

Curb appeal for a timeworn cottage

A proper entry porch plus new dormers enliven a basic facade

By ERIC HAGERMAN + Photo Illustration by HOWARD DIGITAL



{ before }



A brick walk ties in with the extended chimney to unify the front.

Concrete steps don't extend the warmest of welcomes, as Brian and Diane Turner know all too well. "The whole entry needs work," says Brian of their 1920s Cape Cod-style house in Willis Wharf, Virginia. The couple appealed to *This Old House* to reimagine their cottage's front view, and we called on designer David Heide of Minneapolis for help. "To give the owners a more substantial entry, we extended the existing gable roof above the door to create a new front porch," says Heide. Its period-appropriate details—minimally adorned columns, a square-spindle railing, and a stout fieldstone foundation—completely transform the visitor's approach. The chimney and side windows got repropor-tioned, and a new cupola adds charm. Two shed dormers funnel in natural light and provide a little more headroom in the low-slung upper bedrooms. Gabled dormers would have been the period preference, says Heide, but shed roofs won't visually compete with the large gable in front. "No question the porch is a really nice enhancement," says Brian. "And I like the idea of a brick sidewalk, too." ■

Finishing touches

Period accents crisply define the new facade.



lantern

A reproduction colonial-era fixture suits the house's style. Sea Gull Lighting; \$99



carriage doors

The garage gets a boost from board-and-batten doors with decorative strap hinges and handles. Clopay; \$1,750



entry door

This six-light classic complements the double-hung windows. Simpson; from \$500



columns

Simply trimmed composite posts define the new entry porch. Pacific Columns; from \$248

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