

Old houses reincarnated

Old homes don't die, always.

Now in Dallas a great many are being recycled into new lives and new uses, saving their architectural elements.

It takes economics as well as esthetics to renovate them for livability, however.

How many people have done this, often for low cost, with their own labor and garage sale finds, plus basic know-how and determination, will be illustrated in a tour from 1 to 6 p. m. Oct. 2 and 3.

It's the second annual Urban Pioneer House Tour sponsored by four preservationist societies, in Old East Dallas, Old Oak Lawn and Old Oak Cliff.

Tickets, which also are brochures describing the places, are \$3 in advance and \$4 at the door the days of the tour.

Sponsors are the Historic Preservation League, Inc., Old Oak Cliff Conservation League, Midtown Park Association and Oak Lawn Preservation Society.

Homes open in Old East Dallas will be those of Jack and Barbara Scott, 6116 Gaston; Mike Vandewater, 4412 Junius; Paul Crews, 5100 Victor, and Art Rousseau, 4843 Junius.

In Old Oak Lawn is an architects' office, Burson-Hendricks and Walls, 2708 Routh, built as a residence in 1894 when Oak Lawn was first subdivided from the Ahab Bowen farm of 2,900 acres. It will be on the tour, as will The Mayor's House, 2905 Maple, former home of the late Mayor T. L. Bradford, now a restaurant and offices owned by Jim Patterson.

Homes in this section to be open will be J. T. Campbell's, 4327 Rawlins; James H. McMenamy's, 4006 Roswell, and Mike Longcrier's, 2614 Boll, also once part of the Bowen land.

Open in Old Oak Cliff will be the Oak Cliff Society of Fine Arts Clubhouse, at 401 N. Rosemont, once the E. P. Turner mansion, and the homes of James Guinn, 721 W. 9th; Mary Lou Jacobson, 134 S. Rosemont; Virgie Maxwell, 209 N. Clinton, and John Conroy, 102 N. Clinton.

Nicol requests support for section development

By BILL KENYON

Councilman Bill Nicol said Monday night he has asked the city manager's office to determine if the municipal program to provide financial support for inner-city development can be applied to Jefferson Boulevard in Oak Cliff.

The announcement came during a panel discussion before 150 Oak Cliff residents gathered in the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce Building to discuss revitalization of the Jefferson shopping area.

Under the plan designed by City Mgr. George Schrader, the city will buy newly developed parcels of land more than 80,000 square feet at up to \$2.25 a square foot if private development fails.

Nicol also urged the group to exert pressure to secure a "Bicentennial Block," a cleanup program expected to be announced Wednesday by Mayor Robert Folsom.

The city program is expected to provide initial cleanup services for a selected block while area merchants will be asked to donate supplies and residents and volunteer groups will pro-

vide the labor to spruce up the block.

The concept is being copied from a Louisville, Ky., program and will encompass blocks in two areas of the city.

Most of the Monday meeting was taken up with representatives from Oak Cliff neighborhood groups who urged Jefferson Boulevard merchants to supply better goods and business representatives who urged the neighborhood groups to continue attracting higher income families to create a stronger demand for such goods.

The residents heard brief remarks from a 13-member panel of neighborhood, city and business leaders under the sponsorship of the Old Oak Cliff Conservation League.

Preserve Oak Cliff

To The Dallas News:

The current fad of "Urban Wildlife" communities referred to in an Aug. 5 edition of the Wall Street Journal could be a breakthrough for saving many American cities. The article mentions specifically the Woodland, Texas, community 25 miles from Houston where a developer took 20,000 acres of pine forest and will leave enough of the natural habitat for animal life to survive with the humans. But the article also mentions Los Angeles' problem with "invading" animals who can't read the city limits signs.

Acres of natural habitat exist inside city limits of many large cities, especially Dallas. Oak Cliff is one such area that could be made into an Urban Wildlife Preserve Community. Oak Cliff makes up 41.70 per cent of the land in Dallas but has only 34.43 per cent of the people (about 1/3). We have all the natural attributes for an urban wildlife community (in fact we already are) with many open spaces, woods, rock bottom Five Mile Creek and its tributaries and bird sanctuaries.

The parts that are old and becoming rundown are still beautiful in natural attributes. Right now we are at the crossroads. City planners seem determined to bring Oak Cliff "up to par" and pave everything that isn't, fill in the rest of the creekbeds with sewer lines and entice as many housing developments as possible.

As a member of the Save Open Spaces, Old Oak Cliff Conservation League and the human race, I'd love to see us have the vision to try to preserve Oak Cliff while it's still in a natural state. I am confident that in the not-too-distant future, if we do not, we'll wish we had.

FLORINE H. HAMILTON.

Dallas.