

A labor of love

Family get-away home is now fully restored

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Retired Chicago-area doctor Bill Berkman was a boy in 1968 when his parents bought the old Beardsley Queen Ann home on Holmes Road in Branch County.

Years of work went into restoring the residence, which was intended to be a get-a-way for Berkman's patent attorney father and the rest of the family.

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Berkman inherited the home, and as a labor of love, transformed it into the newly renovated Ancestral Acres Lodge.

While the residence is included on the National Historic Register, it has been renovated and updated with all the benefits of a modern home.

In order to gain back some of his investment, Berkman rents out the home and its 447 acres, on which he is building trails. The six-bedroom house eas-



ily accommodates 14 guests.

The gourmet eat-in kitchen is fully equipped with a double convection oven, 4-by-11 island with a six-burner cook top, microwave/convection oven, two large sinks and two dishwashers.

The formal dining room is perfect for big groups, and the 1,800-square-foot ballroom on the third floor will also be available for larger events.

The house also has three large wrap-around porches that look out onto the picturesque 2-acre

yard and 1-acre pond.

While individual rooms can be rented, the whole lodge is also available for rent to groups and families.

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While much effort has already gone into the residence, Dr. Berkman continues to work on the property to complete the labor of love.

