Grove House Opens
With New Role, Family

Last-Minute Gift Rescues 73-Year-Old
Arts and Crafts Home for Pitzer College

By JACK BIRKINSHAW

CLAREMON'r-Grove House, which served as a comfortable home for a number of families here for 73 years, is settling in on the Pitzer College campus for another long life of service.

Culminating a five-year effort, the two-story frame house, built in 1903 and a unique example of the Arts and Crafts style of architecture, was moved to function as a student center and coffee house.

But it was an uncertain transition, filled with hope, disappointment, problems and finally success, thanks to last-minute help from a benefactor.

The odyssey from 721 Harrison Ave. in Claremont, its original location, to the campus two miles away began in 1975 when Barry Sanders, associate professor of English at Pitzer, was a member of a committee seeking to improve the quality of life on the Claremont campus.

His students in an Arts and Crafts movement class proposed finding such a house and moving it on campus.

Two years later, in 1977, Grove House was acquired from Pilgrim Place, a community of retired Christian workers, for $1. Cut into three sections, the house was moved to its new founda-

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We're busy all the time," said Sanders, who, with his wife, oversees the operation of Grove House. Faculty members are frequently there to talk with students and various classes are held there, attracted by the relaxed atmosphere, he said.

Of the upstairs bedrooms, one, with its Mission-style bed and dresser, is reserved for campus visitors while another is occupied by a live-in caretaker.

Another, named for the late, nationally known poet, Bert Meyers, a Pitzer faculty member, contains a small library.

Also in Grove House is the Barbara Birkshaw Photography Gallery. Miss Hinshaw, of Sierra Madre, was killed in an automobile accident last summer.

Under terms of the Kemper Foundation gift, Grove House must include a women's center and is also located on the sec-

Still to be completed is the landscaping, which will include a small citrus grove to replicate the original setting.

Local historians say the 4,900-square-foot house was first occupied by the C. F. Loop family and was an imposing structure that reflected the prosperity and optimism of the growing town of Claremont and of its then new Pomona College.

The late Louise Richards Mead, a 1919 Pomona College graduate, at one time recalled her friendship with the family and

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ging for "long rides with lunches on Saturdays, as far away as Lordsburg—now La Verne."

He rode with the daughter, Mabel Loop, in a "wee-ker" pony cart built for two" and drawn by a Shetland pony.

A Chicago attorney, George Hamilton, purchased the house in 1911 to accommodate his family of 10. He planted the orange grove on the property from which its present name is derived.

It was purchased later by the Arvid Zetterbergs, who were the longest term residents of Grove House. When the flood of 1938 severely damaged the citrus crop, the family began gradually to dispose of the groves. In 1974, the Zetterbergs sold the house to Pilgrim Place.

Sanders said Pitzer students had long wanted an activities center with a comfortable home-like atmosphere, "but that kind of ambition is difficult to create at today's building costs."

Grove House, he believes, fills that need. "The house has roots," he said. "It's made of heavy, solid natural substances that give a sense of continuity in today's fast-paced society."