Local Antiquer with Cupola Wants House to Put Under It

By BILL MCLAUGHLIN

The historic cupola which topped the Loon Lake Hotel annex is looking for a home and the present owner, John Hawkinson, would like it to go to a museum.

John is a somewhat museum-minded individual himself whose own domicile on the Harrietstown Road is full of antiques. The trouble with the cupola is that it is sitting on the front lawn at Loon Lake and the property owners around the scenic driveway would like it moved to a permanent site in somebody's garden or as an artist's retreat.
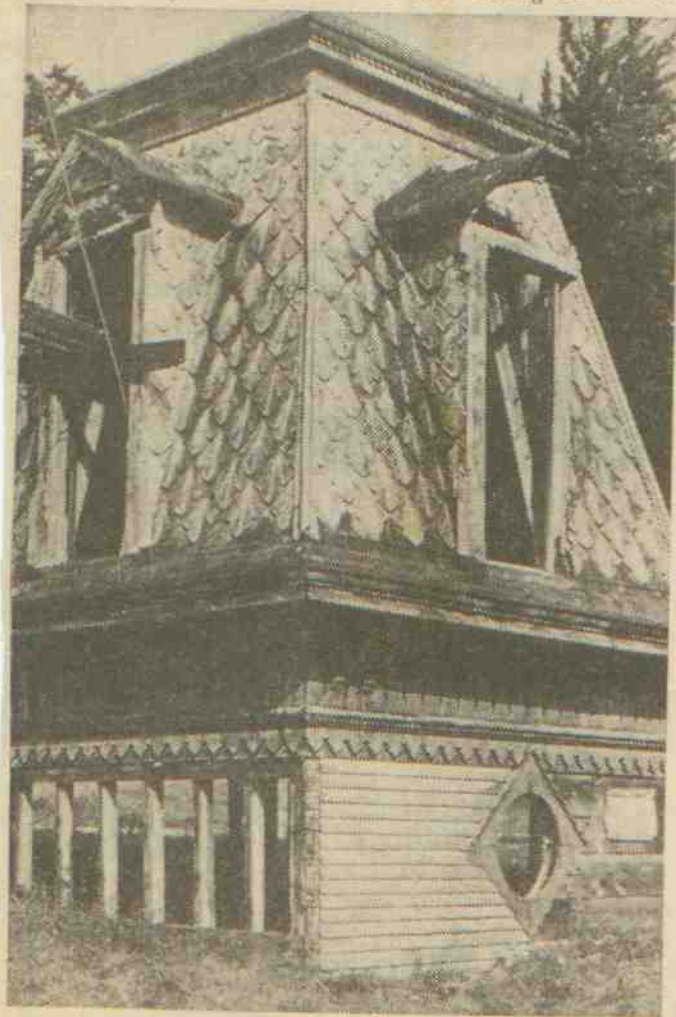
It is the type of problem that John is having trouble solving by himself as the tin-roofed ancient architectural wonder is about 25 feet high and 10 feet to the side. The basic craftsmanship is termed "superb" by those having knowledge of such things. It was built in 1873 to adorn the annex which was torn down recently.

The cupola was topped off with a weather vane of copper or brass and was an antique that John just missed acquiring on a bid arrangement and timing. One of the workers had risked his neck 100 feet in the air sawing the metal stanchion which held the weather vane in place and lowered it to a waiting and anxious new owner who had beaten John to the scene by minutes.

A cupola was orignally intended in the architectural sense to be functional as a belfry, lantern or belvedere and many were of ornate design. Some were octagonal or hexagonal masterpieces with silver domes to reflect the sunlight.

The photo accompanying this story shows the shape of the annex cupola as it stands today. John has some money in it but not enough to prevent it from going to a museum with his compliments.

And he is still a little angry that they tore down the hotel annex to begin with as it would have made people more appreciative of early America's hotel industry revealed in the design of the Loon Lake Hotel buildings.

HIS PROBLEM — John Hawkinson thinking of a way to move the Loon Lake Hotel annex cupola to where it will be appreciated and not coming up with any answers. (McLaugrlin Photo)