

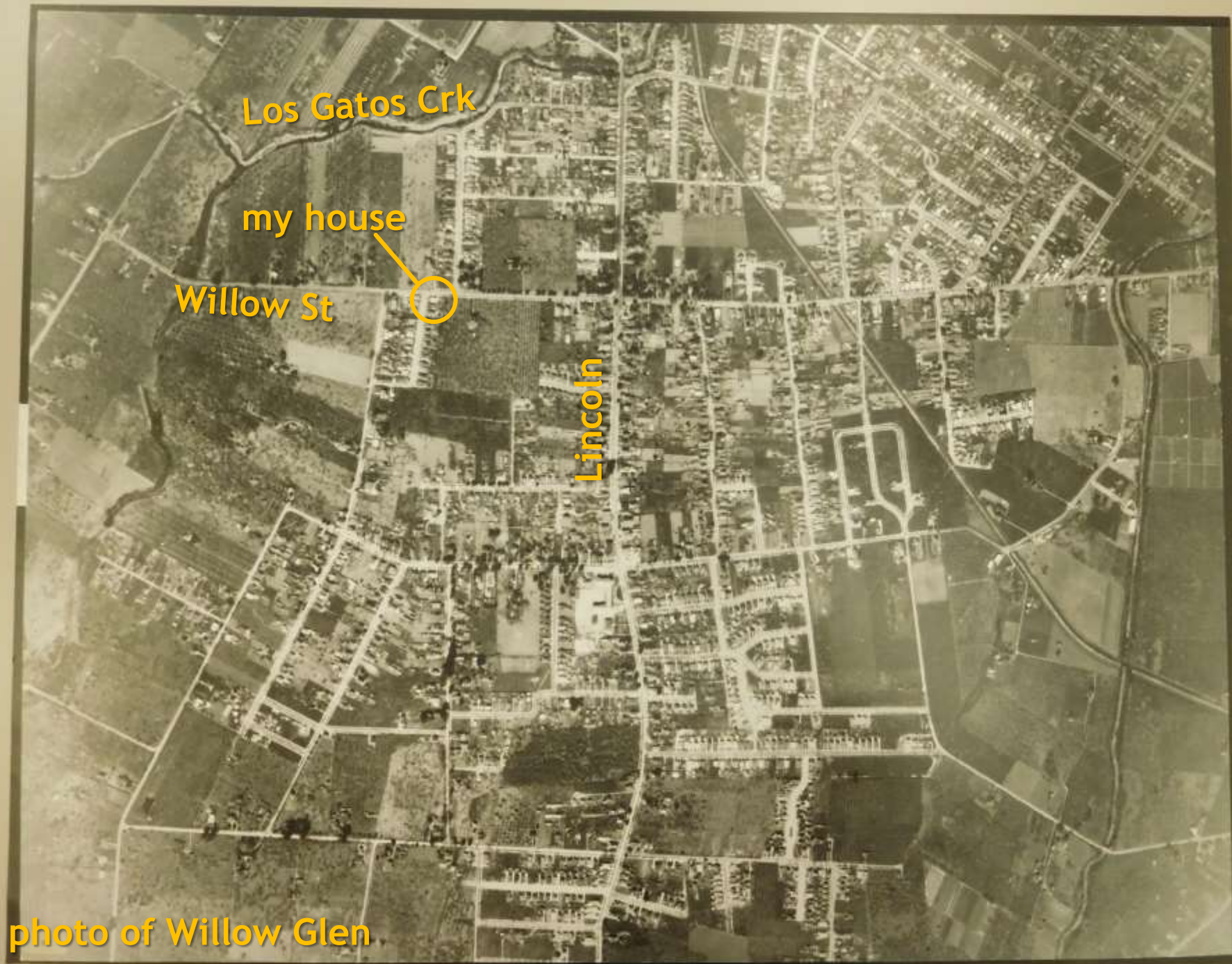
# the Centennial Celebration of the Ames House

February 20, 2025

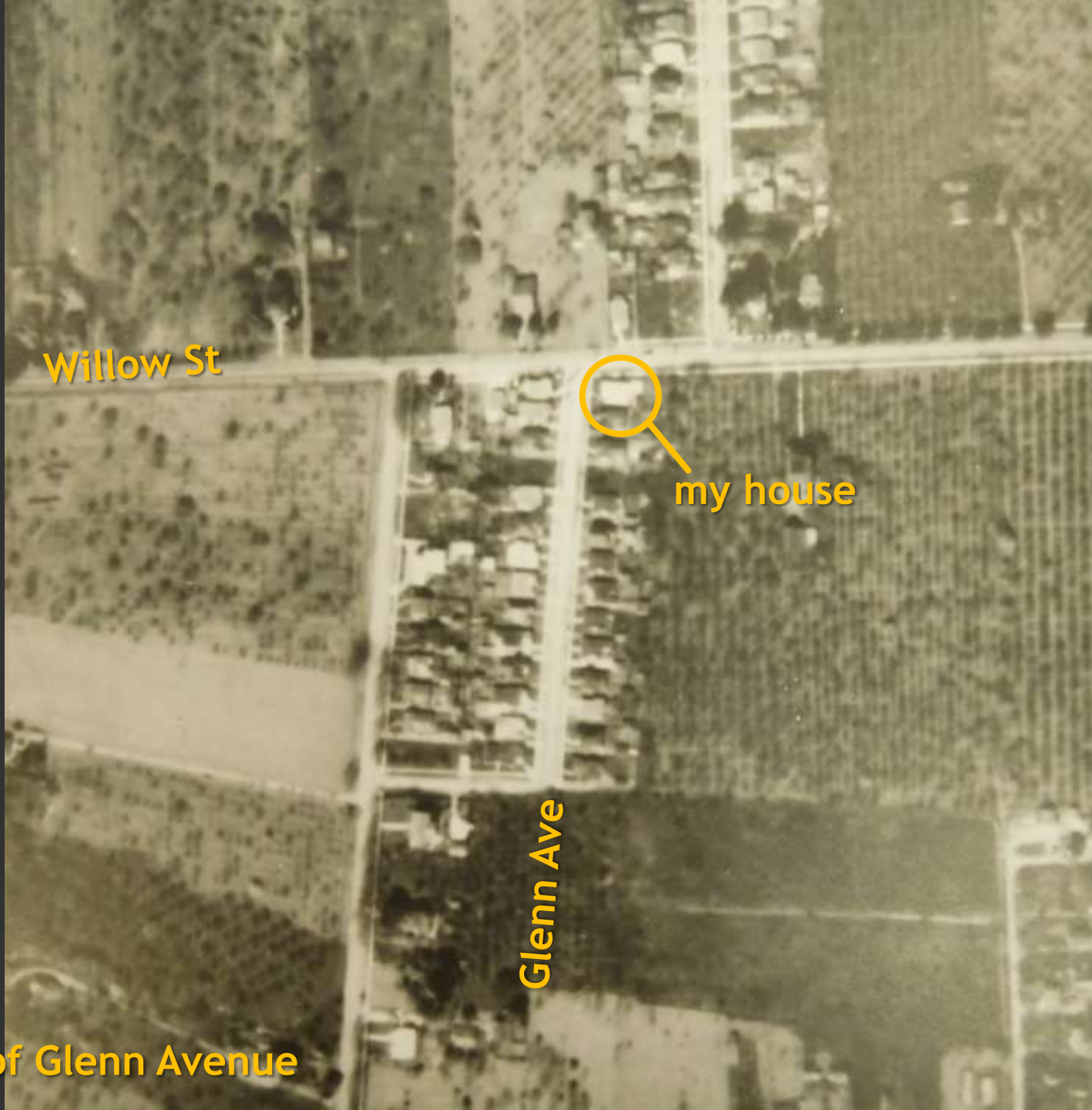
by Larry Ames  
with Krista Van Laan and the Victorian Preservation Association (VPA)  
© Lawrence Ames, 2025



a talk given February 20, 2025  
before an audience of VPA members & guests



1931 Aerial photo of Willow Glen



Willow St

my house

Glenn Ave

1931 Aerial photo of Glenn Avenue



House as it looked when purchased it in 1979



**House as purchased in 1979,  
with “greenhouse,” “garage extension,” radio towers, and clotheslines.**



House as purchased in 1979:  
kitchen with little counter space, few cabinets, and the fridge just out in the room.



**House as purchased in 1979:  
dining room with blue-and-white plastic wood-grained paneling and brown shag carpet.**



**House as purchased in 1979:  
living room w/ wood paneling, brown shag carpet, & square curtains hiding the arched windows.**



**House as purchased in 1979:  
bathroom with blue shag carpet and a ugly cheap vanity.**

1980: we plant  
the street trees.





1980: bathroom remodel

1980: transform the "home office" into a nursery





1980: baby Lewis asleep in the nursery.

**1980: make stained-glass window honoring our backyard persimmon tree**

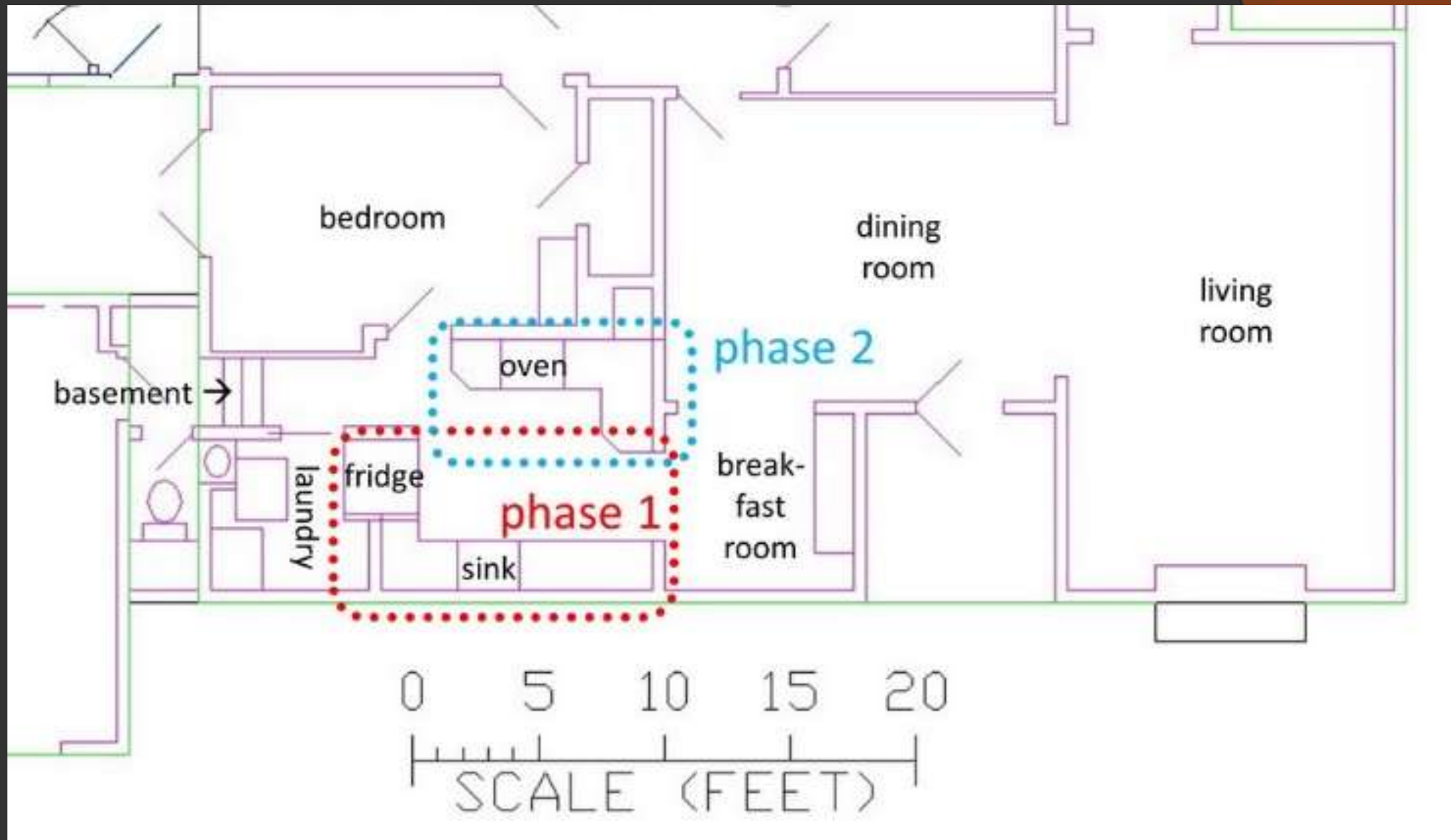




1982: remove old greenhouse



1982: double back door & deck



Kitchen remodel, 1983 & 1984



"Before" condition: view towards dining room (left) and breakfast room (right).  
Note the limited amount of counterspace & cabinets.



"Before" condition: view from breakfast room of the laundry (and access to garage). Note the free-standing fridge and stove.



"Before" condition:  
view from garage of basement access.



Demolition begins!  
view from garage of basement access.



Removing the kitchen sink.

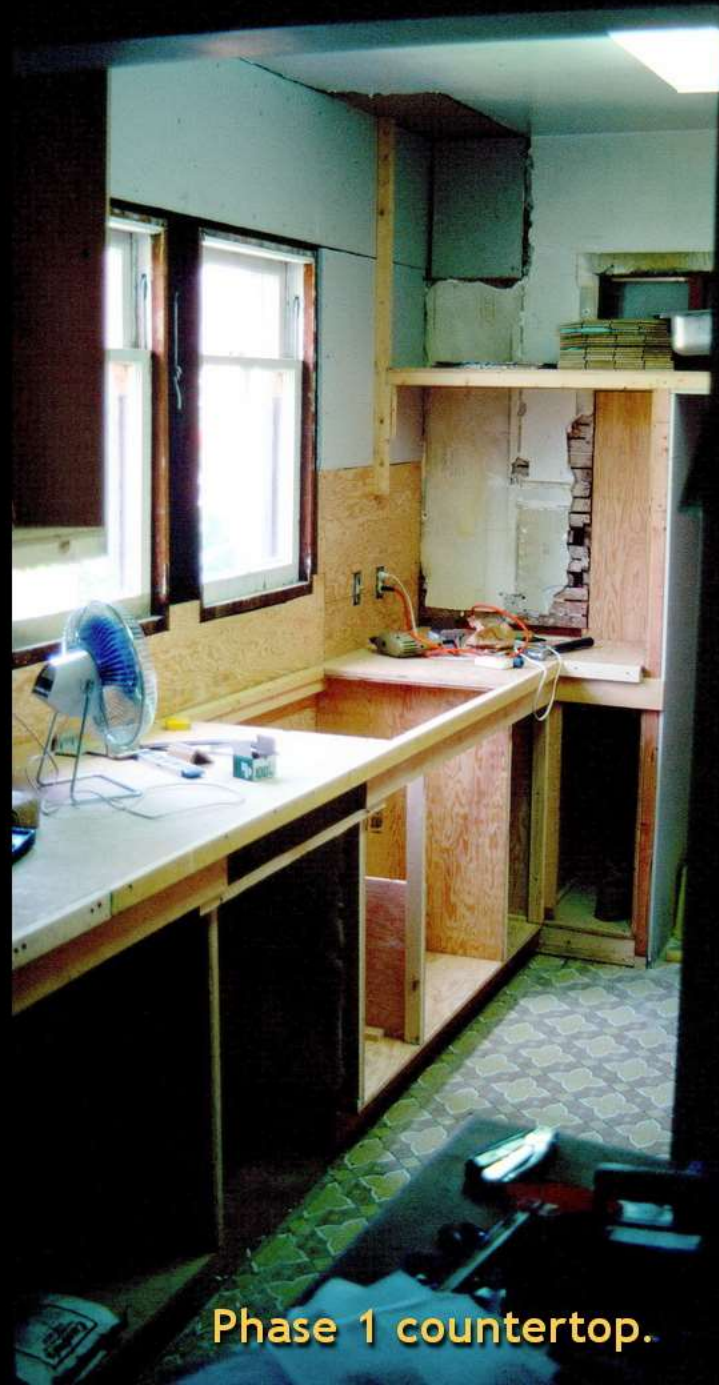


Demolition completed.  
Former laundry entry will become space for fridge,  
and former pantry becomes garage & basement access.

basement access:  
design inspired by  
"The Munsters" show



Phase 1 wiring & plumbing done;  
now installing insulation.



Phase 1 countertop.



Next year: Phase 2! Mock-up of counters & cabinets.



Phase 2 demo: view from garage,  
looking towards dining room.



Inspecting the new cabinets.

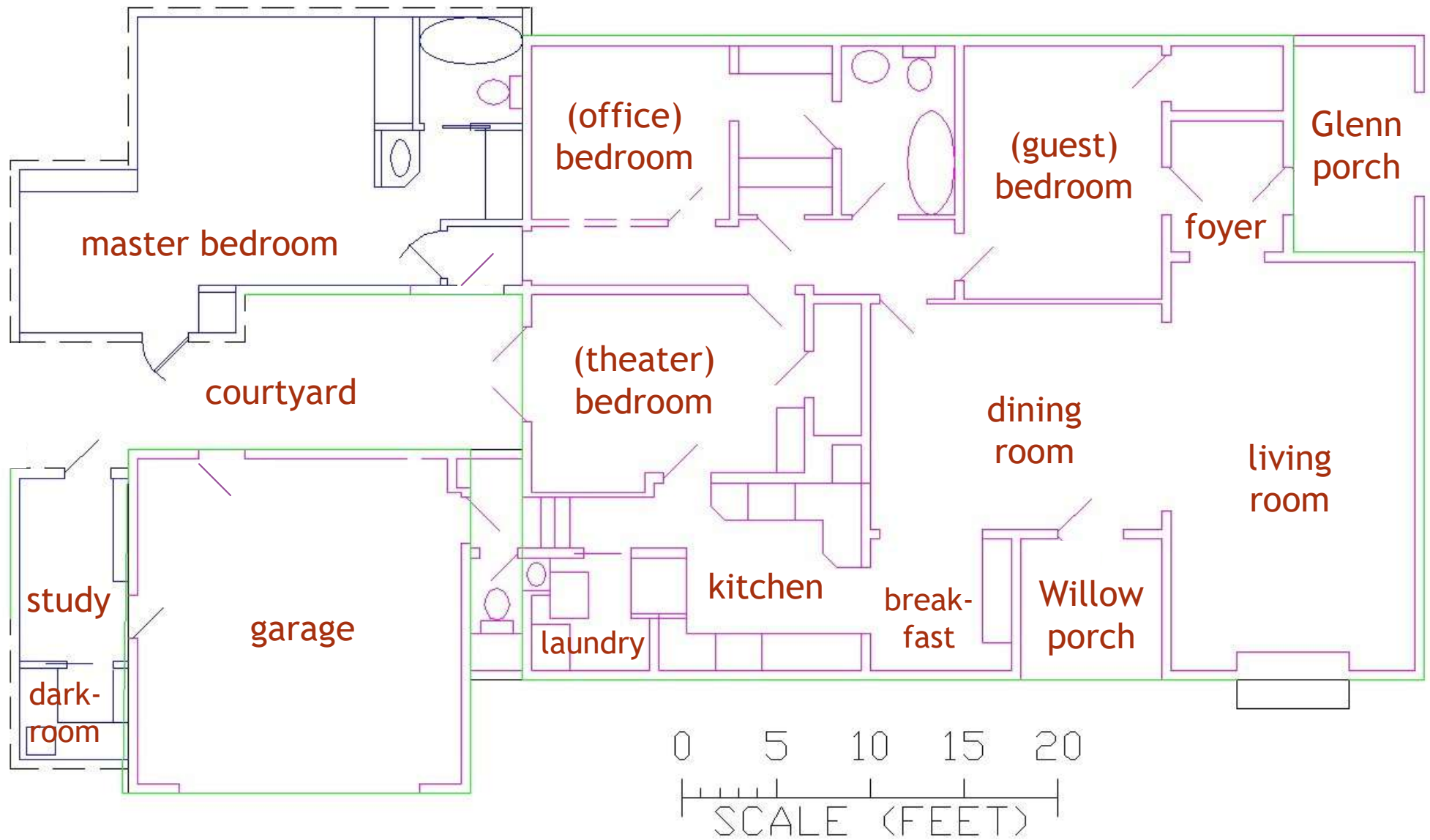


"Some assembly required" (!)



Ready for final painting.

MAR 15, 1986, L. AMES



Master bedroom and Study/darkroom, 1986-87

Break  
ground,  
summer,  
1986





**Remove the  
garage extension**



Contractors pour the foundation







framed  
early 1987











**Pour courtyard concrete,  
early fall, 1987**



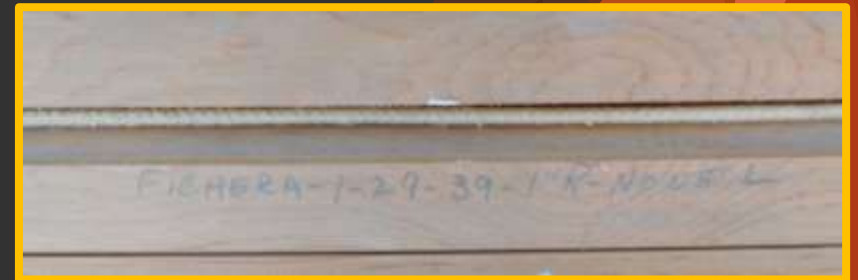
**flooring,  
early fall, 1987**



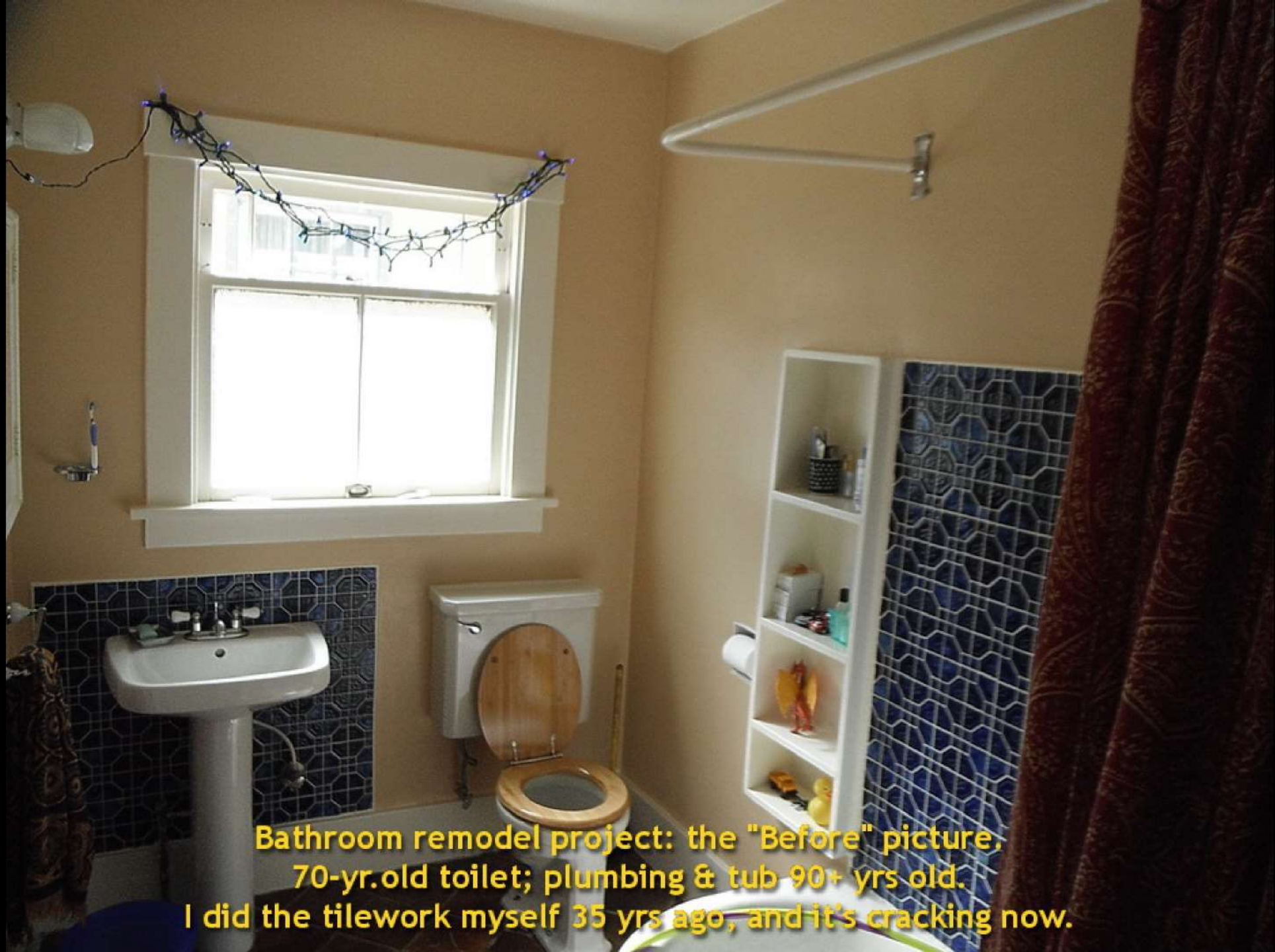
refinished the living & dining room floors, fall, 1989



refinished the Glenn  
bedroom closet, Oct 2015.  
(The hard part is clearing  
out all the stuff first!)



Found an inscription on the blinds



**Bathroom remodel project: the "Before" picture,  
70-yr.old toilet; plumbing & tub 90+ yrs old.  
I did the tilework myself 35 yrs ago, and it's cracking now.**



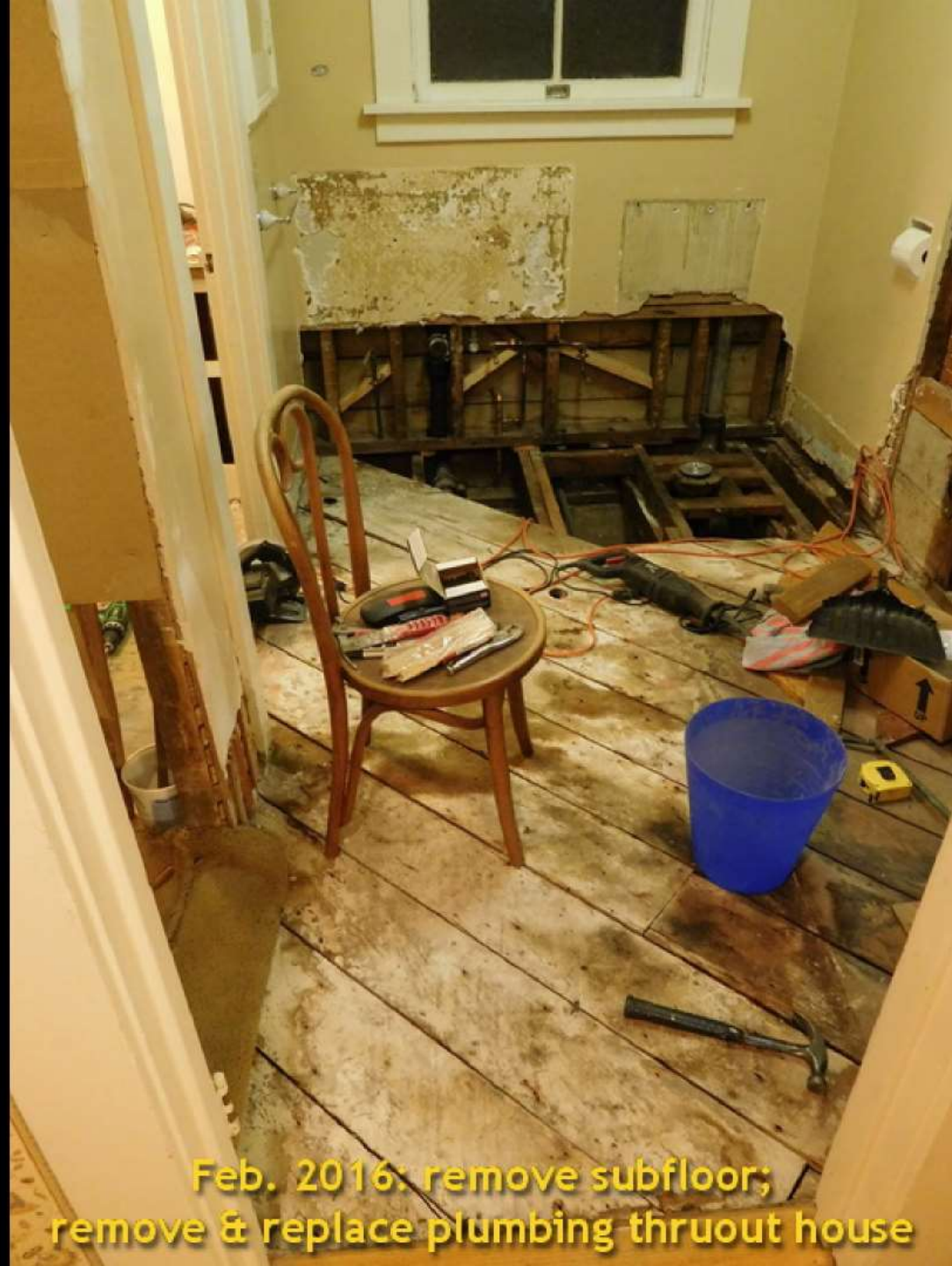
Nov. 2015: remove the floor.



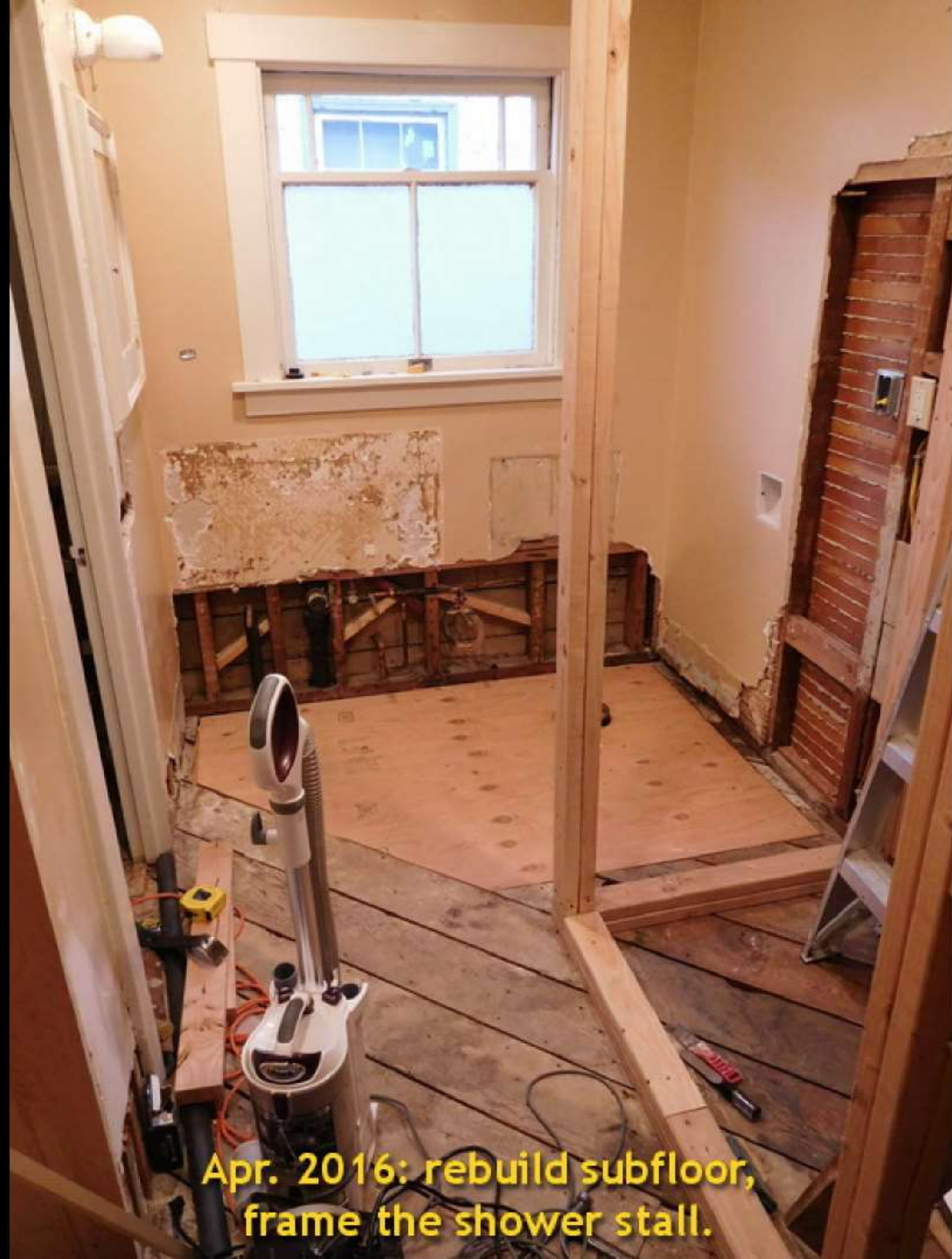
Nov. 2015: remove the tub



Dec. 2015: remove the walls & fixtures;  
use cardboard to test mock-ups of new configuration.



Feb. 2016: remove subfloor;  
remove & replace plumbing thruout house



Apr. 2016: rebuild subfloor,  
frame the shower stall.



May 2016: mortar shower pan,  
backer-board floor & walls



July 2016: new electrical;  
heated floor, tile.



July 2016: new bead-board wall



Aug. 2016: tile the shower



Sept. 2016: done!  
Passed Final Inspection 9/30/16



This was the last “un-repainted” part of the house!  
(I wanted to encapsulate any old lead-based paint.)

Only took me 39 years...



refinished the “theater  
bedroom” closet, March 2018.  
(The hard part definitely is  
clearing out all the stuff first!)



**The house remodeling is done! Now to relax and embrace the chaos!**