

Events

CRAFTSMEN'S CHRISTMAS CLASSIC ART & CRAFT FESTIVAL

LOCATION: Richmond Raceway Complex Exhibition,
Richmond, VA
November 1 | 10 am – 9 pm

THE POTTS FAMILY'S IRON PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

LOCATION: Pottsgrove Manor
November 2 | 1 pm – 6 pm

PA GERMAN FOLK ART SALE

LOCATION: Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
November 15 | 6 pm – 8:30 pm

WREATHS & GREENS WORKSHOP

LOCATION: 400 Pennsbury Memorial Road | Morrisville, PA
November 30 | 10 am – 3 pm

For more details and other events please visit
www.historic-restorations.com/resources/events-calendar

What's Inside

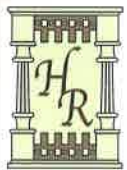
A PRODUCT
RESOURCE
with Simple Installation,
Durability, and
Authenticity

STUNNING
TRANSFORMATION
PHOTOS
To Drool Over

ONLINE
EXCLUSIVE
Gallery Access

The Work of a
RENOWNED
1800'S
CABINET-MAKER

PRESERVATION
EDUCATION:
Learn to Identify
Pennsylvania German
Traditional Buildings



Historic Restorations

A traditional approach to whole house restoration

341 East Liberty Street, Building #2, Lancaster, PA 17602

(717) 291-4688 • www.Historic-Restorations.com



Greetings & News

Fall is finally here! I have always loved the changing colors on the trees here on the East Coast – growing up in Colorado not that many trees changed the bright, vibrant colors we have here. In Denver they were mostly brown, although if you go up into the mountains you can enjoy the translucent Aspen leaves. The reds, oranges, and yellows here just take my breath away. Soon it will be the holidays (which I am not ready for at all) so I will just enjoy the apple cider with cinnamon sticks for straws, warm days, and cool nights of the Fall season for now.

This month in our newsletter we are featuring a project that began last December (and grew and grew as we went along) – the Mylin House, a PA German Traditional farmhouse in Willow Valley. The house was built during the Colonial period and had a Victorian addition (it seems modern society isn't the only time we've wanted to modify our living space to be more functional and the eight children the Mylin's had probably demanded much more functionality than the small original Colonial house offered).

This project was a joy to restore and we were very happy to see it featured in the Sunday News real estate section with glowing comments from the owner, Willow Valley Communities. Willow Valley Communities were a joy to work for and we applaud their efforts to save the historic properties they have – it is a true testament to the values of an organization when so many other companies would just tear down buildings when they are “in the way”. Enjoy the before and after pictures, though you may wonder a bit at the colors we uncovered (they did cause quite a discussion) and stayed with. And don't forget to visit the project page online for an even more in-depth look at the project.

All my best,

Danielle

August Newsletter Correction:

Allied Window website is www.AlliedWindow.com.



The Mylin House

Online Exclusive!

For more dramatic before and after photos, visit www.historic-restorations.com/portfolio/the-mylin-house.

A COMPLETE INTERIOR RESTORATION OF A PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN TRADITIONAL



The Mylin House project was a complete interior restoration at Willow Valley Communities. Historic Restorations restored the first floor of both the original farmhouse and the addition to use as a community center.

During the Colonial Period, the original portion of the house was built in the Pennsylvania German Traditional style. During the Pre-Civil war period in the 1800's, a Victorian addition was constructed. Though many renovations had been performed, Historic Restorations expert staff knew what was not part of the historical fabric and brought the house back to its original condition.

HISTORICAL WOODWORK & WINDOWS

The interior woodwork including three corner fireplace surrounds, balusters and raised panels in the stairway is original to the house. Also original is the renowned, Lancaster County cabinet-maker John Bachman's built-in cabinetry – magnificent examples of traditional woodwork.

Most of the woodwork on the first floor of the house was in good condition, but needed restored. The first step in the restoration process was removing five layers of paint – involving some lead remediation. Epoxy and solid-wood Dutchmen for the spot repairs were used to restore the original woodwork.

Historic Restorations re-created a built-in cabinet area in the kitchen of the Victorian addition. The new cabinets were fabricated to match the style of an original built-in.

The windows in both the Colonial and Victorian sides of the house were not original, but were about 150 years old. All the first floor windows were restored and interior storm windows were installed throughout.

RESTORING HISTORICAL PLASTER

After the wallpaper was carefully removed, most of the original horse-hair plaster walls and ceilings were preserved and skim-coated. The damaged plaster was reproduced using a three-step application to create historically accurate plaster.

HISTORICAL PAINT COLOR

The unusual color combinations used on the interior walls are original to the house. The colors were discovered after removing wallpaper and layers of paint. The paint colors were matched to Benjamin Moores Historical Colors line.

FIREPLACE RESTORATIONS

Multiple fireplaces were restored. A cast-iron wood stove and multiple hearths were removed. The brick was then restored in one fireplace and the other was plastered – both traditional treatments for fireplaces. Stucco was applied to encase the loose stone in the basement walk-in fireplaces.



Preservation Spotlight

INGLENOOK BRICK TILE – A PRODUCT RECOMMENDATION FROM CHUCK

Inglenook Brick Tile is the most authentic, durable and customizable thin brick tile on the market today.

SIMPLE INSTALLATION: The resulting brick tiles are thin (about 1/2" thick) and much lighter than full-sized brick, allowing you to avoid costly changes to the load-bearing strength or level of the sub-floor for flooring or the addition of footers or other structural adjustments to support the weight of brick for your walls, chimneys or ceilings.

DURABILITY: Inglenook brick tiles are designed from terracotta-colored stoneware ceramic clay, making the tiles strong and their color steadfast. Successfully tested by the Tile Council of America for strength and resistance to freeze-thaw cycles, Inglenook brick tiles will stand the test of time in your home or outside it.

AUTHENTICITY: Each brick tile is unique and handcrafted. Most importantly, our hand-formed brick tiles are indistinguishable from antique brick. Our antiqued molds, use of natural clays and powders, and handmade manufacturing process means that every tile looks as though it were formed by hand and fired in a wood furnace, just as bricks were made for centuries.

You can learn more about the products that Inglenook Tile offers by visiting their website at www.InglenookTile.com.

The Mylin House... continued

RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL FLOORING

The first floors original oak flooring was removed, re-tongue and grooved, cleaned, and re-installed. The flooring was waxed with Briwax as it would have originally been when it was first constructed.

Installed during the Victorian period, the kitchens original wood floor was covered over with several layers of vinyl flooring. The wood used in the original floor was an inferior quality and it was questionable if it was worth saving.

Willow Valley Communities decided upon a brick floor in keeping with a farmhouse style. The brick was installed in a basket-weave pattern using a traditional mortar recipe. The bricks were chosen from Inglenook Tile Design.

Before the kitchen floor installation a potentially catastrophic problem was addressed – the house was sagging two inches in the middle of the interior. After raising the frame, sub-flooring and two metal posts were installed because the summer beam was made of an inferior quality wood.



Before



After

Preservation Education

PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN TRADITIONAL (1700-1870)

Pennsylvania German Traditional buildings reflect the strong cultural ties of the state's early settlers from the German (Deutsch) speaking areas of central Europe. These settlers came to be described as the "Pennsylvania Dutch." This Germanic influence is most apparent in the southeast section of the state where German settlement began in the early 1700s.



The Mylin House

IDENTIFIABLE FEATURES:

- Steeply pitched gable roofs
- Stone, brick, log or frame construction
- Double doors with four over four front facades
- Dual gable end chimneys
- Two and a half stories
- Summer kitchen located just behind main house
- Thick walls and small, irregularly spaced windows
- Traditional floorplans with a central chimney
- Corner "winder stair" leading to a loft or second floor
- Built over a spring to provide running water or into a bank for a cool area for food storage
- Combination house and barn where both shared a common roof