FOR AFFLUENT—Conversion of 480-unit County Park East apartments to condominiums is reportedly largest changeover in U.S.

Time photo by Harry Chase

The best thing that could have happened to us

Enjoyed. Besides shore space—the apartment sprawls over 1,400 square feet—there were built-ins like a double oven, dishwasher, counter top blender.

There were radiant heat and central air conditioning, not to mention a swimming pool, sauna, and recreation room.

And it happens, Tierstein and his wife did not have to give them up at all. That is because under the 1972 law, several tenants of the 33-unit building at 15 Post Road in New Canaan, Conn., may continue to live in their homes. Their decision to stay is a result of a decision by the court.

The law, which was passed in 1972, allows tenants to continue to live in their homes if they are willing to participate in the conversion of the building to condominiums.

The new owners of the building, who have already paid off the mortgage, are planning to convert the building to condominiums, which would allow the tenants to continue to live in their homes.

The tenants have a right to participate in the conversion process, which includes appraising the value of the property, negotiating with the new owners, and voting on the terms of the conversion.

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OLD HOUSE

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The house was built in 1902 by Charley Loop, son of the Rev. Charles E. Loop. According to Stuart C. Wheel-er, an unofficial but knowledgeable Claremont historian, Mr. Loop and A. R. Morrison bought 2,000 acres of land—at an acre—at 837 from the pioneer Palomares family.

The home’s architecture reflected the trends of the time: a California bungalow style utilizing native materi-
als, such as the rock that forms its chimneys and front-
porch and the stone in the living room’s curving fireplace, and also making use of skilled craftsmen who had grav-
ted to California.

These artisans provided the two-story house with lead-
ed glass windows, brass fixtures and hand-carved wood details, in addition to the extensive stonework.

In 1911, George N. Hamilton bought the house and planted an orange grove. He also improved the 13-room house, which he sold in 1930 to the Arvid P. Zetterberg family, who lived in it for 45 years.

Over the years changes were made, largely to accom-
modate roomers, perhaps swayed by the academic com-
unity that grew up around the Claremont College.

After an exhibition of Claremont history sponsored in March by Pitzer College at the Zetterberg house, several early residents of the area wrote recollections of the place in the early days.

Louise Richards Mead of Stanton recalled the furniture in the Loop house.

“It was all Chinese, of heavy carved teak wood, inge-


A project that will serve as a catalyst for other historical
projects in the community

ous but not uncomfortable,” she wrote. “Golden Chinese
dragons, ivory bibilists, huge green ceramic elephants and
carved oriental throw rugs adorned each room...”

Mrs. Loop’s bedroom on the second floor spread from the east side of the house to the west and had a fireplace. In front of the hearth, on the hardwood floor, lay a giant white polar-bear rug, its stuffed head a fine place for a lit-
tle girl to sit, its eyes and claws and big white teeth

glamorous. To me this was the height of opulence...”

The opulence faded over the years. The fireplace in
Mrs. Loop’s bedroom was boarded over. For reasons un-
known now. An outdoor entrance to the second-floor room was added, and worst of all, one wall was converted
to an ugly make-shift kitchenette.

Downstairs, the veranda that rimmed the house on two sides was glassed-in, except for an area to the left of the
entrance that was covered by an ancient wisteria vine. It
was there that students gravitated to hear Cathy Curtis play her guitar.

Pitzer students have held various events at the Zetter-
berg house to test its adaptability to campus life. An art
show was held Saturday.

“We didn’t assume it was a good idea because it started
with students, not that it wasn’t,” said Leonard Harper,
Pitzer’s dean of student activities. “It’s good to practice
having things here.”

“Pitzer is unique in terms of student attrition; we also
have a high number of students transfer into Pitzer from
other institutions. But our goal is to try to make the
situation better.”

Dr. David Creasy, assistant professor of history, who is
interested in preserving historic Claremont, sees the Zet-
terberg house project as beyond merely saving one old
place.

“It’s a splendid house, a citrus grove house, built before
Claremont was incorporated,” Dr. Creasy said.

“The exhibition of local historical material built an
immeasurable amount of good will between the college and the
community. We had 300 visitors, mostly from the non-col-
lege community, and the written response has been won-
derful.

“Now, if we can just save the old Santa Fe Railway Sta-
tion, too...”