

Old Growth Heart Pine

(Floors, Staircase Posts and Powder Bath Counter)

According to the USDA Forest Service book “Longleaf Pine”, it takes 200 years for a longleaf pine to become mostly heartwood and be considered antique. Because this lumber was so desirable, it was almost timbered to extinction by 1900. What remains of the once vast virgin forest are protected meaning *Old Growth Heart Pine is no longer commercially available as a timber crop.*

The floors of this house were once the walls on an old southeastern barn built around 1890. Due to the incredibly density of Old Growth Heart Pine it is much harder than any modern hardwood floor you would buy today. It was determined that these floors started their tree life in the mid to late 1400’s. The Posts used for the staircase and powder bath are from an old New Orleans delta/river warehouse built in the early 1900’s. Deconstructed 6 years ago.

Reclaimed Antique Hand-Hewn Wood Beams

(Headers and Ceilings)

Water-powered sawmills were a common feature of colonial life long before America declared independence from England. That means the people who used hand-hewing for their building timbers would have been frontier-dwellers who lived far from local sawmills, or people who couldn't afford mill-sawn beams. These pioneers would have relied on what they had at hand to create building materials: saws, axes, perhaps an adze, and their own strength and skill.

It's marks like these—physical evidence of the craftsmen who labored over the timbers—that make hand-hewn beams a highly-desirable commodity even in today's building market.

The beams in this home are from Ohio early 1800's. As Ohio was settled, frontiersman built homes and barns out of the wood found on/near their property. There were no sawmills in the area at that time.

Reclaimed Chicago Brick

(Interior and Exterior)

When Chicago burned down in 1871 it was primarily made of wooden structures. Vowing to never let that happen again the city changed building codes and everything going forward was primarily made from brick. Chicago eventually became home to over 60 brick manufacturers.

The Brick on this house is from the early 1900's. As Chicago grew through the mid and late 1900's the need for larger buildings trumped the need for smaller ones and a lot of them were torn down. However, the brick was still valuable and sought after. Especially as more "new" brick was imported in the mid/late 1900's, primarily from Mexico. Brick from Mexico had a reputation as being a "soft" brick. It was cheap, easy to use (cut), easy to get, but wore easily (especially in areas that get a lot of rain). Brick from Chicago is incredibly hard and durable. You could literally tear down a building made of Chicago Brick and rarely damage the brick.

Reclaimed Black Walnut

(Kitchen Island & Powder Bath Counter)

Most reclaimed walnut is less than 1" thick and 8" wide. The Walnut used on the Kitchen island was 2" thick and 18" wide. To produce a plank this wide the tree has a minimum age of over 400 years old. These boards came from a barn that was built in the late 1700's. This wood started life most likely in the mid 1300's.

We had the island made by a retired wood craftsman. The only modern tool used on it was a saw to cut it to proper length, and that was because the wood is so wide and incredibly dense. If you look closely at the island you will see 4 boards. Three of the boards were over 8' long, one was over 11' long. Because the wood is so rare we used the left over 3' long piece as the counter in the powder bath (which in turn sits atop 2 old growth heart of pine beams). There is no stain on the kitchen island. If you look closer at the island you will see metal still in the wood. They had such a beautiful affect on the wood we opted to just leave them in place and make them part of the counter.

Due to the uniqueness of this island piece if the buyer has any plans other than keeping this is a focal point in the kitchen the seller would like to keep it.