

Cochrans To Restore Clingan-Waddell

TAMMY KING
Staff Reporter

Clingan-Waddell Hall, a former YSU classroom building at 21 E. Rayen Ave., has had many owners over the past 70 years. Now President Leslie Cochran and his wife, Lin, will live there.

The Cochrans purchased the abandoned, inner-city building from the University in December for \$2,200.

Patrick Ungaro, mayor of Youngstown, called the Cochrans move "symbolic" and hopes other

will follow suit.

Clingan-Waddell is located in a predominately low-income area, where many of the residents are senior citizens. According to the 1990 Census of Population and Housing, the average family income in the area is \$5,031, and the average age is 70.

Situated between several churches and a high-rise apartment building for senior citizens, Clingan-Waddell will be one of 10 owner-occupied residences.

"I think it's great that the Cochrans bought Clingan-



Detail of carved stone at the entrance of Clingan-Waddell.

Waddell," Ungaro said. "In other cities it has become a trend for individuals to buy urban property and use it as living space. I hope the same thing happens in Youngstown because of what the Cochrans did."

President Cochran hopes for the same thing. He said, "Many times urban revitalization efforts depend on individual people, like us, rather than federally-funded projects."

The Cochrans plan to have their living quarters, entertainment space and personal offices on the top floor of the two-story building. The bottom floor will house Mrs. Cochran's business, Step-Up Inc., an organization development consulting firm.

Both plan to take part in the renovation from start to finish. President Cochran, who used to teach architectural drawing classes, will draw some of the architectural plans.

Mrs. Cochran, who has an art background, will help with the architectural plans and the decorating. The bottom floor will also house her art studio and a photo history of the building.

"My wife and I get personal satisfaction from restoring old

buildings," President Cochran said. "This is something we can work on together."

President Cochran added, "Other couples may play golf together. We restore old buildings."

In 1953 the former Youngstown College, now YSU, purchased the 11,000-square-foot building from the Youngstown YMCA.

According to the 1953 College catalogue, Mrs. Jacob D. Waddell and John R.T. Clingan gave \$50,000 in funds to purchase and renovate the building.

After the College purchased the building, it housed the art department and the department of home economics. The building

also housed the Reserve Officers Training Corps at one time.

Classes held there over the years included those for pottery, welding, sculpting and home economics.

The University has not held classes in the building since the late 1980s. At that time, renovations to Bliss Hall, home of YSU's College of Fine and Performing Arts, were completed, and the art department was consolidated with that college.

The home economics department, now known as the human ecology department, moved to what was then the College of Applied Science and Technology.

See WADDELL page 12



Photos by Soyoung Yang

Clingan-Waddell, built in 1924 and former home of YSU's art department, will be President Cochran's new home after it's restored.

Waddell

Continued from page 1

The YMCA purchased Clingan-Waddell from the Ohio State Telephone Company in 1943. It had used the building to maintain machinery and operators needed during the time of manually operated telephone systems.

Built in 1924, Clingan-Waddell was constructed during Youngstown's "Golden Age," according to a Youngstown architectural book called "*Youngstown Comprehensive Plan.*"