

19th century Georgian colonial home:

The Mack estate awaiting

by Alicia Hartman
Co-editor

Built in 1928, the Mack estate on Station Road has been awaiting renovation since 1991 when Behrend purchased the property. Without the renovation, the mansion can not be used.

John Ream III, director of Operations said, "It has to be renovated to meet labor and industry and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations."

Penn State-Behrend purchased the Mack estate from Donald Edwards in 1991 through a private donation of \$500,000. The mansion itself was bought for \$415,000 and the remaining money will be put toward renovations.

Lynn Weber, director of Development and University Relations said that once the house is renovated the first floor will be used

for "faculty and students to meet in extended classroom programs" and for receptions and dinners.

She said through receptions and dinners held in the mansion students will learn "the protocol that goes along with business dinners and business receptions."

Weber said alumni feel they received a good education "but they are uncomfortable in some situations that you don't learn in the classroom."

The main floor will be used for receptions and dinners and also to entertain donors to the College. Currently the Memorial Room in the Glenhill Farmhouse is used for this purpose.

The kitchen on the first floor will be converted to a bathroom, and a kitchen will then be built in the basement so that events can be catered.

The second floor will be utilized by Development and University Relations for its offices.

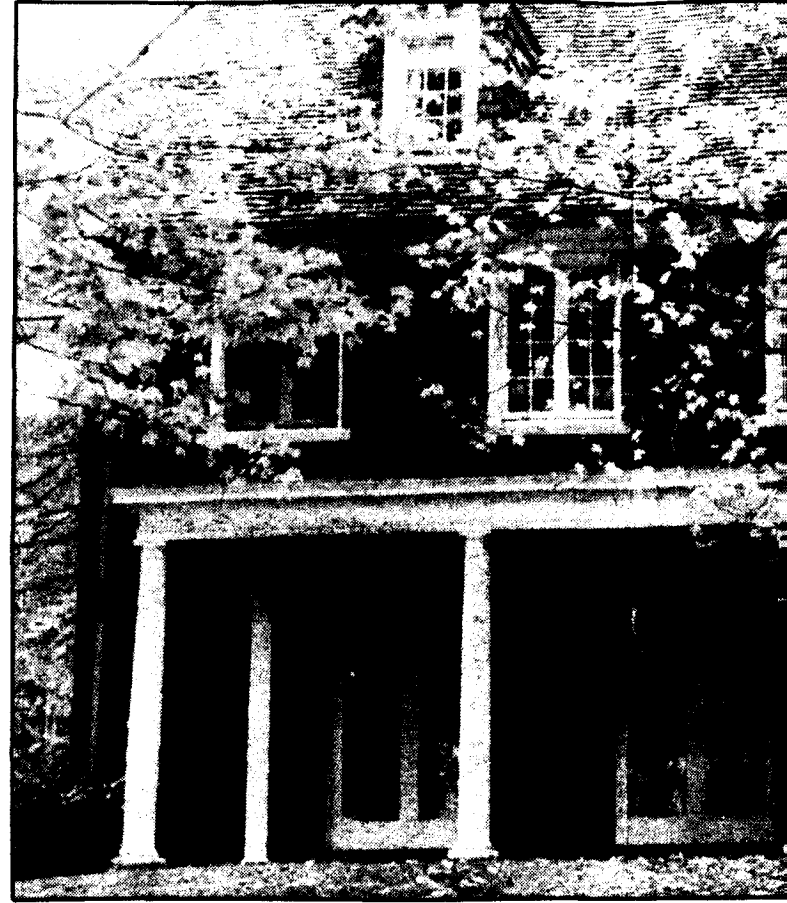
According to Ream, the third floor will remain vacant because in order to use it another staircase would have to be installed to meet labor and industry regulations.

Weber said \$400,000 is needed to complete the renovations needed.

"We're identifying donors who may be able to help us."

On the same side of Station Road as the Mack estate, a road will be built behind the houses and Gospel Hill Cemetery, through the athletic fields to connect the estate with campus.

"We try to purchase the houses as they come up for sale (on the west side of Station Road). As properties become available also we will try to purchase them."



STILL WAITING: Formerly owned by Sarah and Elisha Mack, the estate has been under Behrend's supervision since its purchase in 1991. The future to renovate the mansion, but \$400,000 are needed.



BOTTOM FLOOR: The living room features a traditional wood burning stove with a quiet area designed by the architects on purpose for intimate meetings or quiet moments, uncommon in such large houses.



MAIN DINING ROOM: A spacious main dining room functions for large events with a bright alcove towards the end of the room for close, casual dining.

THE HOUSE

The estate is located at 4215 Station Road.

Elisha Mack, Jr., founder of The Boston Store, and his wife Sarah built their 19th century Georgian colonial home in 1928 as a summer retreat.

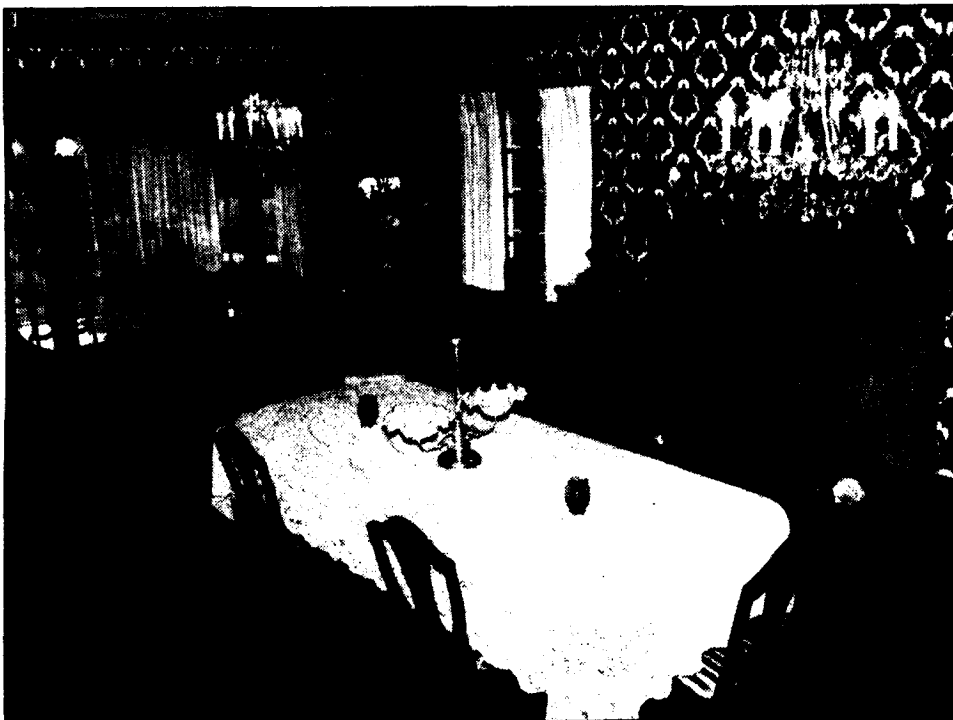
The estate rests on 7.73 acres and the mansion itself has 20 rooms. There are eight bedrooms, five full baths, two half baths and two washrooms.

Hardwood floors can be found throughout the house and there are also several verandas, balconies, terraces and patios accented with French doors.

The servants' quarters on the third floor consist of six rooms, a full bath and a trunk room.

There is also a brick ranch style cottage and a five car garage with a workshop and full bath.

The photos here show the interior of the house decorated before Behrend bought it from Edwards.



THE FAMILY

Elisha Mack, Jr. and his wife Sarah had three children: Clarence, Bob and Louise.

Richard Mack, Clarence's son and Elisha's grandson, said the property originally consisted of 151 acres.

Richard said that his grandfather owned property on both sides of Station Road and hired someone to farm his land.

"My grandpa and Mr. (Ernst) Behrend never got along too well," remembered Richard.

Richard claimed they were both "money-hungry" and brought surveyors in because of their disputes over who owned what land.

However, Richard said "they got along fairly well toward the end."

When Elisha was in his nineties he decided his home over to Richard's parents, Clarence and Lillian, because he and his wife wanted to be closer to town.

When he was a child living at the estate Richard said he "use to toboggan down Station Road."

Richard said his mother Lillian sold the house because "there were too many repairs. She couldn't afford the help to maintain the home and for one person it was too much."

Richard said he still thinks about his former home "in a way but I have too many other family things to think about it too much."

Elisha also started the Eric Community Foundation.

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