

America's heritage warms a home

Translating 18th century American furnishings into a contemporary lifestyle is no easy task. The work, albeit difficult, is rewarding as one Birmingham family discovered.

Collecting antiques has been more than a hobby for this family who appreciate the warmth and grace that antiques lend to a home setting.

Their present home is filled with many years' accumulation of everything from furniture to pottery, paintings and rugs.

All of the furnishing arrangements, as well as the backgrounds and window treatments follow the 18th century style and were designed by the first lady of the household.

Many of the stereotypes of American traditional interior design have been sidestepped in deference to newer looks which tend to be more practical for this family.

From the floors up, most of the renovation work was done by the owners. The oak floors were stripped of their original finish and were restained to a darker shade. Then each third board was grooved to give a planked effect.

More details in the dining room give it a finished, authentic look. The walls are rough plastered above the chair rail and the dado was painted with an interesting

(Continued on page 34)



A warm family kitchen has yellow antiqued cupboards



Stencil pattern draperies frame a bay window, brass gleams and a pewter cupboard adds charm to the dining room



A Scotch chest holds a looking glass collection