

104 North Almond Street, Orange, Virginia

According to a local historian, the Queen Anne-style house at 104 North Almond Street in Orange was built in 1898 by the Maddox family. It has undergone several changes over the years; during the Depression years the house was occupied by two families, one upstairs and one downstairs. Folks still living in Orange remember visiting the house during its long history. One of the upstairs bedrooms still has a built-in unit that featured shelves, drawers and cabinets that were likely used as kitchen storage. The house originally contained at least four brick fireplaces and chimneys which are now no longer functional. Though some of the wood floors have been replaced, much of the wood flooring on the main floor is original heart pine. The original dining room wainscoting has been retained in the kitchen, as well as the massive pocket doors separating the kitchen from the dining room.

At some point, a kitchen was added to the back section of the house. During a complete renovation in 2010-2011 to prepare the house for sale, the kitchen was in such poor condition that it was torn down and rebuilt as a family room, and the kitchen re-located to the former large dining room and a laundry room/pantry was added. One of the two front parlors was converted into the dining room. One delightful feature is the tiny powder room added under the stairs on the main floor. A drawing by a local artist hanging in the kitchen shows how the house looked in 2012 when purchased by its current owners.

The current owners purchased the house in 2012 and have done various upgrades. The privet hedge that surrounded the property, and a chain link fence, were removed early on and a storage shed added. In 2015 an expanded bathroom and walk-in closet were added to the main floor master bedroom. The front porch (facing North Almond Street), the side porch (facing East Main Street) and the back deck were replaced. The siding and window wrapping were replaced, and the worn wood fencing was replaced in 2024. The three bedrooms upstairs each has its own bathroom, updated by the owners.

The landscaping around the house is a work in progress, but various plantings have been added over the years, including dogwood, Japanese maple, redbud, and Kwanzan cherry trees, lilac, hydrangea, rose, beautyberry, winterberry, japonica, burning bush, and a butterfly bush. The owner's addition of annual tall zinnias on the corner has been a delight to passersby during the summer!

- *Anne and Jim Beavers, owners*