Highland Drive Cottage

A thoughtfully designed second home in Banner Elk, North Carolina



HOME	BUILD	USE
Three-bedroom model	**About nine months**	**Private second home**

THE PROJECT STORY

A high-end mountain home at a more approachable scale

After building roughly 30 to 40 homes in another Banner Elk subdivision, many priced above $1 million, we saw an opportunity to bring the same care and finish quality to a more approachable second-home option. We designed Highland Drive Cottage from the ground up, including the drawings, with a goal of preserving the details people value in a custom mountain home.

Steep grades are a familiar challenge in the mountains, and this site's driveway required careful planning. We placed the foundation just before winter and worked through some weather delays. From start to finish, the build took about nine months.

This was the first three-bedroom model in a design series that also includes two-bedroom and six-bedroom versions. Built about five years ago, it remains a personal retreat for its Florida owners, who choose not to rent it. They call it their "little piece of heaven."

BUILT FOR ITS SETTING

Exterior and outdoor living

The sloped site, broad concrete drive, stone foundation, timber porch structure, and wooded surroundings shape the home's first impression. Covered outdoor spaces extend the living area into the mountain setting.



Front approach and timber porch



Entry porch and outdoor seating



Covered back porch with direct access from the great room

WARM MATERIALS THROUGHOUT

Gathering spaces and kitchen

Inside, the great room pairs a vaulted wood ceiling and timber trim with a substantial stone fireplace. The kitchen brings in dark cabinetry, a bright island, stainless appliances, patterned tile, and a reclaimed-wood sliding door.



Great room with stone fireplace and vaulted wood ceiling



Open connection between dining and living areas



Kitchen island, dark cabinetry, and patterned tile



Reclaimed-wood sliding door and island seating

A COMFORTABLE RETREAT

Private rooms and everyday details

Wood ceilings and trim continue into the bedrooms, while the bathrooms use clean tile, dark fixtures, and generous vanities. A compact laundry area sits conveniently along the hall.



Primary bath vanity and bedroom connection



Tile shower with a stone accent niche



Bedroom with a vaulted wood ceiling and timber trim



Second bath vanity and coordinating finishes



Additional bedroom with a private bath



Hall laundry tucked neatly into the plan