

# THE MANSION AT *The Citadelle*

This old Canadian landmark was built in 1910 as the First Baptist Church. Its construction represented a great deal of work and sacrifice on the part of the early day Baptist families. In 1955 the Church of Christ bought the building and used it as their place of worship for the following twenty years. In 1977, after having sat vacant for two years, the plan was to tear the building down and make way for something new.

The Abrahams, on the other hand, had a different idea.

**"...a home filled with art, antiques, and rooms to rival the White House."**

– Dallas Morning News

Being contributing members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, they were concerned with the need to safeguard America's landmarks. Well, here was a local landmark with 8,000 square feet of floor space, fabulous brickwork, tall white columns, stained glass windows, and a very uncertain future. Their dream-house was here hiding in disguise all along. It was to be a mind expanding project.



Ideas for their new home were popping up so quickly they had no need for an outside architect or decorator. This would be "their baby" – a very personal and special home.

Indeed it has been. After living in The Mansion for over thirty years, the Abrahams are taking their project one step further by donating the home, the gardens, as well as the entire art collection as a public art museum so that their blessing may be shared by all.

