

Pillars support new furniture

By PROMISE PRICES

STAFF WRITER

The two-story pillars that once graced the outside of a stately lakefront home in Glencoe have found a new life indoors.

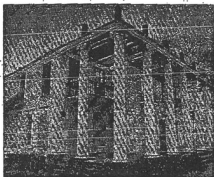
They're being sold as table bases and umbrella stands at Architectural Artifacts, 4335 N. Ravenswood Ave., Chicago.

The pillars were the last remains of a fire that destroyed the neoclassical house at 53 Park Ave. in Glencoe in December 1989. The new owner, Ellis Goodman, is building a new house on the site. He couldn't even give the pillars away last spring — until he sold them to Architectural Artifacts.

Sheila Grannen, who co-owns the store with her brother Stuart, said an artisan has sliced up most of the 10 columns to create table bases, which customers later top with glass or marble. Because they are hollow, "They'd also make a wonderful umbrella stand," Grannen said.

A few of the columns also remain intact at the store.

"The columns themselves were beautifully made," said Grannen. "It's just solid wood. They're going to last another 300 years."



The photo

The pillars that once stood before a Park Avenue home are now supporting table tops.

Those with capitals, the decorative scrolls on the top of the pillars, sell for \$1,000. The pieces cut from the middle of the columns (which do not have capitals) are \$395 each. The bases are 18 inches round in diameter, the decorated scrolls are about 30-by-30-inches square.

The house the pillars once adorned was reportedly displayed at the World Columbia Exposition in 1893 before it was brought to Glencoe on a barge and

hoisted up the ravine to its location. Grannen said Architectural Artifacts makes it a point to tell customers about the columns' history.

"They're very good-looking in and of themselves but it (the history) really does add something," she said.

Grannen said she doesn't know if any of the pillars have been sold to Glencoe residents who are looking to decorate their homes with a piece of local history.

