

HOT PROPERTY

# Extraordinary antique country compound



Daniel Milstein Photography / Contributed photos

The 4.7 private acres features a breathtaking waterfall and pond, a greenhouse, freeform gunite pool, tennis court, stone terraces and three stunning vintage outbuildings.

By Bernadette Blaze

The Benjamin Meeker Homestead sits back on 4.7 private acres surrounded by unparalleled bucolic beauty along a scenic stretch of the Saugatuck River, overlooking over 300 acres of protected lands. The lush and private grounds comprising woodlands, gardens and sprawling lawn also features a breathtaking waterfall and pond, a greenhouse, freeform gunite pool, tennis court, stone terraces and three stunning vintage outbuildings, all providing exceptional living, work and entertainment spaces for guests and extended family.

"This estate is a rare and exceptional treasure," says listing agent Roni Agress. "It is a resort in the summer, a wonderland in the winter, a safe haven for multi-generational living and a private retreat all in one."

A rare historic gem, the gracious and welcoming main residence, a portion of which was built circa 1775, has deep roots in Redding's history. The architecture of the beautifully renovated Colonial farmhouse, lovingly preserved and restored over the years, exemplifies post-and-beam building methods of the Colonial era. Period details, including exposed beams, 200-year old beech paneling, original fireplaces and beehive oven, chestnut, pine and cherry wide-board flooring highlight the living room, family room, dining room, music room and kitchen. Original features merge seamlessly with modern updates that include professional-grade kitchen appliances, multiple work-from-home dedicated office spaces, chic updated baths, a finished lower level recreation area, temperature-controlled wine cellar, and more.

"What attracted me most to the



property was the possibility for hosting visiting friends and family or living a multigenerational experience while still having sufficient privacy and personal space," the owner explained. "There are bedrooms and kitchens in three of the outbuildings so there is room for grandparents, grown offspring and their partners and children and/or family friends."

The outbuildings are among the owners' favorite spaces, the first of which being the Chestnut Barn and greenhouse, where the owners would host a formal seated Thanksgiving dinner for 50. This stunning renovation affords two levels of on-trend living and entertaining spaces among a large country-chic kitchen, dining room, living room with stone fireplace, game/recreation, guest room, full bath and laundry. Appended to the barn is a fabulous Machin-designed greenhouse, complete with misting system and

rain forest.

"The barn is full of fun, a space for comfortable recreational living," said the owner. "Nestled in the back of the property, it feels like an ample cabin in the woods." Graced with cathedral ceiling, rustic beams, post-and-beam interior and patio to the pool, it is ideal for entertaining, guest accommodations, a studio, office and pool house.

Another favorite space is the Buttery and barn, built in 1830 and brought to the property from nearby Bethel. The Buttery's soaring cathedral ceiling, beams, fireplace and French doors to the stone terrace with majestic views of the grounds, Saugatuck River and a towering sycamore tree, makes it an idyllic home office.

In addition to the Buttery, additional guest and office spaces include a caretaker's cottage and a circa 1786 carriage house.

The crowning glory are the grounds and gardens. The prop-

erty is full of magical outdoor spaces, each with its own quality of mood, lovingly cultivated and tended to by the current owners over the years. Large, moss-covered rock stairs wind through a garden of specimen trees and ground plantings that envelope the lush lawn and artisan-crafted stone bridge at the property's

## Details

**Address:** 85 Diamond Hill Road, Redding

**Price:** \$2.500 million

**Features:** This meticulously preserved and restored country compound sits on over four acres along the Saugatuck River, bordered by 350 acres of conservancy land. The grounds include a free-form gunite pool, a tennis court, terraces, stream, pond and waterfall. The property includes the colonial farmhouse main residence and three stunning outbuildings, each providing exceptional living, working and entertaining spaces for guests and extended family.

**Schools:** Redding Elementary School, John Read Middle School, Joel Barlow High School

