



*Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to
Historic Preservation in Princeton*

*211 Winant Road
John and Caroline Pallat*

*Architect: Abelow Connors Sherman Architects & Walter B. Melvin Architects
Landscape Designer: Mandheimer Herzog
General Contractor: Princeton Construction Group
Restoration Firm: West New York Restoration, Inc.*

Built ca. 1900 for Mrs. Pyne, mother-in-law of Archibald Douglass Russell of Edgerstoune, this handsome Jacobean-style brick house designed by Raleigh Gildersleeve has been unoccupied for much of its existence. Already documented as in disrepair in the 1940s, an additional 50 years of neglect and vandalism left the property an eyesore in the Russell Estates neighborhood. In 1995, John and Caroline Pallat purchased the property and began a complete restoration.

Restoration of the exterior was completed in 1999. The very unusual tile roof system was completely reconstructed after an exhaustive nationwide search for matching antique tile. At the same time, the exterior masonry was completely cleaned, restored, and repointed to return the house to its original proud appearance.

The extreme state of disrepair at the interior of the building allowed the owners and architects a freer hand in dealing with the interior. The years of neglect had left the building stripped of almost all interior finishes, resulting in an almost industrial-like environment of steel and brick. The original service wing at the east end was completely transformed to provide a kitchen, family living spaces, and the garage required by the neighborhood association. In the main block of the house, the architects exploited the dialogue between the remaining structure and the historic shell. All exterior alterations were made using the existing vocabulary. The final phase of the project included landscaping and a conservatory addition. The landscaping is designed to evoke the idea of the house as part of an estate.

This project is notable for the care and effort expended by a team consisting of the owners, architects, landscape designer, and contractors in pursuit of the restoration of one of Princeton's landmark houses. Not only did this team complete an exemplary restoration and rehabilitation project, they remained enthusiastic and committed to the project for more than five years.

Anne E. Weber
Anne E. Weber, President
May 21, 2000

Gail F. Stern
Gail F. Stern, Director
May 21, 2000