For years it was known only as “the ugly green house on the corner.” The two-story structure stood out so obtrusively that folks in Randolph, VT, used it as a landmark when giving directions.

But Dr. Jack Delaney, executive director of Orange County Mental Health, Inc., saw potential in the house. It was conveniently located—only two blocks away from Gifford Memorial Hospital—and in a quaint downtown neighborhood.

Dr. Delaney bought the house for conversion into an office complex. Then he hired Ernie Gallo’s G & G Siding Company, a 25-year-old local firm specializing in restorations.

Both Delaney and Gallo were intrigued with the design of the 3,000 square-foot house, which features a massive double-decked gazebo porch. They wanted to reproduce the classic charm of the 100-year-old structure, while incorporating the modern benefits of low maintenance and energy conservation.

Problems Surface . . .

The house was sided with asphalt which had been painted about 50 years ago. As the four-man G & G crew began removing the asphalt siding, they discovered that moisture had rotted much of the wood underneath. More noticeably, the once-splendid porches were also rotted and badly sagging.

After stripping off the asphalt, Gallo and his men replaced the rotted
boards, then covered over all the wood with \(\frac{3}{4}\)-inch tongue and groove poly-
styrene insulation panels.

When the work crew began removing the windows for replacement, they discovered that many of the frames were crooked. These were systematically straightened as new storm windows were installed.

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**The Restoration . . .**

After scraping through several layers of old paint on one of the discarded old siding boards, Gallo discovered that the home’s original color was grey. So Delaney selected Sorrento Grey Vinyl Siding, manufactured by Gold Bond Building Products.

Gold Bond Vinyl Siding produced the intricate woodgrain appearance of real wood siding; and the classic profile of the double 4-inch style characterized the look of Victorian architecture—a vital requirement of the project.

Gallo’s skills in restoration were really tested when it came to installing the trim accessories. He chose to work with aluminum, insulated with poly-
styrene, because of the many intricate angles on the house.

He used a Tapco Ultra XL brake to bend the metal in fabricating the various trim pieces to achieve a smooth-line effect. The aluminum was used to reproduce the original Victorian trim around the new storm doors and windows, and along the roof line.

Cellulose insulation was blown into the attic area, and Gallo selected Gold Bond perforated vinyl soffit panels in Mount Vernon White to provide ade-
quate ventilation.

In the final phase of the project, Gallo totally rebuilt the wooden porches. He employed a local wood craftsman to recreate the wooden spindles in the railings and in the unique latticework under the lower porch floor. This added true Victorian authenticity to the project.

According to Delaney, “Suddenly the worst-looking house in town became the best-looking one.” The newly-renovated house was a fitting addition to the neighborhood, which includes a number of restored Victorian houses.

The job required 44 squares of Gold Bond Vinyl Siding. The entire project, which included the addition of a new roof, was completed within a six-week period at a total cost of approximately $20,000.

“We are extremely happy with the
to say the least,” Delaney said. Gallo echoed Delaney’s sentiments over the completed project. “It’s just beautiful,” he added, “and it gave me the most exposure that my company has ever received.”

Gallo explained that the house is located on Main Street. “Everyone in town passes by there and they were able to see the quality of our workmanship. I’ve sold at least 20 more jobs because of this one,” he said.

The house is owned by Orange County Mental Health, Inc., a comprehensive mental health center employing about 100 persons and serving 24 communities in a two-county area of Vermont. The upstairs of the remodeled house contains eight administrative offices while the downstairs functions as a clubhouse for deinstitutionalized patients.

The town of Randolph is the geographic center of the State of Vermont, and located in the foothills of the Green Mountains. It is the home of Vermont Technical College, one of the nation’s top five technical schools.

Contractor Profile . . .

Quality is the foundation of G & G Siding Company. Since he first went into business in 1940, Gallo has personally trained each of his employees. His stepson, 21-year-old Art Sass, first started working with his father when he was 11.

Specializing in the restoration of old homes, G & G Siding professionally installs siding, windows, doors and specialty aluminum fabrication. They serve central and eastern Vermont and a small area in western New Hampshire.

“People are fussy about remodeling and reproduction work,” Gallo said. “They want quality more than anything else. That’s why I normally don’t get involved in bidding projects. I want customers who want to buy the quality of my work.”

A testimonial to the quality of Gallo’s workmanship is relayed in this anecdote often told by Dr. Delaney:

“I know of at least one person who drove clear to the next town because the ugly green house on the corner was gone and that was the reference point he used to turn left.”