

REAL ESTATE

HOT PROPERTY

Historic colonial with contemporary conveniences

By Gretchen A. Peck

This is an historic gem as much as it is a comfortable, contemporary home. The property records for the four-bedroom colonial at 228 Wolfpit Ave. date back to at least 1854 when then owners James Sturges, his sister Abby Jane and her husband, George S. Nicholls sold the property they owned together — likely inherited from their parents — to Jonathan Taylor Adams, a local shoemaker-turned-butcher and descendant of President John Adams. The home bears an historic placard declaring it as “Sturges House, 1820.”

The property has had several owners in the more than a century since, each seemingly putting their imprint on the house. The front door was relocated. A shed was erected. Later, a pool went in. But perhaps the most significant stamp of ownership came more recently when Paulette Messing and her husband acquired it and set out to restore it to its former glory.

“I love to take old things and make them shine again,” she said.

The Messings had significant experience in historic restoration. They’d rescued an historic home in Boston prior to setting their sights on the Norwalk property. Among the many updates they’ve made to this home is the new kitchen. It has an exposed beam that bisects the space, adding dimension to the ceiling. There’s plenty of cabinet and shelving space here to keep things neat and organized. A center island extends the counter space, and provides casual seating for three. The appliances are high-end and stainless, including a double oven and six-burner range with a hood.

The first level is completed by a foyer that leads into the living room with a fireplace — a great space for welcoming in friends and family on cold fall and winter evenings — a notably spacious dining room, a full bath and a family room (which could be easily leveraged as another bedroom). There are hardwood floors throughout, with specialty millwork and trim moldings that add



William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Above: The oversized dining room at 228 Wolfpit Ave. in Norwalk has hardwood floors and abundant room for entertaining. **Below left:** The four-bedroom colonial dates back to the 1800s. **Below right:** The living room has a fireplace and the home features specialty millwork and trim moldings.



to the character of the inviting spaces.

The second level is where three additional bedrooms are found, including the master suite.

All of the utilities were also converted. The water and sewer services are now under the city’s domain, and a new natural gas furnace was installed.

Since the Messings have completed the restoration and renovation work on the home, they have lovingly cared for the property

they now have listed for sale with Chris Titus of William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty.

“This home has been beautifully updated and maintained, without compromising the charm and character of its antique status,” Titus said.

The character of the house is rivaled by the natural beauty of the half-acre parcel on which it sits.

“The property is loaded with beautiful specimen trees, shrubs

and plants, making it a private oasis,” Titus said.

The Messings also added a reflecting pond, a sanctuary for birds and frogs that stop by for a visit. It’s also a special place for the home’s residents, Messing noted. “In addition to the pond, we have lots of bushes that the butterflies love, and my daughter planted herbs throughout the backyard. Plus, there are peach, pear and apple trees. It really is a perfect place to pause for a mo-

Details

Address: 228 Wolfpit Ave., Norwalk

Price: \$575,000

Number of Rooms: 11

Features: Originally built in 1820 — but smartly restored, updated and maintained since — this four-bedroom historic home has 3,243 square feet of living space. The first-level floor plan includes an updated kitchen, oversized dining room, living room with a fireplace, and a family room, which could be leveraged as another bedroom. Three additional bedrooms, including the master suite are found on the home’s second level. The 0.51-acre property is level and lush with specimen trees and perennials. There’s a shed in place for storage. In addition to the charming front porch and craftsman door, there’s a larger, columned porch that spans the back of the property. The home is just minutes from major transportation routes and local conveniences.

Schools: Wolfpit School, Nathan Hale Middle, Norwalk High

ment, to sit down and take a breath, and enjoy the natural, peaceful setting,” she added.

Messing describes this section of Norwalk as “quiet and friendly, a working community where the neighbors are neighborly.” Plus, it’s close to everything, she said.

“The backyard is almost in Wesport, which is about a block away, and we’re less than two minutes to I-95 and the Merritt Parkway. Danbury, Stamford, New Haven — you can easily commute to any of the southern Connecticut towns,” she said.

New York City is just a quick train ride away. Titus referred to the location as ideal.

“After we first looked at the property, it kept drawing me back to it, in a come-hither way, begging for us to make it beautiful again, and that’s what we did,” Messing said.

William Pitt Sotheby’s will be hosting a public open house noon to 2 p.m. Sunday.