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Vendome's history for sale

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Vendome's history for sale

Place where Sinatra slept on market

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

The house at 841 Washington in Newport has had a lot of signs in front of it over the years. "The Andersons," "The Vendome," "Chez Nora," and now, "For Sale."

"It is going to be really hard to move," said owner Roger Weddle.

Roger and his wife, Donna, bought the house in 1998. At the time it was a nest of single-room apartments. The historic architecture had been covered up by a tangle of drop ceilings, flaking paint and ill-considered wall placement.

ADVERTISEMENT After several years of work, the Weddles have returned the home to its former beauty.

The drop ceilings have been removed, revealing ornate ceiling medallions. The staircase was stripped. The Weddles discovered, in a nice surprise, that it was made of four different contrasting woods. Lighting fixtures and chandeliers were recreated from old photographs and can now use gas or electric. Appliqués, paint design and wallpaper have been researched and used to make the home as close as possible to its original form.

Built by grocer John Anderson, Maggie Yeager bought the house in 1913 christening it "The Vendome" after Place Vendome in Paris. She added plumbing and electric, then updated the structure from Italianate to a high Victorian design. Yeager turned it into a boarding house for doctors and attorneys. She served lunch and breakfast in an added-on restaurant. Her personality is still stamped onto the home.

"We do consider it Maggie's house," Donna Weddle said. "That's why it can't be sold like any other house. It has to be to someone who can appreciate it and who can take care of it."

After Yeager sold the home in 1937, it became unofficially known as the "Beverly Hills Barracks." Showgirls from the city's various casinos were lodged on the third floor and entertainers bedded down on the second. Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Marilyn Monroe, Bob Hope, Jimmy Durante and Al Jolson slept under its roof.

Roger claimed for a time that Elvis stayed at the home until a neighbor corrected him. "She said, 'No, Elvis never stayed here. His band did. Elvis always ate here though. He loved the fried chicken...and the showgirls,'" Roger Weddle said.

After the gaming elements were purged from Newport in the



ZOOM The Enquirer/ernest Coleman

The Vendome, on Washington Street in Newport, used to play host to celebrities. After Roger and Donna Weddle restored the building over many years, it is now on the market. 'It is going to be really hard to move,' Roger said.



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Donna Weddle and husband Roger researched the home's interior and painstakingly replicated the original during renovations. Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Marilyn Monroe slept under its roof.

1960s, the home lost its luster until the Weddles bought it.

"This is something special," said Terry Rasche, recent winner of the Cincinnati Historic Preservation Association award. "The eye to detail they have put into it is just amazing."

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