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Manassas

**HOUSE OF THE WEEK**

**1818 Bristow house is antique haven**

REFERENCE

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By STEPHANIE HOOVER



**Bristow Road House**

The early Victorian house, built in 1818, houses the Beard family, the White Elephant Antique Shop, and The Pi-Billed Grebe.

Bastardized Victorian might best describe the architectural style of the White Elephant Antique Shop in Bristow, suggests Barbara Beard. The house, which was originally built in 1818, has been added to by numerous owners who have put their own touch in the house, giving it a unique, comfortable, and lived-in look.

The Daniel C. Beard family is also adding its special touch to the old house. "Whenever possible we use old materials to redo things," Mrs. Beard said, explaining that they are not undertaking pure restoration but really redecorating in the early Victorian style.

The 14-room house, which includes the antique shop across the front, is decorated throughout with antiques of varying periods. The four Beard children have also had a hand in decorating their rooms, also largely with antiques.

The house was in "pretty good structural condition" when they bought it nine years ago, Mrs. Beard said, even though it had been vacant for 20 years. The only real problem was that "the whole place was painted government surplus green." Repairs are mostly cosmetic, including wallpapering, refinishing floors, and putting in such special touches as stained glass windows, of which Mrs. Beard is particularly fond. She has five in already, including two specially made, and plans to add more.

The whole house, and the carriage house next to it, which was built around the turn of this century, is devoted to some aspect of furniture. In addition to the White Elephant Antique Shop, there is "The Pi-billed Grebe," an interior design shop, and The New England Woodcrafters, which specializes in antique restoration, woodcarving, upholstery, and caning. Other services available indirectly through the old house include clock repair, stained glass, electrifying sewing machines, and chair rushing.

The house was originally owned by the Davis family, one of whose descendants was the late Mayor Harry Davis of Manassas who was actually born in the house on Bristow Road. Substantial additions to the house were made after the Civil War, and the front section, where the antique shop is now located, was a general store around 1900.

The present location of the interior design shop was Bristow's first post office around the turn of the century. Also added about that time are the unique tin ceilings with raised design which provided fireproofing.

A fitting companion to the old house and its many old artifacts is the family pet, a 1951 Chevy pickup truck which still does heavy duty hauling furniture around.

Barbara Beard is the owner of the antique shop which she describes as "as is." "I enjoy dealing in interesting junk," she said. "It could be made in the 1940's if interesting." Her husband, Daniel C. Beard, has a wholesale office furniture shop in Georgetown.

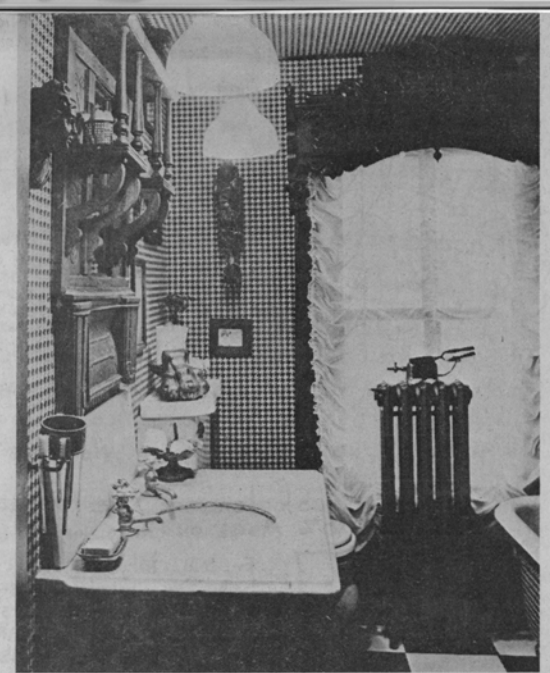
photos  
by RIC FELD





### *Antique-Bedecked Courtyard*

Barbara Beard (right) and daughters Jennifer, and Cynthia, relax on the courtyard floored with 400-pound railroad trestle ties.



### *Hound's Tooth Charm*

The house is furnished throughout with antiques of varying periods as in this gaily decorated bathroom with its hound's tooth check and claw-foot tub.