

3-19-88 *Masonic building entrance restored*

By Anne Marie Wozniak

The Highland Park Heritage Trust's first restoration project this year was the renovation of the main entrance of the Mason building located at 104 N. Avenue 56.

With the assistance of several heat guns, chemical paint stripper and plenty of elbow grease, the entrance was stripped down to the bare oak. The door itself was redoweled, stained and varnished and new hardware was installed. The ornate door frame and transom was strip-

ped and varnished.

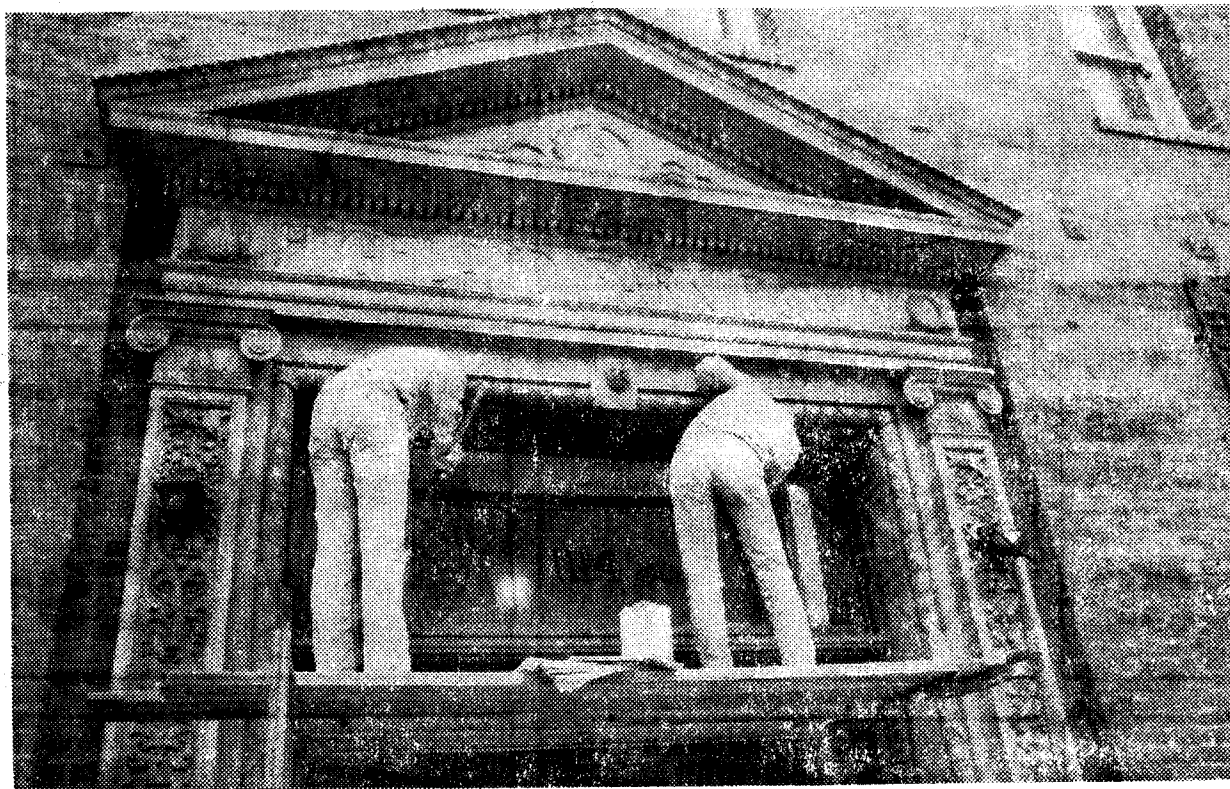
This project was not only chosen so that the Trust could be involved in the restoration of a building that has long been a part of Highland Park history, but also as an acknowledgement and expression of thanks to Allen Golden and his Associates for letting the Trust use the building for their monthly meetings and various other events.

1922 CORNERSTONE

The Mason building, formerly known as the Highland Park

Masonic Temple, was designed by Elmore R. Jeffery who served as master of the Lodge and was a Highland Park resident until his death in 1931. Jeffery, a respected southern California architect, was also responsible for designing a number of high schools including the original Franklin High School building.

The cornerstone of the Temple was laid on Dec. 16, 1922 and the first Masonic meeting was held on July 2, 1923. The three-story structure is of



RENOVATION PROJECT — Part of Highland Park history, the Mason building, 104 N. Avenue 56, main entrance was recently restored by members of the Highland Park Heritage Trust. Working on the project were Trust president, Frank Parrello (left), and Steve Ciarelli. The ornate door frame and transom was stripped and varnished. The cornerstone of the Temple was laid Dec. 16, 1922 and the first Masonic meeting was held there on July 2, 1923. Sold in 1983 by the Temple Association, the structure was purchased by Allen Golden and his Associates. They have brought the 25,000 square foot building up to seismic code and, in the process, restored it to its 1923 appearance.

rectangular shape and is designed in a commercial/Renaissance style with applied Mediterranean detailing. The outside walls are 18 inches thick.

The Lodge Room has an 18 foot ceiling and is richly paneled in cherrywood. Included among its architectural features is a second story arched balcony/arcade and a decorative cornice.

Its architectural details include decorative concrete, window surrounds, ornamental concrete brackets and ironwork. The bottom floor has always been used for rental space and various alterations have been made over the years, but overall the building has maintained its original appearance.

In 1983 the Temple Association was ordered to vacate the building because of seismic regulations and the structure was purchased by Allen Golden and his Associates. The 25,000 square foot building has been brought up to seismic code by using five different methods of earthquake reinforcement. In the process, the building was also restored to its 1923 appearance. Awnings that had been part of the original design have been replaced, leaded glass that had been stuccoed over has been exposed and brickwork that had been in the store fronts has been replaced.

Upon completion, the bottom floor will have three rental units with the Northeast Clinic being one of the occupants. The second floor which houses the Lodge room and banquet room will remain a public use facility. Operation Headstart will be among the operations on the third floor.

Highland Park Heritage Trust is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Highland Park community. One of their most important projects for 1986 will be the search for a permanent logo.