

49-Year-Old Dwelling To Be Removed

Edmondson Homestead Will Make Way For Street Extension

By A. K. BROWN

Crowded out by the extension of a street, Edmondson homestead house, the street number of which is 2625 East First street, soon will be moved away—possibly to provide shelter for another ranch family.

The redwood frame dwelling is 49 years old and when it leaves the knoll on which Charles and Alvina Edmondson built it, the homestead era of 1897 and prior years will be ended.

While negotiations have not been concluded, Miss Alvina Edmondson, daughter of the pioneer couple, said the structure will be sold and may eventually find its way to a ranch in the Tucson area.

The house must be moved because it stands squarely in the path of East First street, and the Edmondson holdings, once a grant of 160 acres, are being developed.

Court Being Built

An eight-unit court is being built now. Plans call for additional residences in the near future.

Alvina Himmel Edmondson, now 76 years old, and her daughters are to move into one of the courts after the homestead dwelling is moved.

She met Charles Edmondson in Mexico when each was young. He was a machinist, maintaining locomotive equipment of the Southern Pacific de Mexico. They were married and he was transferred to the Tucson shops.

At that time, the federal government encouraged homesteading. The Edmondsons applied for 160 acres which, then, were located about five miles from the Old Pueblo.

Charles and Alvina selected a knoll on which to build a house for their family. From it, they could see Old Baldy, the Santa Rita mountains' highest peak in the south; historic Baboquivari peak to the southwest; the lofty tops of the Rincons on the east; pine-studded Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina mountains at the north; and picturesque Picacho peak in the northwest.

Later, when students of the University of Arizona selected Sentinel peak in the Tucson mountain range, west of the Old Pueblo, they could watch them painting the first "A's" from their door.

House Never Painted

The landmark house is distinctive in that its outside walls never have been painted. Mellow California redwood, brought to Tuc-

Progress Ousts 49-Year-Old Homestead Dwelling



A redwood house, built in 1897 by Charles and Alvina Edmondson on a knoll about five miles from the then village of Tucson, soon will be moved in order that East First street can be extended through the Edmondson holdings. The structure may be taken to a ranch, negotiations for the house not having been completed. The growth of the historic Old Pueblo to a city and suburbs of near 90,000 people has been witnessed by the homesteaders and their family. The structure can boast of the distinction of never having had its outside walls painted, withstanding many years of the intense heat, wind and rain storms of the desert. (Photo by Reggie Russell.)

son for the J. Knox Corbett Lumber Co., was used in the construction.

"It surely was a well built house," Miss Edmondson said while news photographers were posing the structure. "The roof has been replaced and the floors have been repaired but the frame and outside walls have weathered many wind and rain storms and much heat of the sun."

Termites once tried to gobble up the house, it was explained, but desisted after a short, losing wrestle with the redwood.

A portion of the homestead was sold a few years ago to the city for a park. It now is the site of popular Himmel pool. When final steps are taken by the park department, it will become a much needed recreation area for the

northeast suburbs.

The University Methodist church has purchased two blocks of the homestead, fronting on East Speedway, where a new church is planned.

Other portions eventually will be occupied by residences as Tucson spreads increasingly to the east.