

The 1840 Weatherby - Bryant House  
Hamilton, North Carolina  
August 2016

IT STARTED  
with the 1840 Bryant House



In August of 2016, I sold my cottage in Arizona and purchased an antebellum house which had been left vacant and unattended for years.



The grounds appeared stately, the home, classical Greek revival of the 1840's. Although I'd never considered moving to the deep south, there I was driving 2000 miles east to Hamilton, North Carolina, almost to the site of the lost colony of the Roanoke.



As an antiques and old house buff, and lover of real estate, I'd had experience working on properties. I'd just finished renovating a 1914 cottage, barely, and it sold quickly.

On the look out for another property, this one popped up on the internet.



The look of romanticism and the bottom dollar price proved irresistible, in spite of the fact that I didn't intend on leaving Arizona for long. I was an avid hiker of the red rock country, and fully intended on spending the rest of my life there.

Hamilton would either be temporary, or I'd turn it into a retreat to use a few months at a time. I drove into town less than 24 hours before closing and saw it for the first time. Fortunately, I was thrilled.



My plans were simple, do the basics, then keep going as long as it's fun and there's still money, or don't do anything else. The first thing I did was to test out some colors and paint the front door bright red!



The contractor started. In six months, he did foundation work, roof work, and painted the bulk of the house. It still was not habitable, but I was able to store my things there.



Then, another house nearby, an 1885 Gothic Revival home, also in poor condition, became available. And to my surprise, my parents became interested in it and decided to buy it and come out with me. Who would have thought?



So, quite suddenly, we changed gears. Now the plan was to get my parents out of a nearby rental and into this house as soon as possible, then continue work on mine. The true story of what happened is more unbelievable than fiction!

NEXT: CHANGING OF THE GEARS