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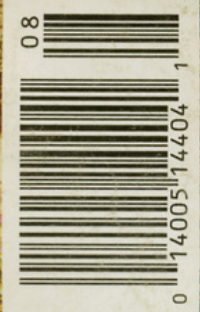
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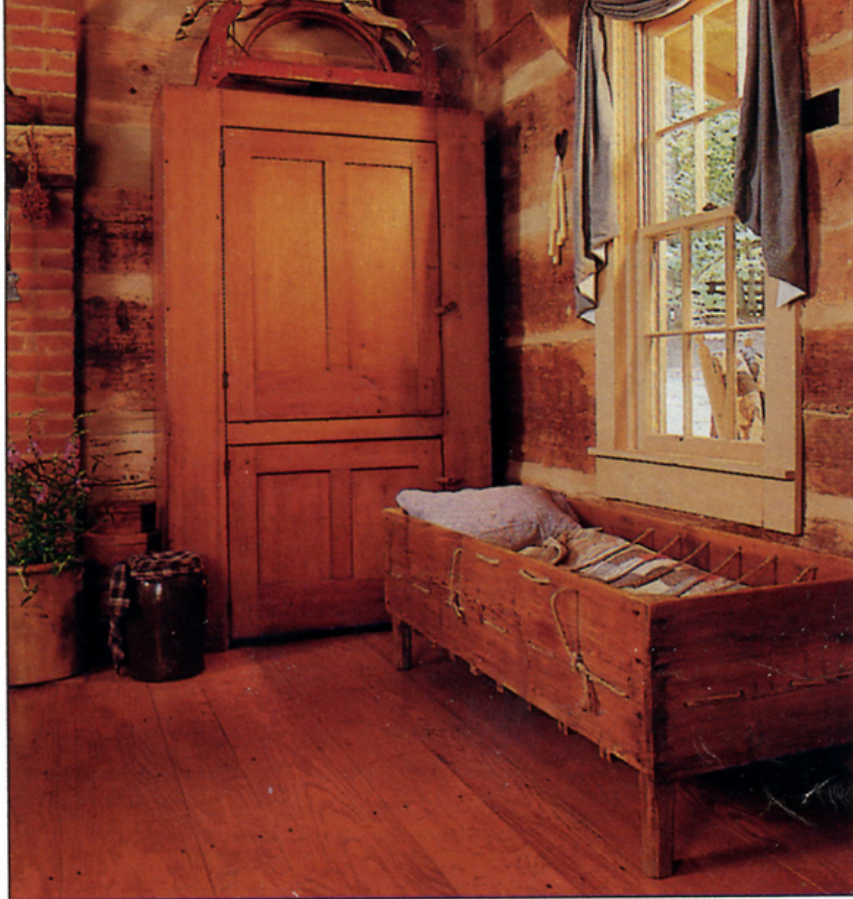
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Opposite: In the front corner of the living room, much as it would have been in the 1800s, is one of Gloria's favorite pieces—a "hired man's" bed. The cabin dollhouse is old—probably made by a father for his daughter.

Left: Another of Gloria's special antiques is a homemade child's bed with rubbed edges and ropes across the top to hold the blanket in place over a sleeping child. She prizes it because "it is so honest." The horse and cupboard both are old.

Below: Gloria kept the sleeping loft simple with an old iron bed, blanket chest, and rocker. Originally, the upstairs would have been strewn with straw pallets for children.

Care was taken to meld the new kitchen addition with the existing structure as unobtrusively as possible. The most convincing approach was a lean-to—what the original owners probably would've built had they needed more space. Walls and floors were kept simple, too, with plain pine boards.

Furnishing the cabin involved some shopping at antiques stores for appropriate country pieces. However, because Gloria's fondness for rustic American antiques already was well established before the cabin was purchased, furnishing also was a matter of dipping into her existing collections.

Since obtaining the cabin two years ago, Gloria has developed even more uses for it than she originally envisioned. "I put in a nature trail that's about a half mile long, full of wildflowers," she says. She also has established a perennial garden in front of the cabin. School groups enjoy taking the nature trail—but so do the Sewells and their houseguests.

The cabin itself has been a tremendous hit for those lucky enough to spend time there. "Our friends who come to stay who haven't seen the cabin before are very surprised and delighted. I think they have one thing in mind when they hear 'log cabin'—and they find this to be something very different," says Gloria. "They always seem to love it."

And for Gloria and Joe, sharing

## Friendship Cabin



# Friendship Cabin

*When constructed in 1840, this chestnut cabin below had two full stories—filled by 10 children. In 1988, Gloria and Joe Sewell bought the guest cabin and had it moved from Tennessee to their home in Canton, Georgia.*

*By Candace Ord Manroe. Produced by Ruth Reiter*  
*Schoolchildren loved watching Gloria Sewell spin wool and dip candles. But lugging her paraphernalia to demonstrations was wearing. The solution: move a log cabin behind her home, and the children could come to her. In the same spirit of friendship, the cabin would be home to houseguests, too.*





*Above: Birdhouses scattered among perennials set the tone for a nature walk around the cabin, through woods and wildflowers.*

*Right: The kitchen is a new addition built to the rear of the cabin in the old lean-to style. The mid-1800s table is from southern Georgia.*

## Friendship Cabin



*Above: An avid gardener, homeowner Gloria Sewell has been challenged by the cabin's site in a shady hollow.*

"I do very useful things," deadpans Gloria Sewell.

"I can spin, but I can't knit. If you need thread, I can make it, but I can't sew on your button. I also can dip candles, but there isn't much demand."

Gloria's old-fashioned skills admittedly aren't as serviceable today as they would have been in colonial times. But her protean repertoire from the past, which even includes hearth cooking, did earn Gloria considerable popularity as a guest speaker at area schools. And it is this fact which, in a roundabout way, is responsible for the log cabin now gracing her and her husband Joe's home in Canton, Georgia.

"It got to the point where I was constantly loading and unloading my car because of so many demonstrations to school groups," remembers Gloria.

She didn't want to give up the opportunity to share with children, who had evinced a real interest in her lectures. But the hassle with logistics—hauling cumbersome tools and dressing in period costume—was too much.

"One solution was to bring the children to me, but I needed a place at my home where I could accommodate them," explains Gloria.

She and Joe had always loved early log cabins. If they could move one to their property, they reasoned, it would be the perfect environment for demonstrating colonial crafts and cooking.

Not only that, but the cabin also could serve as a warm, private guesthouse for out-of-town friends.



Entertaining could also acquire a new flavor within old chinked walls.

The Sewells retained professional cabin restorer Dave Howard to begin the search for the right cabin, which he soon located in Claiborne County, Tennessee.

Built in 1840 of chestnut logs, it offered everything the Sewells wanted: adequate space, primitive beauty, and a lively history. Originally, the cabin spanned two stories and was home to a couple with 10 children. That kind of track record, Gloria knew, would suit her purposes fine; visiting schoolchildren would fit right in.

Howard moved the cabin to Georgia, then carefully reassembled it in a hollow below the Sewells' main house.

"At first, I was an absolute purist. I didn't want anything done to the cabin that wasn't authentic," says Gloria. "But when I thought about thirty children in it at one time, with no bathroom, I reconsidered."

A new section was built onto the rear to accommodate a full bathroom and a kitchen. A new front porch and roof were added, and the interior was redesigned to reduce the full two stories to one story and a sleeping loft, with tall ceilings elsewhere.

Once the cabin made structural sense for their needs, Gloria and Joe were respectful of its age and integrity. Instead of chinking the logs with only a mixture of portland cement and sand, the Sewells had buff coloring added for a more natural look. All rock underpinning for the cabin was gathered right off their property—the same method that would have been used 150 years ago.

*Above: Originally closed, the stairway facing the living room was opened up by Gloria and Joe to expose more of the cabin's log interior and to emit more natural light downstairs.*

*Opposite: The two-story fireplace is the main room's focal point, defined by a pair of wing chairs, a 100-year-old quilt, and some of Gloria's collection of fireplace cookware. Flooring is new pine, stained and polyurethaned to withstand heavy wear.*

## Friendship Cabin