

by Virginia Anderson

Restoring Flooring with a flourish



has taken on The Wren's Nest and Rhodes Hall, headquarters for the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. These national projects originate from Purser's East Lake Road home, where he has operated his business for 36 years.

Purser says the crowning point was the Montpelier project, described by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as "the most significant restoration work of the last 50 years and the next 50 years."

His work created excitement when he started uncovering what appeared to be ink stains in the two rooms where Madison wrote the Virginia Plan. Were they from Madison's pen? "What we do know is they are where Madison worked, they are there for everyone to see when they tour Montpelier and they are not in some dust bag on a landfill in rural Virginia," says Purser.

Even if you haven't been president or lived in a historic mansion, Purser's expertise can save you heartache and money when refinishing hardwood floors. "I can do it, and you only lose a fraction of what others take off," he says.

An added benefit is that homeowners can live in their homes while Purser refinishes. The conditions under which he has worked taught him the value of being clean and environmentally responsible. "I not only wanted to minimize dust and noxious vapors, I wanted to eliminate the fear of having wood floors refinished,"

Purser says. "If you have ever been around for wood floor refinishing, I think we can all agree that is some fear we could do without!"

For more information about Michael Purser and Rosebud Co., call him at 404.370.0097, or visit www.rosebudfloors.com.

Virginia Anderson is an Atlanta writer who lived in Decatur for 12 years. Both her daughters graduated from Decatur High School.

Michael Purser knew there had to be a better way to restore hardwood floors than sanding them until they were onion-skin thin. Owner of a hardwood floor restoring company called *The Rosebud Company*, Purser had seen floors that couldn't take one more sanding. "In the 1980s, I started thinking outside the box because restoring them meant destroying them," Purser says.

Using information he gained from archives in major museums in the U.S. and Europe, Purser learned how old floors had been prepared and finished. He then tried out stains, finishes and how to remove them without traditional sanding. What he learned earned him the opportunity to refinish floors in some of the most prestigious and historic homes in the United States—including last summer's floor restoration of James and Dolley Madison's home, Montpelier, in Orange, Va. Other projects include 50,000-square-foot mansions like Stan Hywet in Akron, Ohio, Whitehall in Palm Beach, Fla., and Patterson House, a Stanford White original sitting like a Grand Dame on DuPont Circle in Washington, D.C. Locally, Purser

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