

Restoring Homes and Building a Business

Israel Davis puts natural charm back into neglected homes

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Israel Davis is building a successful business as he rebuilds neglected homes.

The northeast Portland resident is the sole proprietor of his own business, named the Davis Group, Partners and Remodelers. He has 15 years of experience in the home construction field and is fully licensed as a contractor in both Oregon and Washington.

"The paperwork takes a week or so, but the benefits far outweigh the task," he said, describing the peace of mind that operating by the book brings.

Born in Freeport, La., Davis moved to Portland as a young man.

He gained his first professional experience as an auto painter in a custom shop by restoring old cars and auto upholstery.

"One thing led to another," and soon he was painting houses, he said.

Davis gained extensive experience in remodeling as an employee with Drake Construction, where he said he was encouraged to excel.

He said the first home he restored to its original grandeur, was a neglected old house in the Irvington District, now valued at a whopping \$700,000.



Israel Davis runs his own home construction business as an expert craftsman in the restoration of old homes.
PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Currently, he is restoring two homes to their 1910 elegance on Northeast Alberta Street, between Mallory and Garfield.

Portland Trail Blazer and Portland native Damon Stoudamire owns one of the homes. The other is owned by Davis himself with some part-

ners.

The homes are large, high profile houses, that had lost their original character over the years when siding was covered, porches destroyed and other architectural details covered up.

"The natural charm was taken out," Davis said.

He and his crew are restoring the siding to its original millwork, replacing the porches with sweeping wood structures, adding columns and shutters.

"I love restoration," Davis said.

His work is proof.

Dixon's Ribs Rule by Popular Demand

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up" by the construction. He comes in frequently for the barbecue rib-tips sandwich. Friendly service and hearty portions have made him a regular since Dixon opened four years ago.

"It's the kind of taste that always makes you want to come back," he says smiling.

Fortunately for the Dixons and their customers, paving is now complete and customers should find access to some of the best ribs in town largely unfettered. Though traffic has been narrowed to a lane in both directions, Dixon is hopeful light rail access will bring extra customers and a little added exposure.

"When all is said and done," Dixon says of the project, "most of our customers will be back. I think we've survived the storm."

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