

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



dwell in Possibility—  
A fairer House than Prose—  
More numerous of Windows—  
Superior—for Doors—  
  
Of Chambers as the Cedars—  
Impregnable of Eye—  
And for an Everlasting Roof  
The Gambrels of the Sky—  
  
Of Visitors—the fairest—  
For Occupation—This—  
The spreading wide of narrow Hands  
To gather Paradise—

—“#657” by Emily Dickinson



# It's All In The Details

About a year ago, we brought you the story of Craig & Debby's stunning brick house. Built prior to 1850, the house retains most of the original millwork, inside and out, and has this one added fantastic benefit — the view; it overlooks a broad sweep of meadows, mature trees, and a meandering creek. Priceless!

Last year, Debby had the opportunity to check one item off her "to-do" list; that of transforming a portion of the house that had been converted years earlier to garage space. That space, adjacent to her kitchen, now serves as a combination playroom/office/laundry room complete with French doors opening onto the patio. (see *Summer 2011 newsletter*)



Talk of adding a porch soon followed the completion of those French doors.

This year, Craig & Debby decided to complete that side of the house by adding a full-length porch. Adding the porch was a very logical progression of their renovation plans for their house. Neither the French doors nor the kitchen entry door, which is their most common entryway, had any protection from the elements. Getting in or out of the house during a downpour was a soggy proposition, indeed.

Craig & Debby definitely wanted something sympathetic to the style of the existing wraparound porch situated on the front and two sides of the house. That wraparound porch is stunning — a deep and spacious early-Victorian with elegant trim work — and replicating it was probably too daunting for Craig & Debby to consider initially; however, at a pre-construction meeting, while Gary was reviewing the project with Don, Craig decided that he'd really rather have an exact replica, not just something reminiscent. Replicating all the trimwork would be costly, and they wanted this porch to cover the entire length of the back wing, but they decided that was the right thing to do.

Gary quickly changed gears and contacted Pat

McDonie, mill manager at Lezzer Lumber. Reproduction trim work such as this is not something we can purchase at the local lumber store, not even Lezzer; but, Gary knew Pat could make it happen.

In the meantime, the project needed to stay on schedule.

All the lumber needed to construct the new porch, minus the reproduction trim work that Pat would be producing, was delivered to the job site. (Photo #1) Stan Sharpe has the header installed, with joist hangers attached, secured into 2-courses thick of brick. Now, placement of that header was no offhand decision. So many conditions had to be factored into the decision: the top of the finished roof had to position below the 2nd-floor windows at the same height as the original porches; the roof pitch had to match also; the porch ceiling had to clear the tops of the 1st-floor windows and doors; the hip roof return had to finish back from the end of the house; the gutters could not protrude beyond the gable side of the house. So many factors to consider before driving the first nail!

Stan's next step was to frame up the roof; but, first, he had to get the custom made-to-match porch posts erected onto post feet with stainless steel rods inserted

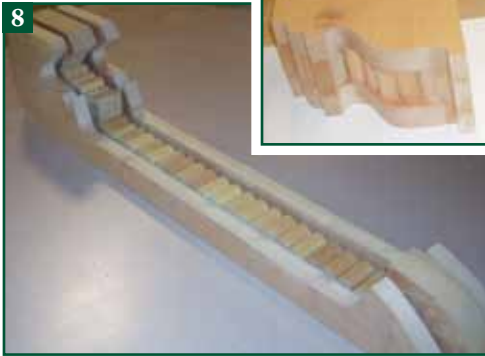


are then crimped together with its neighboring piece once it is placed on the roof.

Now, while all this was going on, Pat and Mark Divet were back at the mill preparing the new reproduction trim pieces. Lots of trim pieces! And it all started here at the original porch.

(Photo #6) None of these decorative

up though the bottom of each post and down into the concrete slab, with an engineered lumber structural header above, and joist hangers on the back of that.



(Photo #2)

It looks as though the porch posts and header are free-standing at this point, and they are, at least for a short while. Stan then dropped in the ceiling joists, onto the joist hangers, which then provide structural stability. Now the structure can't move on him and the stainless steel rods prevent the posts from ever being knocked out from someone or something leaning or pushing against them.



Now the porch structure is starting to take shape. (Photo #3) You can see already that Stan's critical measurements prior to driving one nail are paying off.

Once the framing was complete, Stan then sheathed the roof and began installation of the porch ceiling. (Photo #4) Tongue-&-groove beaded boards match the original porch ceilings. During that stage, Craig & Debby decided to add recessed lights and a box for a future ceiling fan.

In keeping with the plan to replicate the original porches, we brought in the roofing crew from Sam S. Smucker & Sons to install standing seam, prefinished, metal roofing. This was a perfect choice because of the low roof pitch. Each panel of the metal roof is made from a continuous coil of metal that rolls directly off the back of the truck, passes through a hydraulic panning machine that bends and folds the edges (Photo #5), which

are then crimped together with its neighboring piece once it is placed on the roof.



trim could have been purchased at the local lumber store — none! Pat had to determine exactly how many brackets, spandrels, and corbels, as well

as crown molds and bed molds were needed to span the new porch. Pat had to make several trips to get every detail right. He photographed every element from every possible angle, and then made cardboard templates. Mark's mill pieces (Photos #7 through #9) were piling up everywhere in the Lezzer mill! Of all the specialty mill work that Pat and Mark are often called upon to make, both of them said that no one does this level of reproduction, specialty trim work anymore.

But, Pat went one step further. Before he ever sent the designs into production, he asked how they could make the parts so that they would be easier for Stan to install. What Pat and Mark designed into every piece was a 3-piece "sandwich" with the center of the sandwich having a "hollow" section in the back. At the job site, Stan attached a two-inch thick wood block to the porch fascia at each location where the trim pieces were to position; he then slipped each new trim piece over its appropriate block, and screwed it fast from both sides. (Photo #10). Each piece was made of Spanish cedar which is insect- and decay-resistant and primed prior to installation.

Craig & Debby's new porch is now far more than just shelter from the weather; it's a gathering place for family, as well as the family cat. And, it appears to have sheltered many generations before, and is built to shelter many generations to come. ☺

# Brick Hotel, Entrée Course

In our previous issue, we served up the “appetizer course” regarding the transformation of Historic Odessa’s Brick Hotel; an “infill” project joining two historic structures and all the renovations necessary to transform the combined structures into one fabulous restaurant. Hopefully we whetted your appetite with that little appetizer. This next course should prove to be even tastier.

As you may remember (*if not, go to [www.restoremore.com](http://www.restoremore.com) and search the Newsletter Archives for the Summer 2012 issue*), after the site was cleared between and behind the Brick Hotel and Janvier Stable buildings, trenches were dug for the new electric supply lines. A new 600-amp power line would be brought to the structure, but in an effort to keep all the unattractive utility boxes and meters off the historic structures, Gary designed a reproduction 2-man outhouse (a “two-holer”) to house those items. The new outhouse had to be situated beyond the fenced yard, and the old original outhouse (shown to the right in Photo #1) was then moved next door to the Collins-Sharp museum house to be re-purposed as a garden shed. The front doors (not installed yet in this photo) were made to appear original, but are not operable. (Photo #2) The functioning door which provides access to the utilities is concealed on the rear.

Elsewhere on the exterior of the building, plasterers applied stucco to the exterior walls of the new kitchen and entry “connecting wing”. (Photo #3) Once the stucco was completed, masons installed a new ADA compliant entrance ramp



from the street curb to the entry. (Photo #4) All the paving brick used for the ramped walkway were vintage brick salvaged earlier from the rear of the building.

On the opposite side of the building, a new metal fire escape was being installed to provide



emergency egress from the second floor. (Photo #5) Besides fabricating and installing the new fire escape, we also had to break through the existing brick walls at the top of the stairs to create a new door on the second floor. To comply with all code requirements, we also installed interior emergency lighting and signage for the door and at the





area was then laid with new paving bricks matched to the existing sidewalk brick. The new patio area is large enough to accommodate ten dining tables. Once the brick patio was completed, Dennis and Stan started enclosing the new bar. (Photo #9)

Inside the new connecting wing — the actual working kitchen area — an existing rear window of the old hotel was greatly enlarged to create a new passage between the kitchen and dining rooms and bar. (Photo #10) The opening was made large enough to accommodate a swinging double-door unit for servers to access the two areas.

The interior walls and ceiling of the kitchen were then insulated and drywall was installed. The massive exhaust hood for the “cook line” was then installed. (Photo #11) What appear to be round recessed ceiling lights in front of the hood are actually fresh air inlets. The suction created by two massive roof-mounted exhaust systems is so powerful that all the fresh air could be sucked out of the entire building within minutes causing doors to slam shut or fly open and snuffing the flames under the cooking surfaces; therefore, fresh air (heated in winter & cooled in summer) must be forced into the kitchen to literally balance the air



ing stairway to the third floor. At the very rear of the building which is the working kitchen, we called a ramp for kitchen services deliveries and a smaller “stoop” (highlight in Photo #6) for servers to access that would eventually become the dining area. Using vintage materials salvaged from the Janvier for the exposed portions, new treated lumber for that which would be covered, Stan and Dennis began the construction of new outdoor bar. (Photo #7) All our choices of building materials had to be based on weatherability; this bar would be exposed to the elements year round.



pressure in the building.

Once all the mechanical systems were in place, the commercial-kitchen wall and floor coverings had to be completed.

Fiberglass rein-

Before completing construction of the bar, the area around the barn was cut out and graded, drainage was installed, and a stone base was laid down in preparation for the new outdoor dining area. (Photo #8) The entire

forced plastic (FRP) panels were installed over top of the drywall walls. These FRP panels can be washed and scrubbed, which is a requirement for commercial kitchens. Then the finish floor went down. First, we installed



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**Don Delp**  
Field  
Superintendent



**Dennis Nissley**  
Supervisor

*Terms Explained*

**Spandrel**  
[spándrəl ] n.

1. space between one arch and another: the triangular space between the right or left exterior curve of an arch and the framework of another arch.
2. space between two arches and cornice: the area between two arches and a horizontal cornice above them.



layers of plywood flooring to provide a 1-1/4" thick floor base. Fiberglass mesh was then laid down over the plywood and a rubberized epoxy coating was brushed over the entire floor. (Photo #12) All the floor drains had been sealed prior to the epoxy coating. Finally, a color-tinted, texturized, rubberized epoxy coating was troweled down. This final textured coating minimizes slipping and falling.

The new connecting wing, between the Brick Hotel and the Janvier Stable, contains not only the working kitchen but also a new public entry to the restaurant dining areas. The entry encloses a portion of the rear and back "ell" of the original Hotel. An original door and window were switched to facilitate traffic flow to the



new uses. (Photo #13) In the old Hotel, several rooms were being transformed into formal dining rooms. One large room (Photo #14) was closed to become the bar room. Fortunately, because the Brick Hotel was being used as a museum building, the room was in excellent condition already. Only minor renovations and restorations were needed, including relocating all the existing recessed lights for the new use of the room. Debby Buckson, Director, had given us pictures of what she would like for a period-style bar. We contacted cabinet-maker Jim Tshudy who scaled the drawings to fit the new bar to the available space, and then constructed the new bar in his shop in Lancaster



County. Once we had the room prepared, we trucked all the components to Odessa and began the bar's installation. (Photo #15)

Thirsty for more? See the conclusion in our upcoming Winter issue. ☺





# Gary's Exceptional Excerpts

## The Town Tavern

Pennsylvania has always been well provided with inns, and those under Dutch management have from the first been well patronized because they have had the reputation for offering the best food and the most comfortable accommodations.

When the ancient custom of holding fairs in county towns was more generally observed than it is today, the taverns in the towns did a rushing trade. The following pleasant little account is of the fair at Lancaster when that city was young and gay.

“Annually in those days a fair was held on the first Thursday and Friday in June. You could hardly see the streets for the tables and booths, covered with merchandise and trinkets of every kind. There were silks, laces, and jewelry, calicoes, gingerbread, and sweetmeats, such as the ladies love; and that was the time they got plenty of them, too, for the young fellows used to hoard up their pocket money for months together to spend at the fair; and no girl felt ashamed to be treated to a fairing, even by a lad she had never seen before. This was the first step towards expressing admiration, and she who got the most fairings was considered as the belle. Then the corners of the streets were taken up with mountebanks, rope dancers, and all the latest amusements. To see these, each young man took the girl who pleased him the most; or, if he had a capacious heart, he sometimes took half a dozen.

“Then there were the dances, the crowning pleasure of all. In every tavern was to be heard the sound of the violin.”

Pennsylvania was formerly always being visited by inimical Connecticut Yankees, and one of these, a self-styled counterfeiter named William Stewart, who visited the lumbering region of the Susquehanna in 1806, describes the primitive life of that section then, when tavern haunting was apparently a favorite pastime of the populace.

“This region of the country was wild and pic-

turesque, and the people generally were Dutch and Yankees of the most filthy, wild, and vulgar kind that could be conceived. I had just left Connecticut and its enlightened communities, and had dropped down as it were among a race as debased and corrupt as those who have already entered the stygian pool.

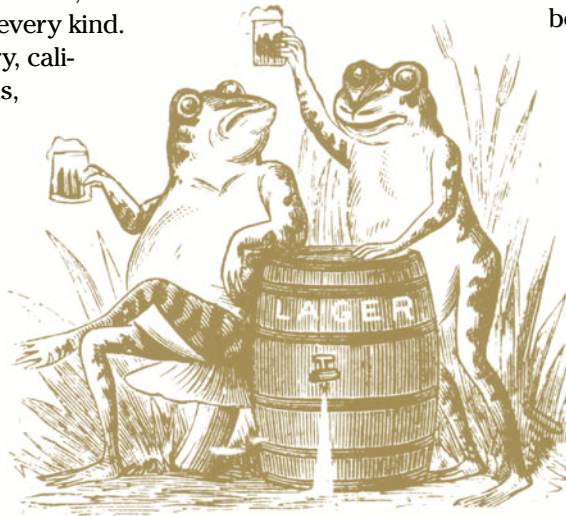
“But though this state of society was at first so repulsive, I soon got used to it and became somewhat gratified with their rude, drinking boisterous characters. I resolved to stay a year and try my fortune among them. I was engaged in diverse

pursuits. Sometimes I hunted bears, sometimes panthers, wolves, deer, etc., for the woods and mountains were overcharged with game. Sometimes we had frolics of the most noisy sort. We drank whiskey, not in half gills as it is taken now, but in gallons, and barrels. Every family had their whiskey cask, and it was drunk by old and young, as plentifully as if it were cow's milk.

“It can easily be conceived what followed such a course of life. Every evening a gang assembled at the numerous taverns to drink, tell stories, and fight. When they had

become half drunk, they were noisy and quarrelsome; gouging out the eyes was one of their barbarous practices, and nearly one-third of the German population had but one eye. I saw one day a horse with one eye, carrying upon his back the husband, wife, and child, each with only one eye.

“This eye gouging they called sport, but I thought it dear. Upon every Sunday, crowds collected at taverns, and the day was spent in drinking, swearing, and fighting.”



*“But though this state of society was at first so repulsive, I soon got used to it and became somewhat gratified with their rude, drinking boisterous characters.”*

Restore 'N More... your administrative support team...



**Gary Baer**  
Consulting & Estimating



**Denise Baer**  
Administrative

*Terms Explained*

**Corbel**  
[kôrbl, -bl] n.  
a bracket of stone, wood, brick, or other building material, projecting from the face of a wall and generally used to support a cornice or arch.



# Sure Signs

There are certain things that signal the slipping of one season into the next.

Lingering warm days, yet pleasantly cooler nights. School buses, everywhere. The quickening pace of tractors and wagons bringing crops into the barns. A corn-roast picnic at the tail end of sweet-corn season. The soft thud of black walnuts falling on the lawn (however, getting hit on the head with one is definitely not a “soft thud”) and the attendant rain of yellowing leaves. Silky spider webs draped from tree to tree, fence post to fence post, bush to bush, sparkling with the morning dews and looking like so much fairy laundry hung out to dry. I am fascinated by these lacy creations; I am not entirely fond of their itinerant weavers. As colder weather approaches some of them will try moving indoors; a relocation project I do not approve of.

There’s also one other sure sign that fall is approaching. It’s “the push.” The guys are pushing to get certain projects under roof and closed in, and Gary is pushing to get certain projects on the schedule to have foundations dug before cold weather sets in. Come to think of it, there isn’t any season when these men aren’t getting something started or something done. I guess that in itself is a sure sign that there is only one season at Restore ‘N More. A time for everything, and a season for every activity, and it’s called “today.”

*Be joyful always...*

*Devil*

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...”

—Ecclesiastes 3:1

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