

STEVE CHENEY , 31
GENERAL CONTRACTOR



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There's no shortage of carpentry jobs on Nantucket. In fact, finding responsible, talented help with finish skills is one of the bigger challenges that island contractors face.

In just seven years of building houses on Nantucket, Steve Cheney became one of those contractors.

Thinking he would find a job in marketing after he worked himself through Rhode Island College's marketing and communications degree program as a part-time carpenter, Cheney had no idea that his school financing job would lead to working in the trades on Nantucket.

"I thought I was going into marketing, but when I graduated in the marketing field, they were laying people off and Nantucket carpenters were sought after."

Cheney worked for building contractor Mark O'Banion for five years before going off on his own.

Now, with a crew of eight, he is starting

to make a name for himself. Focusing primarily on finish work and remodeling, Cheney and his guys have already done the interior finish carpentry for Nantucket Looms at its new location on Federal Street, a renovation of Sheep to Shore on Sparks Avenue, an exterior renovation of the Nantucket Atheneum and a remodeling job at 45 Boulevard.

Currently, Cheney is remodeling a house on Sherburne Turnpike. And when he isn't swinging a hammer and managing his crew, which he sometimes splits between two jobs, Cheney is restoring classic cars in his garage.

All things considered, including the house he purchased this year on Nantucket, not going after that marketing job worked out much better than Cheney could have hoped.

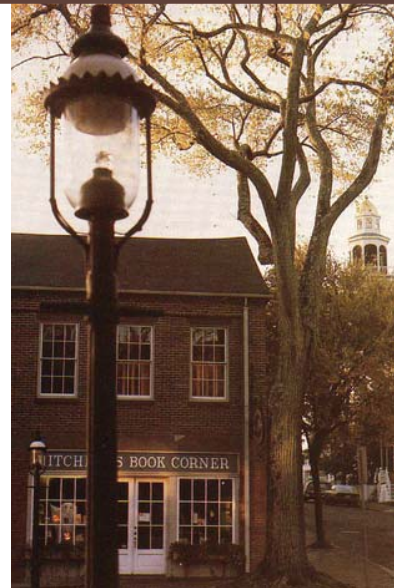
"I like the variety of it, being outdoors creating something with my hands, and I like teaching people," he said. ■

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