

YOUR COMMUNITY

PRESERVATION DURHAM AWARD WINNERS

Restoration of 102 South Driver Street

BY PRESERVATION
DURHAM
submitted story

DURHAM — Originally built in the first decade of the 20th century, the home at 102 South Driver was constructed in an "L" shape with an encased rear porch.

The charming folk Victorian cross-gable house at the corner of Driver and Main Streets has had a front row view of the boom and decline of East Durham.

Like so many other neighborhoods in Durham, a shift in industry and technology led to a significant decline in its residential and commercial district. The community regained some stability in the 1980s, but began to deteriorate in the 1990s as aging residents passed away and drug dealers and criminal activity moved in.

Enter Tiffany Elder and Paradigm Properties.

After more than a year of research and community engagement in this area, Tiffany decided to invest in Driver Street.

She purchased the vacant, blighted home as a bank foreclosure ... complete with plumbing and electrical "band-aids," and began an historically sensitive renovation.

Significant foundation work, poorly executed additions and a functionally obsolete layout presented complications. Tiffany confronted these obstacles head on, and worked tirelessly to restore many of the home's original features including 10 foot ceilings, tongue-and-groove detail and



The exterior of the 102 S. Driver St. home renovated by Tiffany Elder.

PRESERVATION DURHAM AWARDS SERIES OVERVIEW

This is one in a series of profiles of historic Bull City properties and their owners honored this year by Preservation Durham, a local nonprofit whose mission is to protect Durham's historic assets through action, advocacy and education. For more information, visit www.preservationdurham.org online.

For an in-depth look at land use, architecture, and history in Durham, visit Preservation Durham award-winner Gary Kueber's blog, "Endangered Durham," at <http://endangereddurham.blogspot.com/> online.

chair rails in the front rooms, two chimneys, wood exterior siding and original front porch dimensions.

She had to get creative, too.

She visited an architectural salvage facility in Greensboro to find window sashes that were appropriate to the period, then constructed the frames on-site to fit.

The original metal roof was saved in place after being cleaned, coated with rust inhibitor, and finished with an underwater, submarine paint.

And if you ask, Tiffany will tell you that, no, Rustoleum just won't quite get the job done.

The construction of the now energy-efficient, affordable residence (priced well un-

der \$100,000) was also performed in an environmentally friendly manner.

Tiffany put to use a technique she calls "mulching" where planks of wood are sorted and reused on site so that as few materials as possible are wasted or sent to the landfill. New fixtures and appliances are efficient, and the house is designed to be easy to run. In the rear addition, a vaulted ceiling and architectural-

Neighborhood Conservation Award

102 S. Driver St., c. 1913.
Tiffany Elder, Owner/
Contractor
Izzaldin Mateen,
Carpenter
Melanie Gartrell,
Design Consultant

al entry were added as modern design elements and to improve functionality.

The efforts of Tiffany Elder and Paradigm Properties help to further the mission of groups like Preservation NC and Preservation Durham, as well as a community held effort to rehabilitate historic homes and businesses in the East Durham area.

A hundred years after its original construction, the home at 102 S. Driver St. is now an excellent example of the best green renovation practices, historic preservation, and affordability all wrapped up together.

We are happy to present Tiffany Elder and Paradigm Properties with a 2011 Neighborhood Conservation Award for the work at 102 S. Driver St.

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