

**A** celebration of everything that makes old homes special—their character and personalities, their history and charm. This book pays tribute to what it means to love and care for an old home today and how we can embrace the past while living in the present. Old homes are meant to be loved and lived in... for new generations to write their unique part of history.



Andy and Candis Meredith are home restorers, HGTV personalities, real estate experts and lovers of all things history. Their work has been featured on national television and in major magazines and blogs. Together with their seven children, they love documenting and sharing their passion for what they do.

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OLD HOME LOVE

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# CONTENTS



12

LOVE HOUSE: *Our first home together and the one most dear to our hearts. Built in 1859, restored by us in 2015.*

Snow House.....	28
Garbett Homes .....	44
Goss Home.....	56



60

THREE-TWENTY-THREE: *Candis's very first historic renovation, at the age of twenty-one.*

The Cabin.....	66
Joe Jackson House .....	76
Morgan Home .....	90



104

OLLIE BERG HOUSE: *A fun example of a renovation on a budget that still looks great.*

The Chester School House .....	108
Anderson House.....	112
Thatcher Home .....	120



132

THE HEALING HOUSE: *A home passed through generations then lovingly restored by us in 2016.*

Kleiner Home.....	140
Gibbons House .....	154
Ruby's House .....	162



168

THE SKYLINE HOUSE: *A beautiful 1850s home that was almost lost to neglect and the elements.*

The Banister House.....	188
Orson Hyde Home .....	202
Smoot Family Home.....	220



236

LEMMON-DIXON HOUSE: *Our first show house for our television program on HGTV.*

Acknowledgments .....	254
Key Contributors .....	254
Resources .....	255







#### BEAUTIFUL NOOKS

Open-concept floor plans have become very popular lately, and while we do appreciate having large groups of people over, we love the intimacy that little nooks in old homes create.





BUILT IN 1859

## LOVE HOUSE

*Built by Mayor Leonard Harrington and his son for their family, this home in a small Utah town took nearly two years to build and was completed in 1859. It is a rare 1850s “Prairie L-Shape” adobe home. In a time when most dwellings in the area were single-room log houses, this home stood out as a masterpiece.*

We bought this house as our first home together. We wanted a place for our new blended family to have a fresh start—somewhere that was new to just us. We wanted a house filled with love—thus the name Love House. We were married here, brought our baby girl home from the hospital here and have enjoyed countless memories within the thick adobe walls.

Before we bought the house, it had fallen into severe disrepair and was slated for demolition. It was considered the worst house in the neighborhood (maybe the whole town) and most people had forgotten how special it was. We spent nearly a year bringing it back to life and are honored to be a part of its history—we are so lucky we got to save it.

### LOVE HOUSE TODAY

Many people ask why we painted the house black, thinking it is a very modern thing to do. In reality, black was a common house color in the 1800s.





We love using inexpensive materials to make a big impact, like standard subway tile and cement-veneer DIY countertops.





REAL LIFE RENOVATION

# When is it too far gone?

We are probably not the best people to answer this when it comes to historic homes. In our opinion, there is almost always a way to save it. We have had devastating projects where roofs had been torn off and the house had been left to rot into the ground. Floors, moldings and windows had been removed and unwanted tenants (animals included) had moved in.

When we have moments like these, it is important that we maintain a level of perspective and respect for what we are trying to save. Most materials cannot be replicated exactly, but we can come close—we can re-create as much character as possible while still being mindful of modern conveniences. Long story short: if you have the right mind-set, it's almost never too far gone.





Let your home be happy.

*Old homes are not meant to be museums. They are places for  
children and adults alike to let their imaginations grow.*







Most people have some kind of association with old homes, be it their grandma's house that they loved (or hated) for different reasons or some other. Every home, new or old, should reflect your personality. We like to think that we are very modern Victorians living in the modern age.

Everything old can seem new again. This wallpaper from Sandberg is an antique pattern yet looks extremely modern.





Our kids are used to hearing the words “from the 1800s,” so they weren’t surprised when we covered their ceiling in an 1830s star map.

#### WALLPAPER IS NOT JUST FOR WALLS

We have a lot of kids (seven, to be exact) and we knew we needed a bunk room for at least four of them. It is perfectly nestled in a steeply pitched attic space that had been left unfinished since 1890. We had Rebel Walls print this amazing mural for the ceiling to get the biggest impact possible while keeping it simultaneously youthful and full of history. We’ve stayed up late making up stories about different constellations and letting our imaginations run wild.

#### HISTORIC MOLDING

Although this part of the attic was never finished, we were very lucky to have the original trim around the windows. Most renovators tear it off, drywall behind and put it back on—but not us. We leave it in place and drywall *around* it. It just never seems to go back on in quite the same way. It’s a little more work this way but worth the effort.