



Arched, double-hung windows in the addition on the home maintain the view to the outside. Several restored crystal chandeliers from the 1920s amplify the authentic and elegant feel of the house.

PHOTOS BY JAMES WEST

Transplanted glory

A historic North Carolina home is moved and brought into the 21st century



Built in Warrenton in the late 1770s, Woodland was renovated in 1851. Then in 1995, it was disassembled, moved and reassembled in Efland.

By VIRGINIA ALEXANDER
CORRESPONDENT

Efland

At the end of a long drive, past a field, under a thick canopy of trees and into a clearing, a beautiful, stately old home appears. It seems as if the house has always been here, presiding over the land with centuries of stories to tell.

It is hard to believe that this grand, historic home was disassembled, moved and reassembled on this site in Efland a mere 14 years ago.

Built in Warrenton in the late 1770s, the home, Woodland, was renovated in 1851 by North Carolina builder Jacob Holt, who designed an L-shaped addition and added Italianate details to the square plan house. Once moved from its original location, the house was removed from the National Register of Historic Places, but there is no denying its contribution to North Carolina architecture.

Woodland's rich history is exactly what appealed to James Hathorn, who purchased the home in 2005. Like many historic homes, Woodland lacked modern amenities — storage space, updated bathrooms and a spacious kitchen — so Hathorn decided to have an addition built to accommodate them.

"We wanted to keep it historically accurate in the original house and add space that would make it livable for a family with four kids," Hathorn says.

THE PROJECT

WOODLAND

Location: 4714 Timberland Trail, Efland

Architect: Ellen Cassilly, Architect, 600 Foster St., Durham, 530-1149

www.ellencassillyarchitect.com

General contractor: Dickinson Restorations
4604 Hunt St., Hillsborough

Custom cabinetry: The Century Guild, Nick Strange, 877-376-5353

Plaster specialist: Edward Rokosz, 919-688-6428

Total square footage: 9,632 square feet; (addition, conditioned space): 900 square feet

Key attributes: 19th-century historic home, disassembled and moved, renovation and addition

Home of the Month is a collaborative effort with the N.C. State University College of Design through its Home Environments Design Initiative. Featured homes, selected by an expert panel, highlight the benefits of good home design and represent the diversity of homes and home renovations designed by North Carolina architects. The articles, written by faculty, graduate students and alumni of the School of Architecture, bring to light the attributes of each home. Our goal is to offer inspiration and knowledge that can be applied to your living space.

WOODLAND

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Easy enough, or so he thought.

Hathorn hired Dickinson Restorations of Hillsborough. As they discussed Hathorn's ideas, Todd Dickinson recommended an architect, Ellen Cassilly.

Hathorn was skeptical but now says that "from the first meeting and throughout the two-year process, the value of an architect became abundantly clear."

Cassilly's experience renovating another historic Triangle home, a 1950s house by modernist architect George Matsumoto, as well as her lifelong reverence for historic homes, informed her approach to renovation.

"You can have modern interventions that work in harmony with an old house," Cassilly says.

"Our primary goal was to 'do no harm,'" she says, invoking the Hippocratic oath that physicians follow. "It was important to maintain the grace, scale and style of the existing house and weave modernizations in as seamlessly as possible."

Renovation

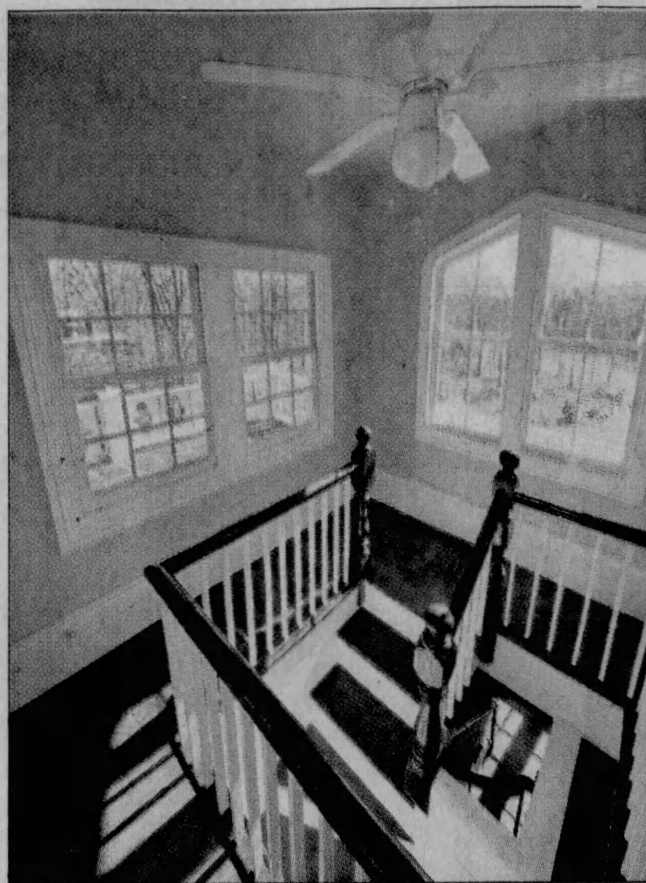
Hathorn's fascination with history is evident in the painstaking restoration. With the help of old photos, local craftsman and artist Edward Rokosz re-created original cornice details. Hathorn found restored crystal chandeliers from the 1920s for the ballroom, library and entryway.

Walking through Woodland's grand hallways and spacious rooms, significant changes to the original plan are not obvious — everything seems as it should be.

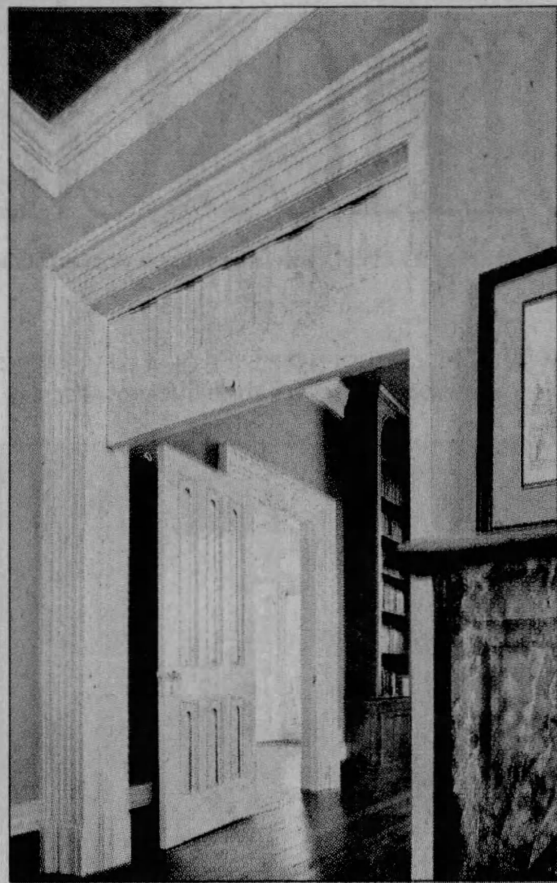
Cassilly avoided interfering with "delightful existing details," such as the vertical sliding pocket doors in the first-floor study and the louvered shutters in the breezeway. Modifications to the original house — four bathrooms, an elevator and an energy-efficient HVAC system — were designed to preserve the layout, roofline and circulation.

Custom cabinetry provided the solution to storage at the main level. A generous entryway allowed ample space for two free-standing coat closets and a display case, which contains a handful of historic objects that were collected during the restoration. Floor-to-ceiling bookshelves in the study display Hathorn's collection of medical and history volumes.

In the breezeway behind the ballroom, a thick wall of built-in cabinets provides a clever and unobtrusive location for storage and a wet bar.



An attic addition showcases the attention to detail and restraint that characterize other areas of the home.



Vertical sliding pocket doors separate the twin parlors which are now the library and media room.



Walking through Woodland's hallways and rooms, significant changes to the original plan are not obvious.

PHOTOS BY JAMES WEST

Innovation

The same attention to detail and restraint characterizes the light-filled addition at the rear of the original house.

The modest addition provided the Hathorns with 900 square feet of living space, including a spacious kitchen where family and friends can gather. "With a little finesse,

you can get an appropriately sized addition," Cassilly says, emphasizing the importance of scale. "An oversized addition would have detracted from the historic home."

The addition shares the open, grand quality of the historic house, and its window and molding details are consistent in character. In fact, the pair of arched, double-hung windows that was at the end of the entryway before renovation was moved to a corresponding place in the rear wall of the addition. Cassilly preserved a clear view through the length of the house, a continuous sight line from the entrance to the original floor-to-ceiling window. The result is a layered space that integrates old and new.

Collaboration

The success of this project depended on the cooperation of the owner, architect, contractor and artisan.

Cassilly stresses the importance of working with a good contractor and talented craftsmen. There was an "understanding that to get it right, the process would take time," she recalls.

"There was lots of give and take," remembers Hathorn. "Ellen was superb in taking our ideas and putting them into something architecturally sound and sensitive."

Not only has Woodland been restored to her prime at a ripe old age, but another layer of history has been added to her narrative.

The past is revealed in historic details that whisper of a bygone era, but the voices echoing in the kitchen are unmistakably in the present.

Virginia Alexander is a master of architecture candidate at N.C. State University's College of Design.