



8. With degrees in interior design, architecture and history, one of my specialties is the history of houses. The Aldredge House is a wonderfully maintained physical record of architecture and interiors of the early to mid-nineteenth century. Such a level of preservation is rarely seen in private homes that are no longer occupied by the original family.

9. All of the public rooms are currently furnished and decorated in an authentic manner, allowing visitors to experience history by being in an historic atmosphere. This is the goal of museum period rooms, historic villages and house museum interiors, and it is well achieved here. One of the most interesting rooms is the Conservatory or Garden Room, where one of the tropical trees was originally cultivated by Mrs. Aldredge and has lived to an advanced age. The Garden Room presents the visitor with a genuine feel of the work of an amateur horticulturalist, a popular hobby for ladies from the Victorian period forward. Home tour visitors seeing this house, and comparing it with the updated and often eclectic furnishings and finishes of the other tour houses, can better appreciate two versions of historic preservation: a house which has been kept intact inside, and those that have been updated and adjusted for modern styles.

10. The volunteers of the Dallas County Medical Society Alliance have consulted with me as a professional history curator regarding the care of artifacts in Aldredge House. We examined the books in the library, as they were contemplating opening that room to more public educational use. They had just acquired vintage garments from the Aldredge Family, and asked me to evaluate their storage methods and to recommend improvements. I am impressed by their concern for maintaining the contents of the house, and I am inclined to believe that they show similar dedication to holding this important



