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DESIGN INSPIRATION

A Darling Farmhouse Steeped in Revolutionary War History

The masterful restoration makes you feel like you went 230 years back in time.



BY LAUREN SMITH





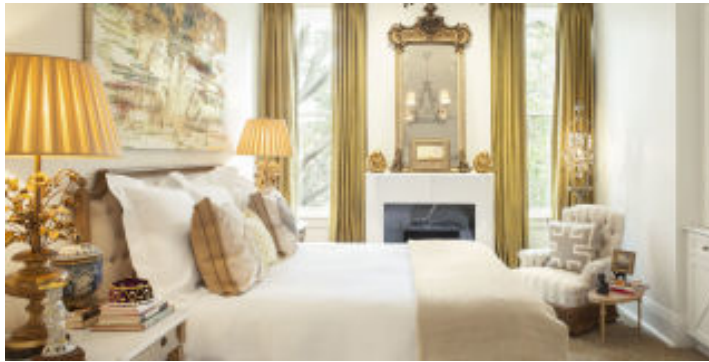
COURTESY OF WILLIAM PITT AND JULIA B FEE SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

The original owner of this farmhouse, Jane Ashley, was a total daddy's girl. How do we know? Because her father, John Ashley who served as a [colonel in the Revolutionary War](#), built it specifically for her and her husband back in 1785. Flash forward 230 years and the [Sheffield, Massachusetts estate](#) (known as Bull Hill Farm) is a re-imagination of a classic New England farm, featuring many of the home's original colors and Colonial and Federal design elements — thanks to a couple who spent the past 30 years restoring it.

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Donna (a fashion designer) and Patrick (a fabric importer) Annunziata bought this 3,552-square-foot home as a getaway from the hustle and bustle of New York City, and as long as they have owned it they've driven the 2 hours and 15 minutes north on the weekends to find solitude — and plenty of renovation projects. But to ensure historical accuracy, they enlisted the help of others: An artist helped them uncover the home's original layers of paint so they could mimic those hues, and interior designer Samuel Botero helped them track down antique fixtures and finishes.

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The three-bedroom, two-bath house still has its original wide-board floors and high ceilings, plus a few rooms that were common during the time it was being built. Today, those spaces qualify as luxuries — like a breakfast room (with garden views to boot), two formal parlors, and a taproom. Outside, a Civil War-era barn and guesthouse sit on the 24-acre plot of land, and are used for entertaining. Local garden designer Nancy McCabe consulted on the grounds, too. With her help, the couple planted an "Anglo-India" garden that features both European and zen-like Eastern influences and is the crown jewel of the grounds.

Take a look:



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Want to live like the daughter of a colonel during the Revolutionary War? You can for just \$2.475 million. For the sake of farmhouse lovers everywhere, we hope Ashley had more children and built them equally lovely homes.

[via [Today](#)]



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