

Quite and quiet change



THE HERALD-SUN | PHOTOS BY KEVIN SEIFERT

Donna Dagavarian talks about houses being restored that were shown on a tour Sunday, such as the one at 704 N. Buchanan Blvd. A wall that used to run down the center of the stairs resulted in the contractor having to completely replace one side of the staircase.

Party houses no more

Tour shows residences being restored to former grandeur

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DURHAM — Gone are the days when red beer cups blossomed on certain Trinity Park lawns like spring flowers, colorful castoffs from a night of revelry by boisterous undergraduates.

At least 10 decades-old residences once branded as student “party houses” are no longer that.

College youths have had to find other places to rent.

The homes in question were purchased by Duke University in 2006 and then sold to owner-occupants who are lovingly restoring them to their former grandeur.

On Sunday, interested citizens viewed the results as they walked through the dwellings on North Buchanan Boulevard and nearby streets during a so-called “hard-



Jose Lopez, an independent general contractor, shows John Martin of Durham the sliding doors Lopez installed at 702 N. Buchanan Blvd. The house was on a “hard-hat home tour” designed to show a neighborhood in transition after Duke University bought and resold the homes.

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