

Built in 1904, the home was owned by Lawrence R. Akin, state senator from Glynn County who served four terms during the periods of 1909 and 1922. He later deeded the home to his daughters, Minnie C. Harrell and Agnes Akin Atkinson, an author of children's books during her lifetime.

The house has been lovingly tended for the last century. As is typical for many large Victorian homes over the years, the Brumbach residence had gained additions, morphed into a multi-bedroom dwelling and then finally, apartments. The Brumbachs have been converting it back to its original family home form for the last seven years.

"Even though there was a lot of work that had been done to it, we didn't have to do anything to the floors," says Mabry. She noted that "all the woodwork was intact" and so a lot of the renovating involved removing the additions from previous owners.

The exterior of the home underwent a complete renovation in 2006-07. When they purchased the Victorian, the yellow paint was peeling and it was in dire need of a makeover. The Brumbachs restored the foundation, replaced the roof, had the entire house sanded to its original wood, removed the old railings and rotted wood on the porch, and rebuilt the entire wrap-around porch. David's father helped to rebuild all the spindles, posts and delicately carved brackets to their original design. With the addition of plantation style ceiling fans, even the porch feels "lived" in.

With the help of their architect and friend, Louis Keen, the Brumbachs chose an authentic Victorian color scheme.

"We wanted to do something that would stand out in the area," says David. "Everyone had a yellow, white or gray house." They painted the main part of the exterior a terra-cotta color. Add to that browns like Tiny Fawn and Rootbeer, and Clair de Lune, an almost

hunter green, the house on Carpenter Street stands out among the crowd without being pretentious.

The front doorway was also reframed and returned to its original position on the house. They then added an ornate, solid mahogany and glass front door. Two beautiful stained glass windows, one next to the door and the other a few feet above on the second floor, were also added. Both the door and windows were purchased in Savannah.

Another laborious task they undertook involved tearing down a second dwelling in the backyard that had been added some time in the early part of the 20th century. The Brumbachs purchased the property and tore down the eyesore, salvaging anything that would be useful, including wood, doors and bricks. David's father made furniture out of much of the wood, including bedside tables and a queen size bed the Brumbachs proudly display in their master bedroom. The head and foot boards match the five panel doors they have throughout the house.

"We're turning this [home] into what it was when it was originally built," David explains. "We've restored the lot size. We've restored it back into a single family home. Now we're just in the process of finishing it up."

Once the condemned home was removed from the backyard, the

Brumbachs proceeded to add a wood fence they had replicated after seeing an example of it during a visit to Atlantic Beach, Florida. The fence is angled at the top with a diamond pattern cut in the center. They built their courtyard using the salvaged bricks.

Since purchasing the home, the Brumbachs have been remodeling the interior, room by room. Floors were



refinished, old wallpaper was removed, and ceilings were smoothed and primed. They've replaced and updated the electrical system and plumbing. A dividing wall on the first floor was removed, revealing a beautiful staircase. And what used to be a closet underneath the stairwell, which the Brumbachs converted into a much needed half