

REAL ESTATE



Once thought to be the oldest house in Madison, its age is now pegged at circa 1720.

Town landmark believed to be one of Madison's oldest homes for sale

MADISON » A historic Colonial style home that is long believed to be the oldest residence in the town of Madison is for sale for \$729,000, offered by William Pitt Sotheybys.

The Colonial saltbox style residence was said for years to be built in 1675, making it Madison's oldest home, although recent research reveals the possibility of the home having been constructed circa 1720. Located on 1.3 acres of land across from the Town Green, this period residence represents a true piece of New England history. Previously owned by the locally prominent Dudley family, the home once operated as a tavern, where, in 1776, General George Washington was served what was reputedly known then as "East Guilford."

Over the generations, the 2,241 square-foot, three-bedroom residence has been preserved to main-

tain many of its original features including original fireplaces, corner cupboards, wide plank floors, paneling, beams, hand-wrought hardware and more. While authentically antique in style, the white, wood-roofed house is also highly adaptable and livable for modern use.

"There is such rich history and character in this house," said Margaret Muir of William Pitt Sotheybys. "I am honored to be representing the beautiful white house with the green shutters and charming fence that everyone knows—a defining landmark in the town of Madison."

For more information on the property, located at 566 Boston Post Road, visit the firm's website www.williampitt.com/eng/sales/detail/205-1-656-t48bzg/566-boston-post-rd-madison-ct-06443, or contact Margaret Muir, real estate agent, 203-415-9187 or email Mmuir@williampitt.com.

AT HOME

The just-right home

By Richard Staub, AIA,
LEED AP
Special to the Times

Editor's note: This was reprinted from a past edition.

OLDLYME » For each and every one of us, somewhere out there is a home that is just right. Tailored like a perfect suit, it fits just right for how you live. This home fulfills your dreams, enhances how you live, reinforces your values, and acts as a recharging station for your soul.

But why does one home feel just right and another does not? You are drawn to certain homes, certain images, but why? Design professionals know that there is a deeper meaning behind why something feels just right to you and not to others. It lies deep within you, based on your own unique history and the path you have taken through life. It lies in the years spent imagining your dream home.

A more tangible answer: your just right home is based on a set of universal principles that design professionals can explain. They can help you to understand these principles by giving you the tools and the language to clearly communicate why something is just right.

With this knowledge, you can focus on your individual design gene. Everyone has one. You may not know it, but you do. Yes, you were born with it. But, it is also something you learn and develop over time as a result of being exposed to life around you. Your design gene affects these universal design principles by how you apply your beliefs, values, and feelings to them. This is why no two

just right homes are the same. Designed specifically for you, your home is a reflection of your own unique design gene, a mirror of who you are and how you live. It's an outward expression of your personality.

Your first impression of a home is based on these principles in some way, shape or form, whether you know it or not. It all begins on the drive to the just right home. You're drawn to the fabric of the neighborhood. When you come upon the home, you realize it responds to the neighborhood and community. It respects the regional vernacular, reflecting the environmental, cultural and historical context in which it exists.

Starting from the street or driveway, your home gives the first impression of you. As you approach it, you want to be impressed. Or, perhaps, you want the approach to your just right home to convey a warm welcome and a sense of comfort.

The path leading to your home and the home itself looks integrated by using materials and shapes that reinforce the home's character. Exterior lighting makes a great impact and helps to define the path. In day or night, the entrance is clear. Through the use of human scale items such as columns, benches, mailboxes, stone steps, and textures, a clear path to the front door is defined.

Sometimes the entry to the home is a side door. For example, a home with a formal/traditional entry can offer a more casual entry as well. Both have a covering, a place to stand, an area where the home receives them even before anyone comes to answer the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Formal stone entry with columns.

door. Built to human scale and in lieu of columns, the side door is meant to welcome too, yet in a different way. When using this door, you can imagine that there will be just the right place for your shoes, coat, hat, keys and umbrella.

Through the doors of all just right homes, you enter a welcoming personal domain. The entry communicates a first impression of the interior, affording glimpses of rooms and acting as a transition from outdoors to indoors. Views from these entries hint at the character of the interior spaces to follow. These views suggest what lies beyond and how you organize your space.

It's this carefully crafted journey of paths and places from the street to the receiving area of your home that readies you for what comes next. These first impressions count. If it feels good to you, then it's just right.

Editor's Note: Richard Staub is an award-winning architect. He is a partner at Point One Architects + Planners in Old Lyme.

STRUCTURE