations begin at 1:45 p.m. with remarks by the Neighborhood Health Services board chairman Don Hinman and state Sen. Alex Deccio, who is also on the board. Guided tours will follow.

For information, call Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, 454-4143.

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"We're all enjoying bringing it back to life," Monoian says.

But Richey House will have to be more than just a pretty face, says Hinman. It will also have to pull its weight.

"The whole idea behind the program here is to be self-sustaining," says Hinman, emphasizing that the services provided by the nonprofit must pay for themselves. That means while Richey House will have its glamour, it must also be functional.

The second floor, for instance, will be used by the clinic's medical staff, and will be devoted to women's health care and obstetrics, including six examination rooms and a nursing station. The third floor, home for years to pigeons and other bird life, has also been reclaimed, and the roof raised by four feet.

"This (third floor) will be open to the community for meeting space," says Monoian. She points out one important addition: a new, stainless-steel elevator that will help people negotiate the heights of the three-story structure.

In the new-construction area which attaches to the back of Richey House a separate reception and exam is being added for adult clients, particularly older patients who must now compete for attention in the main reception area at the north end of the complex. That area can get noisy because of children.

"The lighting will be softer here and the seating will be softer, too," says Monoian. There will also be a new pharmacy.

It's a work in progress, says Hinman, who has been on the board nearly from the day the clinic was founded back in 1975 by family physician Marjorie Wilson. She left the clinic in 1979, and now lives in Western Washington. In those days, the clinic consisted of two small, older homes at 10 and 12 S. Eighth St.

The clinic today takes up most of the west side of South Eighth from East Yakima Avenue south to East Chestnut. And more expansion plans are afoot.

"One fantasy we have is to provide day care for staff," says Monoian.

The immediate goal, however, is to get Richey House and the rest of the current expansion on line. The emphasis is always on service, she says. Clients pay according to income and family size, but people who need help will get service, regardless.

"We want to be identified as a community service provider, not just a low-income service provider," says Hinman. "We

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