

True to its time. The bricks and stone in the Ledbetter House's two fireplaces are all original, as is the hand-painted woodwork on the mantelpiece.

92 acres of mountain forest and meadow with plans of opening bed and breakfast cottages on the property.

The Campbells are only the third family to own the house in the last two centuries. And they are the ones who revealed and revitalized the unusual, decorative hand-painted molded paneling that can be found throughout the first floor of the home as well as along the wainscoting on the front porch.

From the beginning, the Campbells hoped to restore the home for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Thus, they were careful to preserve the home's original features and to restore features that had been lost, such as the shake roof, which had been replaced with tin in 1916.

The process began with the home's foundation. The Campbells hired Bailey to head up the restoration.

"He comes from a long line of mountain craftsmen," explains Arthur, positioned excitedly on the edge of his leather chair. "He possesses raw talent combined with many years experience.

He's a true artist."

Restoration began in January 1999. Bailey said the biggest challenge of the restoration was replacing the rotted oak sills that formed the structure's foundation. The house had basically sunk to its center, the stonework around the perimeter of the foundation forming its only support. Bailey, with help from his construction crew and Arthur Campbell, lifted the house with jacks and replaced the rotted sills with new ones made from local locust trees. Bailey notes with his characteristic calm confidence: "We think they'll last 500 years."

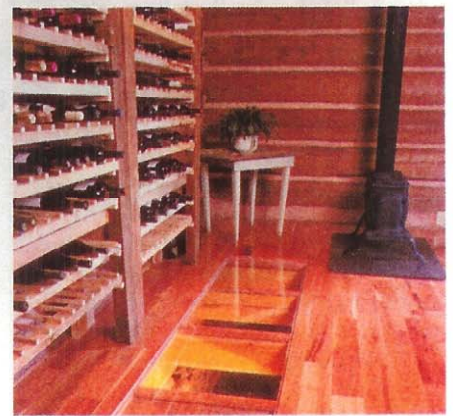
Bailey explains that once the foundation was replaced, the whole house seemed to come back together and straighten just like a puzzle after putting in the last piece. "It was so well built," he says. "The original builder was obviously a very educated craftsman. We put everything we could possibly put back to keep the house as original as possible."

The Campbells used wood from a nearby rundown slave cabin and schoolhouse to replace flooring and siding on the Ledbetter House. Bricks and stone in the home's two fireplaces are all original.

A Drink From the Spring House

Even after restoration of the Ledbetter House and construction of the cottages at Spring House Farm, the creative juices of Arthur and Zee Campbell kept on flowing. Last summer they restored the farm's spring house, only its new use is for storing wine.

The Campbells replaced the spring house ceiling and floor using wood salvaged from a 19th-century house nearby that had fallen into severe disrepair. To show off the sluice that runs through the house, the Campbells created a 2' x 16' long viewing area out of plexiglass. A 300-watt halogen light underneath the glass illuminates the sluice and its rock wall. Over the sluice is a 300-bottle wine rack built of old heart pine. —DH



A unique feature. The home's hand-painted molded paneling decorates the staircase, the doors and the wainscoting on the front porch. The interior faux painting is all original. The Campbells restored the exterior hand-painted paneling. More recently the Campbells restored the home's original springhouse, making it into a wine cellar with a plexiglass viewing area through which they can see the spring flowing underneath the house.