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Dorr house was post-bellum social center

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



DORR HOUSE WAS POST-BELLUM SOCIAL CENTER

By HAMPTON DUNN

PENSACOLA --- The pretty cottage next door to Old Christ Church and overlooking historic Seville Square is the Dorr House. It's painted a pleasing yellow, called Seville saffron, with white trim, and was restored by the Pensacola Heritage Foundation, Inc., which has its headquarters there.

Right after the Civil War, Pensacola enjoyed a lumber boom and the Dorr House is a splendid example of the post-bellum homes. Erected between 1868-1871 by a socialite couple, Eben Walker and Clara Barkley Dorr it was the site of many gala parties.

The structure features high ceilings, rift pine floor, slate mantels and Gibbs windows on the front, and reflects the Victorian architectural traditions. The house is across from the site in Seville Square of a British guardhouse (constructed about 1765), the foundation of which was uncovered by the Pensacola Preservation Society in 1966.

In its later life, before restoration, the Dorr House declined and became a type of rooming establishment. The Heritage Foundation volunteers donated several thousand hours redecorating the Dorr House. It is furnished with antiques and the decor resembles that of the early Victorian Period.

The attractive building was the first structure restored at Seville Square and triggered a vast restoration program underway in this historic city.

