

# Antique house impressive

by Christine McLean

"I've had my eye on this house for eight years," says Sherman Hines about West House, 2319 Brunswick St. Purchase complications have delayed his moving of Hines Studio to its new address until about a month ago. The 1867 building has since been face-lifted and completely renovated within.

The duplex was originally owned by the West brothers who ran a shipping company in Halifax, Hines tells us. The exterior of the house has retained its Victorian look while being restored to a beautiful parchment yellow colour. Decor of the same period dresses the interior with its typical dark colours and heavy furnishings.

"I have been interested in antiques only since 1968," Hines explains. In the interim he has collected an amazing number of Tiffany lamps which adorn almost every room of the old house. Stained glass panels have likewise been hunted down to fill the large window alcoves on both floors. Antique furniture has of course added an authentic touch, several of the pieces belonging originally to the house.

"I think that our waiting and reception area should reflect our standards and attitudes," Hines says. Although it is not yet complete, a formality and elegance has already been achieved with high ceilings, heavy draperies and pillars. It is generally more spacious and richer looking than Hines'

former niche on Brenton St. Just inside is a small gallery featuring some of his finest seascape and Nova Scotian landscape photographs. In its midst is the new West House Museum of Photographic Arts.

Part of Hines' collection of about two and a half thousand pieces of antique camera equipment will soon fill the display cases here. Most of these items were collected within the province and many are still operable.

"He is here seven days a week, night and day," says Lorne Rogers, studio manager. Hines' keen interest and innovativeness is apparent throughout the building. He has tackled the designing and the decorating himself, and enjoyed some of the smaller tasks, such as furniture refinishing as well. Photographs taken before the renovation indicate the amazing transformation which has taken place. Doorways have been moved, walls knocked down or put up, yet the original fireplaces and doors remain.

Perhaps the most impressive room is Hines' own office. Outstanding is the stained glass ceiling set aglow by fluorescent lighting from underneath. In one corner stands a working juke box from the 1930's, while old business signs such as 'Melvin S. Clarke, Auction' of 7880 Argyle St. adorn the walls. Of the items from the original owners there is a mini-cannon which was used for signalling on board the West Brothers ship, perched on Hines' desk.

The admirable results of Hines' initiative and imagination is a fine example of the beauty dormant in so many of the buildings of old Halifax.



Dal Photo / Jensen

This is one example of the beauty which exists in many Halifax homes.

## Halifax's first solar home

by Christine McLean

"Within eight to ten years it will be quite normal to consider solar heating as an alternative to present systems with building homes," says Allan Penney.

Penny, a professor at the Nova Scotia School of Architecture, has been adding a solar heating system to his home on 6161 Regina Terrace (near Dalhousie campus). Acting as his own contractor and with the assistance of two unemployed Dalhousie graduates he has been working in his spare time since November 1. His house is one of fourteen solar homes operating in Canada, the only other in the Atlantic Provinces located in Sackville, Nova Scotia.

"Anyone who is a home handyman could build it," Penney says of his air system. Solar heat is collected by a layer of specially treated corrugated steel. This 'collector' positioned at a 45 degree angle on his southside roof, passes the heat along a system of air ducts to the rear of the house. Here it passes into a bin (6'x10'x12' high) containing 45 tons of beach rock from Shubenacadie. The heat is stored in the rock and the cooled air returns to the collector to be reheated. The bin, on the north side, is protected by an overhang which extends from the original roof.

"It cost exactly \$14,409.36 including labour and materials to install," Penney adds that this amount is perhaps more than it ought to be, and was quick to point out that the cost would be considerably reduced if the system was included in the original construction of the house (less than \$10,000). A back-up system is necessary in either case. Penney has retained his original oil-fuelled furnace system. Sunless periods require this sup-

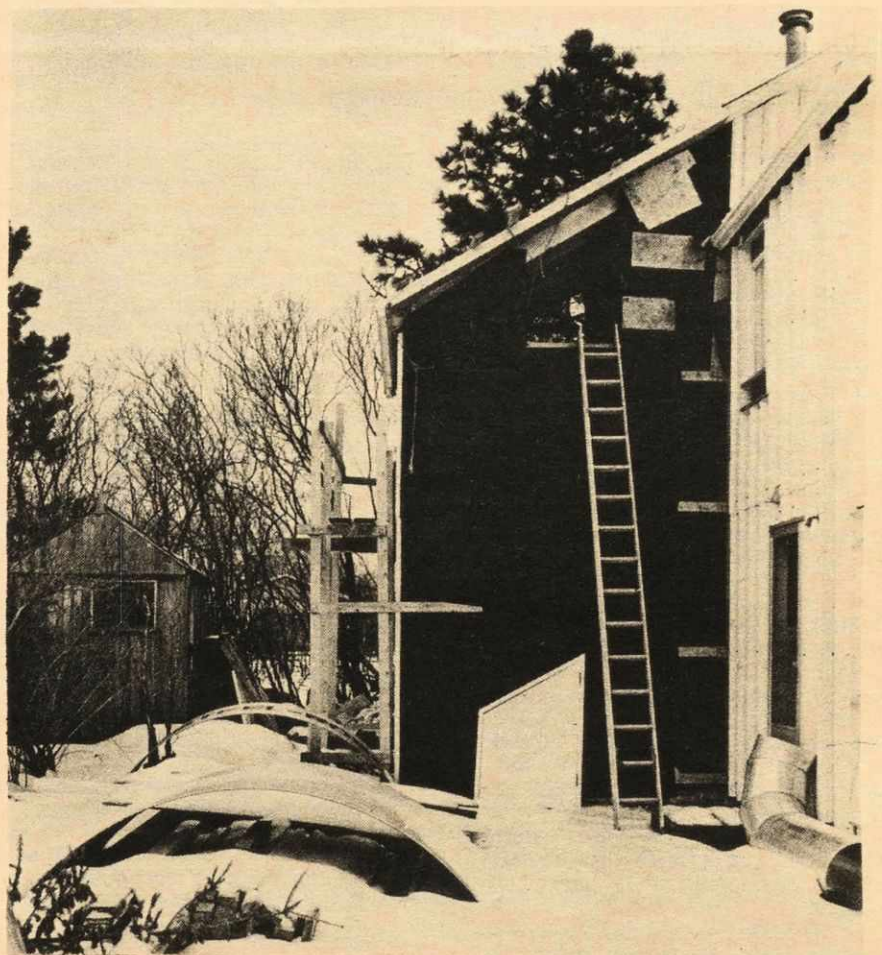
plement.

It was the expense of installation which prevented Penney from undertaking the project earlier. He is only paying part of the cost now, under a government contract. He was one of 300 Canadians who submitted proposals to the Dept. of Supply and Services for participation in their 1976 programme. It is designed to encourage urban homeowners to utilise solar heat in order to conserve our swiftly diminishing fossil-fuel supply. Thirty-one proposals were accepted.

"We estimated by computer that we will be able to save 50% of my fuel costs," Penney is confident that he will meet the 30% specified in the contract. He is also obligated to complete construction by March 31, have the house available for government monitoring, and have it open for public view one day a month.

Solar heating will save Penney \$250 a year in fuel costs. That portion of the installation cost he must pay should be recouped in two to three years.

continued on page 13



Dal Photo / Jensen

ADMIT ONE

### The Omega Guitar Quartet

The richness of classical guitar from Britain

**PERFORMANCE**  
Thursday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.

CANCELLED

ADMIT ONE

Refunds available until  
April 10, 1977

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium  
Dalhousie Arts Centre  
Tickets & Information: 424-2298