

design the house, the same architect credited for designing Brunswick's Oglethorpe Hotel and the Tampa Bay Hotel in Florida. The house was completed in 1891. Wood's familiar Moorish influence is prominent in the home's gingerbread design. Its tall peaked roofs, two prominent porches, and bay windows are instant trademarks of Victorian dwellings.

Timothy's last surviving child, Julia, left the estate to her friend, Virginia McGarvey, in 1949. Virginia opened the house in 1956 as a home furnishing shop, "Trendition House." The house was later purchased by Melanie "Mellie" Youmans, who opened a tea room and antique shop in 1996.

The structure of the house is solid with its woodwork made of heart pine. But during the Busses' first year of owning their new home, they still had to do a lot of work.

"The backyard was awful," Yvonne explains. "Stuff was growing everywhere and there were piles of debris." They cleaned up the yard

and ripped out the chain link fence, allowing for a better view of the river. The large pecan tree in the backyard is believed to be original to the home.

The siding of the house was pink, but soon was repainted a more sophisticated soft yellow. The spindles along the porch were redone in keeping with Wood's original design. They also painted the porch ceiling blue, one of the original colors Victorians used on porches so the bees wouldn't nest in them, Mark says. The porch ceiling at the Tampa Bay Hotel used a darker blue.

The decorative spear-tipped fence is also original to the home, with the exception of the gate, which the Busses replaced with a duplicate they found on

e-Bay after the original was stolen. Inside, the Busses upgraded the bathrooms and refinished the interior design. The only major damage they encountered was the bay area in the dining room. The roof collapsed under the weight of debris and water that had collected over the years. The area needed to be replaced, including the flooring.

The staircase was another major renovation. When the Busses moved in, the hand-carved woodwork on the staircase and woodwork in the halls had an antiqued or "pickling" effect, which had been done by the McGarveys when they opened their shop in the 1950s.

"It was very depressing," Yvonne says. The lower half of the hallway was orange and the woodwork was very dark. Their contractor suggested stripping and staining the double rail. The rest of the staircase was painted white. An original design of a hand-carved

daisy remains in the newel post. A similar design of a daisy can be seen on the ceiling medallion on the second floor above the staircase.

All of the rooms are painted with soft seaside colors of blues, taupes, yellows and variations of aqua, creating a bright, open and cheerful atmosphere in the home.

The dining room, originally "dead red" as Yvonne refers to it, is now in a soft Robin's egg blue, a color you would see on a sandy beach, she says. The painting that hangs in its gilded frame above the fireplace is a perfect match for the room. It is of a young lady in her early 19th century yellow dress and white shawl. The blue ribbon that pulls back her raven

