

# Old House JOURNAL

## Outside the Old House

**Exterior Paint Prep**  
Pro Techniques for Reviving Siding

**Wood Fence Ideas**  
Picking Pickets that Match the House

*New*

**HOW-TO SECTION**  
In Step with Hardware Fixes

**Screen Door Workshop**  
Tips on Top Parts and Styles

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## Levitt or Leave it

I enjoyed the article "A Tale of Three Levittowns" in the May/June 2007 issue, as well as the background information from the archives of James C. Massey. However, page 74 of the article shows a photo of a house which is the Rancher model—not the Jubilee as noted in the caption. Besides being the smaller of the two models with just two bedrooms, the Rancher has only a carport. In contrast, the Jubilee was designed for larger families and featured a finished upstairs plus an enclosed attached garage with storage space above it, as seen in this promotional photo.

Readers may be interested to know that the real Jubilee is a model with special meaning. Alfred S. Levitt created

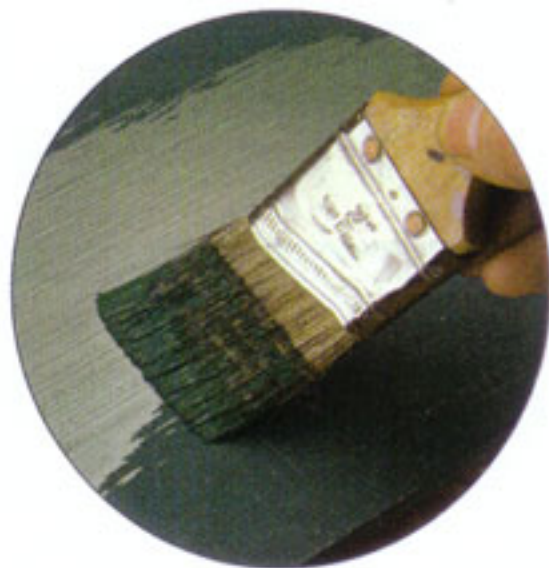


the Jubilee in several versions to celebrate his father Abraham's 25 years in real estate law, beginning in 1929 after graduating from New York University. Simeon-David Marable, Historian

Levittown Internationally Known  
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## Fencing Lessons

After reading the suggestions included in "In Step with Trim Painting" (May/June OHJ), I have some questions about painting our new wood picket fence. The fence rails and pickets will be cedar while the posts will be pressure-treated lumber. We are planning to apply a solid color white stain as a final top coat. These days it seems that most manufacturers recommend water-based stains as a top coat over an oil-based primer. Now that you have all



of the exciting details (perhaps knowing that someone is choosing a wood picket fence over PVC will make your day), would you recommend that the fence be "pre-prepped" with varnish or some other sealer prior to being primed?

Greg Bachmann  
Manhasset, New York

*Your fence is new work—not the weathered trim that was the subject of last issue's "In Step"—so consider these recommendations from the Forest Products Laboratory publication Exterior Wood in the South by Daniel L. Cassens and William C. Feist.*

● Fences are fully exposed to the weather, and very prone to wood decay and insect attack. So whether the woods are pressure-treated or naturally decay-resistant, they should be first treated with a water repellent or water-repellent preservative,