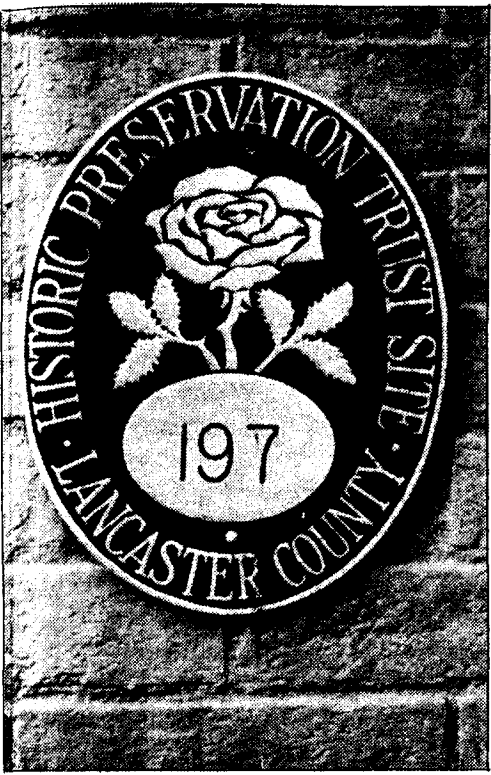


church timely renovation



that time a portion of the town was put on the National Register of Historic Places as a well-preserved example of a mid-19th century town.

It seems then, that their entire project has been a success. Not only have the Rosses been able to help the entire town of Marietta begin to shatter its reputation of being a rough river town; but, a personal goal of preserving a part of their community is now a reality.

By the end of 1984, they expect all four units of the condominium to be completed.

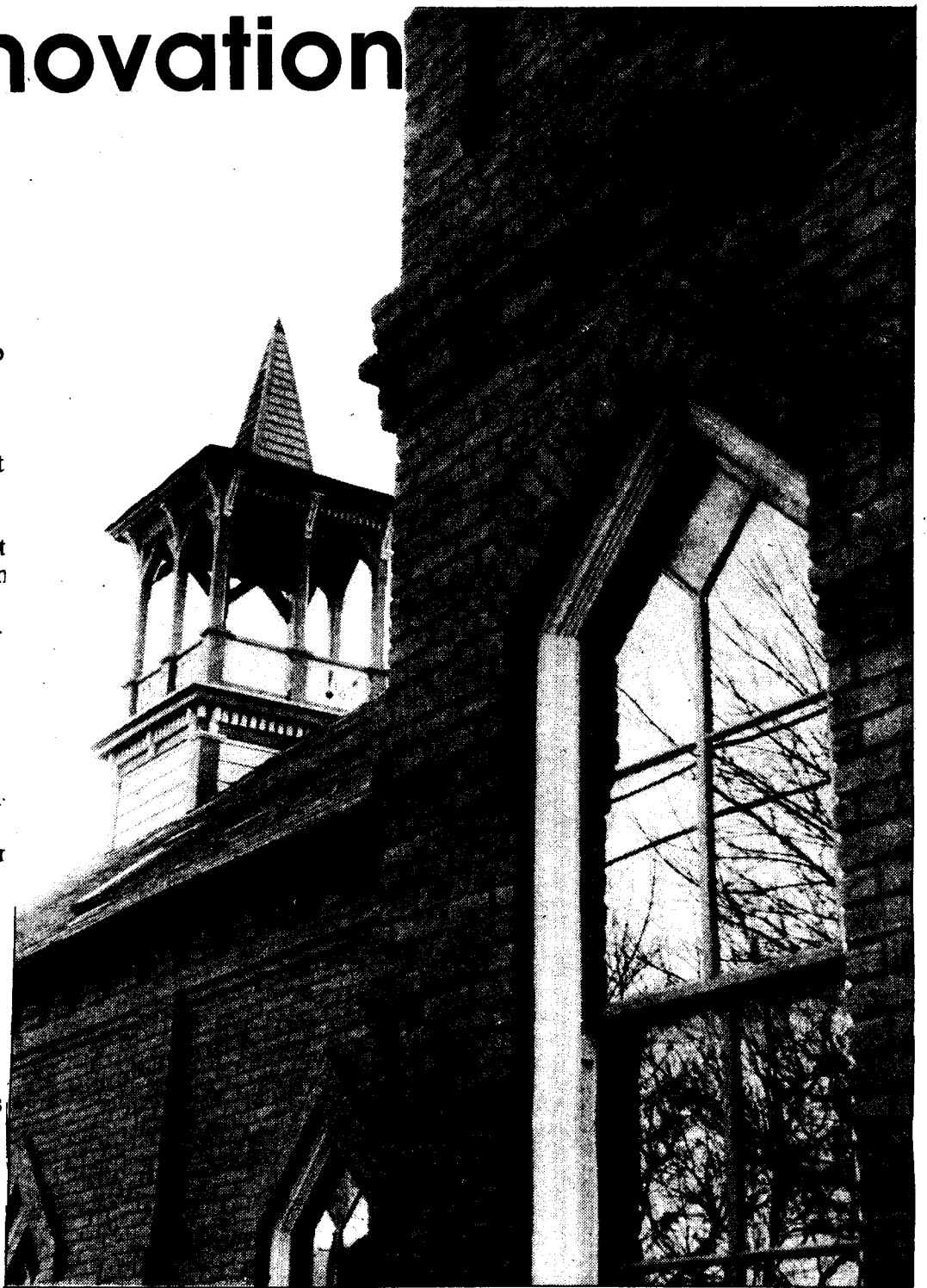
"This project has been a learning experience not only in the architecture and craftsmanship involved in preserving an historic town, but in public relations as well," she said.

"It has been the people of Lancaster County who have been the hardest to show the appeal of our quaint river town, but we're trying."

Will Linda and Ken Ross undertake another project of this nature after the dust has settled and their condominiums are complete?

"We've not closed the door to ever attempting a project like this for the future," she mused.

"Both Ken and I have had a lot of fun and learned a great deal from transforming the church into condos, who knows what our next project will be!"



chitecture in the public school system for 12 years, and earned her master's degree in Humanities here in 1982. She attributes her interdisciplinary course work here as an inspiration for the continuing church renovation project.

"Our church is certainly not an example of 'pure restoration' taking it back to its original," Ross said. "It's what you call 'adaptive re-use' in which we respect the structure's original architecture, keeping what can be kept and adapting the inside into something useful."

To retain the impact of the high Gothic ceilings and windows, the condominiums are designed on two levels, the second level becoming a "loft."

In addition to retaining the windows in all of the units, an original brick wall which was once part of the exterior of the church remains in one of the units. The choir loft has become the second floor in another unit, and all units still have the original wood floors which have been stripped, sanded down, and refinished.

The Rosses have not met with any opposition to their project from local residents.

"As a matter of fact, the entire project has been very successful and well-received," she claims. One of the units has already been sold, and the second completed unit is now on the market. Their third unit is scheduled to be complete by February, 1984.

Since restoration in Marietta got underway in 1972, the town architecturally remains a cross-section--from revolutionary structures to Victorian.

Ross served as the public relations director for the Associates for a number of years and during



Photos by Jerry Trently

Above, series of ladders lead to church's steeple. Right, interior view of condominium shows many geometric shapes incorporated into design by architect John deVitry. Above right, detail of masonry window arch in Victorian Gothic style.