

HOT PROPERTY

Antique colonial carriage house in Milford for sale

By Jennifer Bonnett

The antique home that previously served as the estate carriage house of the founder of the first Audubon Society in New York, George Ring Grinnell, is for sale. Eventually converted into a residential home, the hand-built, fieldstone colonial is located in the coastal town of Milford and is offered at \$680,000.

Among the home renovations are special stonework and formations collected from the estate's naturally rich land. The private retreat-like gem is nestled on more than an acre of pristine park-like grounds and surrounding woods and brooks the current property owner recalls playing in as a child.

Listing agent Craig Osbrin, of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, said this historic home is undoubtedly a show-stopper.

"The private gem ... embodies Grinnell's love for the natural world, with a design and quality that truly appreciates the beautiful surroundings of this exceptional area of Connecticut," Osbrin said.

Grinnell was an American anthropologist, historian, naturalist and writer known for his establishment of the first Audubon Society in New York. After receiving a doctorate in paleontology in 1880, Grinnell became an active writer for Forest and Stream, a weekly publication for fellow naturalists in which he channeled his concern for the environment.

Grinnell focused his editorial attention on habitat conservation, while also launching a campaign to expose federal neglect of game laws, specifically for Yellowstone National Park. Drawn by this activism, ardent environmentalist and former U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt joined Grinnell and his efforts, formulating policies that eventually served as the basis of the American conservation program during his presidency. Having remained great friends and natu-



The property at 96 Grinnell St. in Milford was hand-built using stone from the original structure.

William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Details

Address: 96 Grinnell St., Milford

Price: \$680,000

Rooms: 11

Features: Original carriage house of Audubon Society founder was been renovated using stone from the property. There are 9-foot ceilings and hardwood floors.

Schools: Matthewson Elementary, West Shore Middle, Jonathan Law High

ralist comrades over the years, Roosevelt often summered at the Grinnell estate, reportedly referring to it as "the farm," according to Osbrin.

The former carriage house now boasts six bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths and 3,050 square feet of living space. Originally constructed in 1870, this residence was created to shelter the stable hands of the Grinnell estate, which encompassed a 24-room Victorian Italianate Villa main house.

In 1945, the current homeowners' father, who was a builder, converted the structure into a fully livable home using stones from the property itself. Many of the stones are fossils, as well as pieces of glacial rock and quartz. Over the years, geologists have

visited the property to study stone formations on the land as well as the home's masonry stonework. It is those stones and masonry that tell a story all their own, changeless and impervious to wind and weather, according to property owner Karen Saloomney.

Beyond these intricately craft-

ed walls lie gorgeously sized rooms with 9-foot ceilings, hardwood floors on both levels, a formal dining room, pantry, breakfast nook and more.

There is also a two-bedroom in-law apartment the Saloomneys have utilized for their business. For storage, one can use the attic

accessed by pull-down stairs. The laundry area is on the first level.

Saloomney said it will be hard to leave the family homestead, a place she referred to as a safe haven.

"I personally love our home for its coziness, its peace, tranquility and seclusion," she said, referring specifically to the long driveway that makes the house itself barely visible from the road. "It's quiet and totally private. Nature and wildlife abound here. After all, it has been a bird sanctuary for years."

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