

REAL ESTATE

HOT PROPERTY

Stone colonial has European flair with New England roots

By Meg Barone

Nearly four decades ago, a local family purchased an old hunting lodge in Stamford with local real estate broker Jane Rosenthal as their buyers' representative.

"You can't get anything more rustic than a hunting lodge," said Rosenthal, of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

But things change, and the tastes of that family certainly changed dramatically. They lived in the lodge for 14 years before approaching Rosenthal with a request for a new residence — this one at the exact opposite of the real estate spectrum. This time they were looking for a grand estate, and they were especially interested in having a stone house.

Although they loved Stamford, the couple thought their search would have to take them to Greenwich. They were convinced that their vision for a new house did not exist in Stamford.

Rosenthal knew otherwise and took them to see one and only one property. It was the 16-room colonial farmhouse on 2.58 acres at 165 Davenport Farm Lane West in North Stamford. It was originally part of the 68-acre Calhoun estate, where the annual Scottish Highland Games were hosted. The Calhoun estate sat on land that once housed the Davenport Farm, a working cattle farm that dated back to 1721, she said.

"It had been a shell of a house about 18 years ago. It was transformed by the builder, Roger Quick (of Heritage Homes in Stamford), who gave it European flair with New England roots. 'I watched it blossoming. I knew it was going to be a gorgeous house... I just had a feeling they were going to love this home,'" said Rosenthal, who is representing the couple again, this time from the selling side.

"They hadn't finished their walk-through when Rosenthal said the couple told her they wanted the house.

"They just loved it. Their faces lit up," she said.

They raised their children

Details

Address: 165 Davenport Farm Lane West, Stamford

Price: \$2,495,000

Number of rooms: 16

Features: This colonial farm house was originally part of the 68-acre Davenport Farm. The old Calhoun House was originally built in 1935 and was later expanded and renovated. The six-bedroom now contains more than 10,000 square feet of living space. The property includes an in-ground pool with a diving board, and there are six fireplaces.

Schools: Davenport Ridge Elementary, Rippowam Middle, Stamford High School

there, but now they are moving on and they hope someone else will love it as much as they have.

The original part of the 10,000-square-foot house was built in 1935. Red brick and clapboard additions were constructed to enlarge the footprint of the original stone house, which has brown shutters.

And then came that major renovation about 18 years ago when the Calhoun estate was subdivided. Some of the home's attractive features were in place then and others were added by the builder and by the current owners. Rosenthal said Quick and later the homeowners gave the house amenities that are standard today but that were not included in local residences 18 years ago.

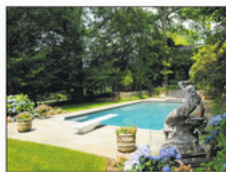
There is extensive millwork and coffered ceilings. There are six fireplaces, some with marble surrounds and decorative mantels. The kitchen has a hexagonal casual dining area with terra cotta tile flooring and a red brick arch around the high-end range. The master bedroom has a cavernous and luxurious bath. There is a separate apartment for guests, in-laws or an au pair. In the backyard, there is a heated in-ground pool with diving board, fieldstone walls and a screen of tall, mature trees.

There are also features that are



Photos by William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Above: The original part of the 10,000-square-foot house was built in 1935 and 18 years ago, there was a renovation to modernize it. Left: In the backyard, there is a heated in-ground pool with diving board and a screen of tall, mature tree Right: The 16-room house includes a large family room.



unique to this house including a stone portico with wisteria-covered columns attached to the house. It creates a courtyard effect. Rosenthal wonders if it was a structure related to the original farm that was uniquely

repurposed. The home also has stairs to the rooftop, where there is an observation deck and at one time there was a hot tub up there. In addition to its many amenities, Rosenthal said this house

has "beautiful curb appeal."

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