

# Historic Houses Reflect Owner's Personalities



Remember the good old days when people built their own homes? You could often tell what kind of person lived in the dwelling because their personality was reflected in the construction.

Today most potential homeowners have neither the time nor the skill to build a dream home from the visions in their minds. But in the late 1800's, settlers like Captain John Ainsworth and Dr. Forbes Barclay had few alternatives to getting wet during Oregon's interminable winters. Simply

put, one either built a home oneself or got rained on.

The alluring, timeless quality of the Barclay and Ainsworth homes are magnified when the viewer takes the time to admire them and to learn about the men responsible for their creation.

The home of John Comingers Ainsworth has a romantic aura about it that affects any house lover. Clearly Southern-Victorian in style, French windows and four proud, white columns lead to a second story

balcony. Inside is a ballroom with the orchestra platform still intact.

Ainsworth's personal qualities are reflected in his home. He was independent, adventurous and refined in his tastes. Self-educated, he was orphaned at 13 and, after working as a storekeeper and proprietor in Iowa, he worked on a steamboat on the Mississippi River.

His prowess as a pilot soon made him the captain of the steamboat "Lot Whitcomb." But the discovery of gold in California lured him away from the

