



In 1961 Evesham mansion was to be replaced by a school, which is yet to be built. Parts of it were moved to Gibson Island.

Hydes took mansion with them, in pieces

When his boyhood home had to come down, when the Victorian mansion built about 1800 faced the wrecker's ball, Bryden Bordley Hyde, a Baltimore architect, decided to bring as much of it as he could with him to Gibson Island.

The 23-room mansion was Evesham, which had been remodeled into a neo-Gothic villa in 1850. It once stood off Evesham avenue, on 80 acres about a mile from York road.

"It was done by Joseph Patterson who was Betsy Patterson's brother," Mr. Hyde explains. "Betsy Patterson had married Napoleon's brother, Jerome."

Joseph Patterson's daughter, Caroline, married Reverdy Johnson, Jr., a famous jurist and ambassador to the Court of St. James's after the Civil War. They lived in the house, which was a great country estate.

"My grandfather bought it in 1895," Mr. Hyde says. "I was born there. My mother moved there when she was 6, and we lived in it until everyone had died off but my mother, and she was in 23 rooms by herself."

The land was sold in 1961 for a city school, which has yet to be built. "I had an arrangement to take any parts I wanted," Mr. Hyde says. He had bought an acre lot next to his house on Gibson Island, and decided to use as much of Evesham as he could for a home for his mother, Mrs. G. Ray Hyde, on that site.

Using the parts, Mr. Hyde built the new house and his mother lived in it from 1961 until January, 1974. She is in a nursing home now, and the house is rented, awaiting eventual occupancy by Mr. Hyde's daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. James L. Gamble 3d.

"Assuming they keep it 18 years, the parts will have been in the family 100 years," Mr. Hyde says.

The new house has only seven rooms, filled with antiques from the old mansion, and it looks like a tiny wing of the big old house. There are big marble fireplaces and carved moldings. The chimney from Evesham was saved, and the original stairway was taken along as well as mirrors, chandeliers, linen-fold doors and two dormer windows.

"I was very fond of that old house," Mr. Hyde says.

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