

HOT PROPERTY

‘Warmth, charm and understated elegance’ at storied home

By Gretchen A. Peck

The current owners of 8 Mountain Wood Drive in mid-country Greenwich had been friends with the former owners of the property. As frequent guests to the home, they not only developed a feel for how the home was to entertain in, they got a sense of what it was like to live there. They became enamored with the property and acquired it themselves in 2001, when their friends decided to list it for sale.

“Since we had a close relationship with the previous owners, we had been to several dinners here,” the homeowner recalled. “The property and the home itself had always exuded a warmth, charm and understated elegance that was instantly appealing.”

The property has had a storied past that began in 1923 when Zalmon and Francis Simmons lived here. Then, the estate spanned 164 acres, and the main house was appended by a host of outbuildings — stables, greenhouses, garages and smaller homes for the staff. Later, in the 1950s, it reportedly served as the site for the 2,000-guest reception honoring the marriage of Ethel Skakel to Robert F. Kennedy.

Today, the property located at this address is measured at 2.53 acres, and much of the original architecture that was here has been preserved.

“The barn houses two original horse stalls, work and storage rooms,” the current homeowner explained. “The remainder of the barn was converted into a three-car garage and gym. The main house and living area, originally built as the carriage house for the Simmons Estate, has a cupola and weather vane.”

When the homeowners purchased the property from their friends, it required very little work. It had been lovingly maintained and suited its new owners almost perfectly.

“The only renovation work

Details

Address: 8 Mountain Wood Drive, Greenwich

Price: \$5.495 million

Number of Rooms: 10

Features: This vintage carriage house is located on 2.53 acres in mid-country Greenwich. It spans more than 5,000 square feet of living space, with six bedrooms, five full baths and one partial bath. The grounds also include a pool, spa, pool house, all-weather tennis court, and a detached three-car garage with storage, two horse stalls and an exercise room.

Schools: Parkway School, Central Middle, Greenwich High

completed by us was the master bedroom and the rebuilding of the pool house,” the owner said. “The pool house, rebuilt by us, was originally used as the estate’s root cellar and kitchen storage. We also converted the estate’s ice-house into what is now the wine cellar.”

The pool house offers a convenient kitchenette and a bath. There’s also an all-weather tennis court in place on the grounds.

The property has so many wonderful entertaining-worthy features — from the wine cellar to the pool and terraces, one with an outdoor fireplace. And the owners took full advantage of these features, hosting holidays and special occasions for as many as 200 friends and family members.

Sixteen years after they acquired the property, it is now time for the homeowners to move on to the “next chapter” of their lives, so they’ve decided to list it for sale. Leslie McElwreath of Sotheby’s International Realty in Greenwich is serving as the listing broker.

The more than 5,000 square feet of living space in the main residence includes a formal living room with a fireplace and a formal dining room. Both spaces have French doors leading out to the terrace. Wide-planked antique



Photos by Sotheby’s International Realty

Above: The eat-in kitchen at 8 Mountain Wood Drive in Greenwich is equipped with pro-grade appliances, a center island and classic white cabinetry and shelving. **Below:** The home is on 2.53 acres and features a pool, spa, pool house, all-weather tennis court, a detached three-car garage and two horse stalls.

wood floors are found on the first level, along with high ceilings and oversized windows.

The eat-in kitchen is equipped with pro-grade appliances, a center island and classic white cabinetry and shelving for neatly storing or proudly displaying glassware or serving items.

In addition to the luxurious master suite the current owners created, there are also five additional bedrooms, four baths and a sitting room on the home’s second level.

There’s also a partial third level to the home, where a private office presides over the property from a turret.

The seller explained what it has been like to live here for so many years.

“Mountain Wood Drive is a private, quiet cul-de-sac on the former pastures of the Simmons



Estate,” she said. “The street benefits from permanent open space donated to the Land Trust, which creates a bucolic setting minutes from Greenwich Avenue.”

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