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Hampton Dunn
QUINA HOUSE RETAINS JACKSONIAN ERA CHARACTERISTICS

By HAMPTON DUNN

PENSACOLA --- As far as looks go, the Quina House is not very attractive, but the little frame dwelling at 204 S. Alcaniz St. fairly well reeks with history.

This is the fourth oldest home in the ancient city of Pensacola and its historical value is noted by the fact the Pensacola Historic Preservation Society is undertaking the restoration of the building.

The house was built between 1815 and 1821 by Desiderio Quina, an Italian immigrant who came here as a Spanish soldier. The house became the town's first drug shop and its French cottage architecture is typical of the homes built during the Jacksonian Era.

This significant structure has basic French lines brought over from New Orleans and the French West Indies in the 18th century. They include apron roof over front gallery, flat front siding, porch railing style, hard-hewn front pilasters, shutters, steep stairway to second story bedrooms. The house also features double doorways.

Quina, a native of Genoa, Italy, worked as a dealer in Indian lands in the Apalachicola area after he got out of the army. Then he moved to the bustling community of Pensacola and opened the apothecary shop. It takes little imagination to see and smell the contents of earthenware jars and glass lining the rooms and containing such herbs as Aloes, from the palm tree, licorice and ginger root, many of which have become bases for candies and sweets.

In its ey dey the Quina House was surrounded by a large yard shaded by pecan trees, large oaks and oleanders.