

A \$20,000 birthday gift

Building to get face lift

By Julie Freeman
Of the Emerald

After 100 years on the University campus, the Collier House is scheduled to receive the first part of a much-needed face lift this month that will attempt to restore the building to its original appearance.

The University has earmarked \$18,000 for renovation of the Collier House, and the Faculty Club has raised \$2,000. These funds will be spent on the first phase, and although further renovations are planned, funds for future work still must be raised.

Built in 1886 by George Haskell Collier, a former University physics professor, the pale-yellow structure on the corner of 13th Avenue and University Street, has served as everything from a private home for University presidents and a club for faculty members, to a spot for wedding receptions and afternoon luncheons for the public.

Most of the work on the building, which has been closed to the public since June 12, will entail the refinishing of floors, ceilings and walls on the first floor.

New paint, wallpaper and light fixtures also are planned to better reflect the period when the house was built, says Suzanne Tamiesie, of the University Planning Department.

Some of the funds will be used to make the Collier House wheelchair accessible. A wheelchair lift will be installed on the southwest corner of the building, and the first floor bathroom will be modified to accommodate the physically disabled, Tamiesie says.

In 1968, the State Board of Higher Education voted to preserve the building for its historic and aesthetic value, but Tamiesie says that active planning and discussion of the



Photo by Karen Stallwood

The Collier House, which will be a century old next year, is scheduled to have its floors, ceilings and walls refinished.

restoration project by the planning department began only about a year ago.

Work on the first floor should be completed by October, Tamiesie says. But work on the second floor will have to wait until more funds are available.

Efforts to complete work on

the house, which was listed as a historic landmark by the city of Eugene in 1976, probably will continue, she says.

"The house has a wonderful history," Tamiesie says. "It would be wonderful if we could restore it completely."

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