

# Delancey Street offers fresh start at clean living

By Andrea Kincs  
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

**BREWSTER** — A castle may be an atypical setting for a facility assisting recovering alcoholics and drug addicts, but then, Delancey Street Foundation is not at all typical.

The facility, described by its residents as a "re-educational facility," resides atop 92 acres nestled in the woods of Brewster on Turk Hill Road.

Morningthorpe castle, the foundation's home, was built for Seth B. Howe sometime during the 1700's. The facility has been located there for about 11 years.

Wanda Brown has been a resident of Delancey Street for about 18 months — six months shy of "graduation." She said the program works to reeducate one how to live a normal life without drugs or crime.

"What we achieve is we learn how to be responsible, decent human beings," she said.

She said many residents come into Delancey Street through the prison systems, but anyone is welcome.

Facility Treatment Manager Peter Liotta said Delancey Street is not for everyone, and during an interview process, applicants are screened to see if they sincerely want to be helped and whether the foundation can help them.

"If anyone's life is out of order, and we think we can help them, we ask them to live with us," he said.

Despite the serene surroundings, Delancey Street is not a place one goes to just rest and recover from the real world.

A motivating force behind the program is a work ethic which pushes residents to work long hard hours. Residents are given the opportunity to prove themselves and then they begin to earn rewards. The required minimum stay is two years.

"You can come in and do whatever you want. You just have to fight hard enough for it," said resident Juan Morales.

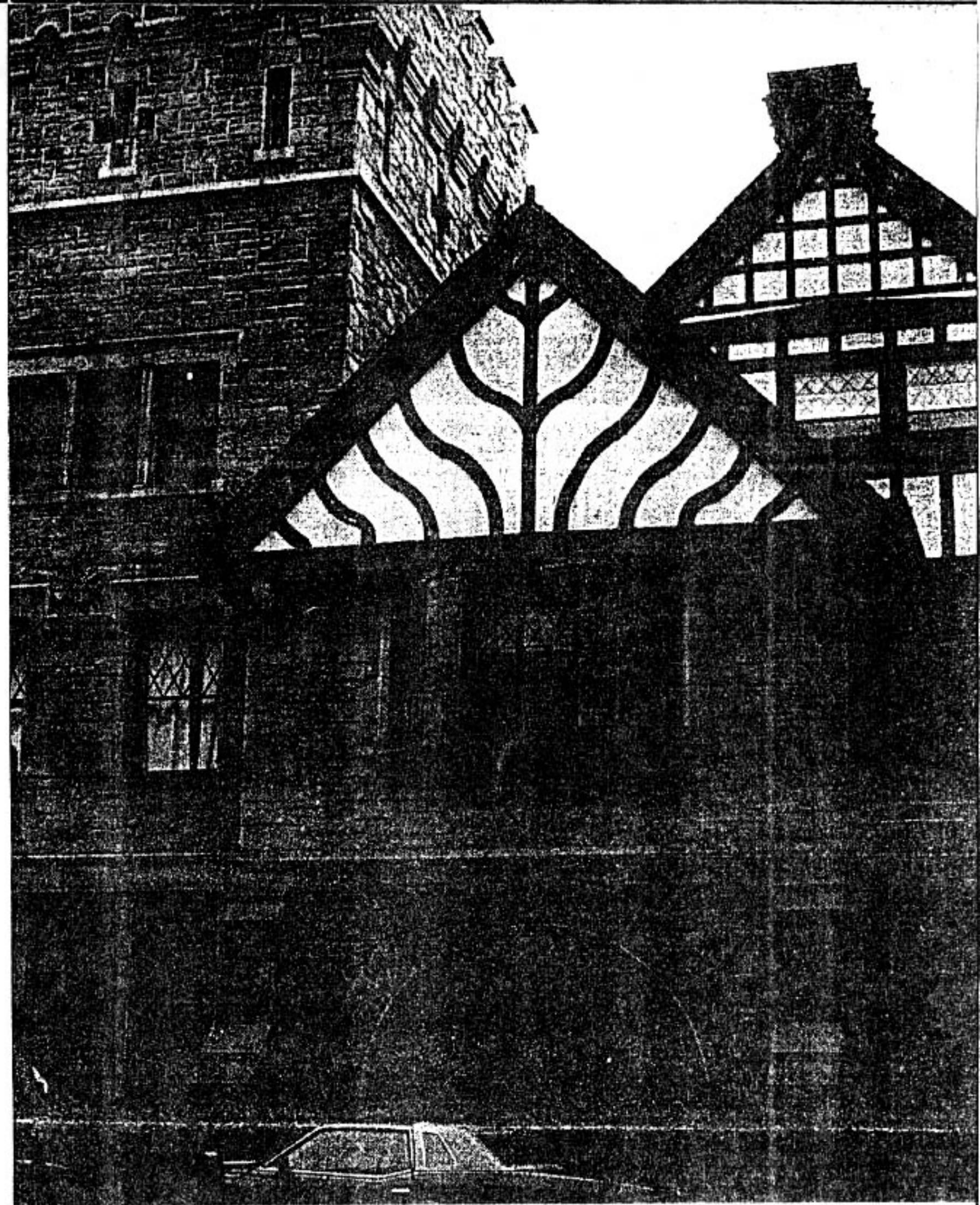
He explained that every four months residents rotate jobs and sometimes transfer to one of the three other Delancey Street foundation facilities across the country.

He said residents have to put in a proposal for the job they want. Often, however, they don't get the job of their choice and have to learn to keep reaching for their goal while still putting in a 100 percent effort at the job they hold.

Mrs. Brown explained the work needed to gain the rewards makes the rewards more worthwhile.

"All our life we've done things that were easy for us. It was easy to get high, it was easy to lie...if we earn what we get, we appreciate it more," she said.

There are 18 permanent residents at Brewster's Delancey Street, and



The Morningthorpe castle houses the Delancey Street Foundation.

Staff photograph by ANDREA KINCS