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Barterbrook Farm

Rich History and Culture Preserved
Barterbrook Farm's Barn Restoration

In the time of the early settlers, the family farm was a vital part of burgeoning American culture. The homestead often included a main house along with many adjoining buildings. Amongst them was the cornerstone of the farm, the barn. With its many uses and as time progressed the barn became an integral part of everyday life. With the dwindling agricultural market, many of these original barns are now left to crumble. For many, however, the barn is a simple reminder of the rich history and culture of Virginia that must be preserved.

A cupola perched high on the roof of an old barn serves as an inviting signal and a gentle reminder of Virginia's past. Nestled within Albemarle County's vast landscape of lush trees and rolling hills lies

By Colleen Rossier and Laura Shumaker • Photography by Phillip Beaurline
Photo Styling by Alison S. Dickie





Beckoning the visitor to this restored retreat, the cupola sits atop the copper roof. Copper roofing is not the most historically accurate, but was chosen for its durability. Aesthetics were also a factor, as the graying weathered boards and the patina from the copper roof maintain the natural look of the barn as it fits into the landscape.



the remaining acreage of historic Barterbrook Farm. Now a private residence, the current owners made this charming country property their home. In the process of restoring it, a question arose about what to do with the old, dilapidated barn. Embodying a growing trend, the owners decided to restore it rather than tear it down in order to preserve the barn's rich history. No longer needing the structure for its original agricultural use, they wished to transform it into a place of tranquility. By doing this, the owners could maintain the barn's integrity for the future while also making it appropriate for continued everyday use. With that goal in mind, they called on the masterful services of Keith Scott and designer Julie Dixon from Rosney Co. Architects, who are known for their ability to tailor architectural designs to their site, context, and the desires of their clients. To transform these dreams and designs into

reality, Scott and Dixon called on artisans Jeremy Manning-Smith and his partner, Billy Micus. Manning-Smith Restoration and Construction strives to incorporate local, previously used materials in each of their projects. Working closely with each other as well as the property owners and several local material suppliers, together they were able to create a rustic yet contemporary retreat.

No longer used for storing seed and hay, this countryside keepsake is now a quiet place for rest and rejuvenation, sitting unobtrusively amidst the landscape. The original barn, once painted red, was in disrepair and its lumber was unfortunately irretrievable. In order to maintain the integrity of the exterior, Manning-Smith re-milled wood from locally sourced white pines that were downed in storms or cleared from other properties in the area. The recycled wood blends in with its surroundings, preserving the

character and the rich patina that comes naturally from years of weathering.

The rustic finish is only a hint of the rural beauty that continues inside. Entering the barn feels like being transported to a simpler time. The back to basics tone immediately becomes apparent, as the revitalized space is minimalist in its layout and design. Both the ground level and the loft upstairs were designed with open floor plans so that they not only stayed true to the design of the barn, but also connected the tranquility of the outside with the comfort of indoors. In keeping with the original structure, the entire interior is connected, creating one large living space.

In addition to using recycled elements for the exterior, the team reclaimed as much as possible for the interior in order to keep the old-fashioned feel of the barn. One of their sources was James Madison's Montpelier, which was re-



One can curl up with a good book as natural light illuminates the room. Looking down the custom-built wrought iron staircase, one can catch a glimpse of what's cooking downstairs.

The open floor plan on the ground floor allows an easy connection to the living, dining and outdoor space.

With its durable cabinets and soapstone countertop and sink, this workbench-like island is the perfect place to prepare meals.

This revitalized barn joins the comfort of home with the tranquility of nature. Sitting on the wrap around porch, one can watch children running around outdoors or fishing in the adjacent pond. The handmade bench in the corner came from oak boards that served as the original hayloft flooring.



cently restored. When the DuPont addition was deconstructed, old timber was discovered from the site and was used inside of this rehabilitated barn. In keeping with the timeworn feel of the space, the bricks used for the ground level flooring were reclaimed from an old hospital. The energy-efficient floors are also radiant, allowing the bricks to retain heat. Interior doors were made on-site by reclaimed old boards while many other materials were salvaged from a late 18th-early 19th century Virginia house that was destined to be torn down.

The rough-hewn retreat maintains its original structural integrity both inside and out while incorporating the comforts of the modern day. It has been transformed, now complete with a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, and ample living space. On the ground level, one can make use of the open floor plan by preparing a delectable meal in the kitchen as

they converse with friends in the dining area. Fashioned like an old barn workbench, the kitchen is virtually an island that contains a stove as well as a soapstone countertop and sink crafted by stonemason Daniel Strumlauf. Such elements add to the sustainability of the structure. Every bit of the island is utilized, as it also holds many drawers that house everything from pots and pans to the refrigerator and freezer. Small touches, such as the locally made drawers equipped with soft-close drawer glides that prevent slamming, ensure that this space will remain a tranquil retreat.

Custom-built by Dale Morse of Clay Hill Forge, the exquisite wrought iron staircase leads to a bright and relaxing loft above. The team was passionate about the need to maintain the dimensions of the original barn while also making the space livable. Thus, they creatively installed insulated panels that would keep

the loft comfortable, energy-efficient, and weather tight while preserving the rustic look of the structure. This also shows off the structure's original batten-and-board framework. Mimicking the original design, large, workable windows replaced the old hayloft doors. A prominent dormer window, the only small deviation from the original upper level of the structure, allows sunlight to illuminate the loft, often rendering artificial light unnecessary. This area is the perfect place to curl up with a bestseller or watch children fish in the pond outside.

Built by craftsmen and artisans of past and present, barns dot the Virginia landscape, subtly reminding us of our agricultural past. It is incumbent on us to reflect on our history and to make sure in some form that it is preserved for generations to come. The barn at Barterbrook Farm upholds historical integrity while creating a new legacy.



The sturdy sink, carved from a block of soapstone by Daniel Strumlauf, is one of many unique features in this room. The walls are eastern red cedar, which is native to the area while the barn-like doors that house the shower are regional yellow pine. The scent from the cedar enhances the relaxing mood of this room.