

SUCCESS!



Redesigned by Bill Badger, the stone house is timeless and elegantly rustic, incorporating Shingle Style and Arts & Crafts elements.  
BEFORE The original house was a simple ranch.



## A HOUSE BUILT ON SENTIMENT

Only the stone walls (and family) are original. **By Judi McPhail | Photos by Carolyn Bates**

**My newlywed parents** moved to Vermont after World War II. They were living in a small apartment over my great-grandfather's store and wishing they could buy a home of their own. There was little money—but plenty of rocks! My parents got the idea to build a house from stones taken from brooks. In those days, a weekend with friends meant picking up rocks together and then having a potluck dinner—such was a social outing in rural Vermont in the mid-1940s.

With a mason, they built the house, a simple stone ranch, but eventually they sold it and moved to Florida. In 1995, I got a surprise phone call: The house was for sale again, and since

my parents had built it and I grew up there, would I like to buy it? I still had ties to Vermont through summer visits every year. By then my husband and I lived in Dallas, Texas. But our grown children lived or went to college in the Northeast, and they all said Yes, we'd use that house!

We bought it as-is and fixed up the roof, threw some paint on interior walls, and filled the house with local vintage finds. More time passed. But the house was no longer serving us well. The plaster-on-stone walls had no insulation, the picture window was single-glazed, the yellow Boomerang-pattern Formica was tired, and there was just one small bathroom.

EXTERIOR, AFTER: BILL BADGER



**LEFT** Open to the rafters, the living room now has a soaring stone fireplace.

**BEFORE** The stone fireplace in the one-storey ranch.

**CENTER** A rustic sunroom occupies the extension, accessible through French doors that lead from the living room.

**BELOW** The step detail is original, as built by the owner's parents.

**LOCATION:**

Barnumville, a village of Manchester, Vermont

**DATE:** Built 1945-46; rebuilt with original stone walls 2006

**ARCHITECT:**

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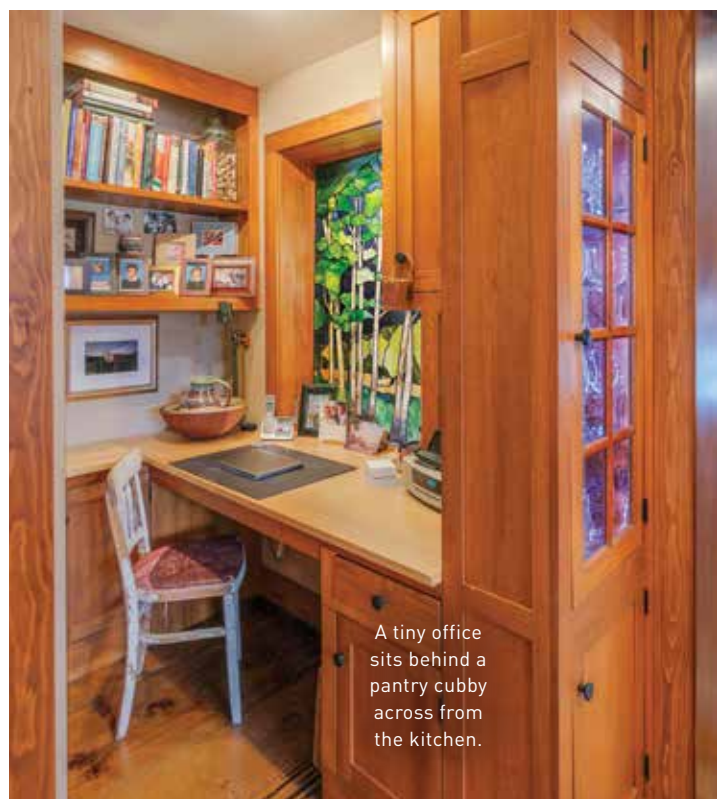




The kitchen features simple Shaker cabinets and Danby marble.

After hiring architect Bill Badger and builder Dick Rizio, we took apart the house, basically leaving just the well-built (and sentimental) stone walls. The new house is built exactly on the footprint of the original, though now it is two storeys. The rebuild was done using local products and salvage, including Danby marble and Vermont Verde serpentine stone, West Pawlet slate, and pieces of old marble sidewalks. Anything's possible with a visionary architect, an expert builder, and talented artisans. My husband, Steve, and I have lived here full-time since 2011. Whenever Steve walks down to the mailbox, he comes back saying, "We're so lucky to have a wonderful house in a terrific community in the beautiful state of Vermont!"

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A tiny office sits behind a pantry cubby across from the kitchen.



**LEFT** The powder room is in a corner of what used to be the garage. **MIDDLE LEFT** The architect's dog, Campbell, managed to insert himself in most of the photos. **MIDDLE RIGHT** Slate flagstones and rustic stonework meet in the mudroom. **BOTTOM** A generous mudroom features New England antiques.

