

## REAL ESTATE

## HOT PROPERTY

## Spacious modern Colonial highlights Victorian details

By Gretchen A. Peck

One might expect a home built in 1873 to feel heavy in décor and history with dark wood trim and ornate Victorian detail. In fact, the newly listed home at 150 Riverside Ave. is quite the opposite.

The 6,218-square-foot Colonial has a breezy, spacious aesthetic throughout. High ceilings and large windows allow light to fill the spaces accented with honey-hued wood floors. It was one of its attributes that homeowners Nancy and Bruce Barker loved about the place when they first saw it nearly 30 years ago.

"We wanted an older home, and our broker said, 'Look at this Victorian.' I'd grown up in north-east Ohio, where my experiences with Victorians were all about the four-square, dark, farmhouse-types of homes. We didn't see ourselves in a Victorian," Nancy Barker said. "But the broker said, 'You have to look at this one,' and when I walked through the door, I went, 'Wow!' The 10-foot ceilings, high windows, 8-foot doorways. ... It's just so light and airy."

Today, the home has a blend of traditional and modern architecture and amenities. Reclaimed millwork, large built-in bookcases and a period fireplace are as equally suited to the home as the high-end stainless and crisp white appliances.

The expansive kitchen blends form and function with cabinetry that offers plenty of storage, combined with clear-glass showcases for the homeowner's most prized china and glassware. The kitchen's center island and the formal dining room make for perfect spaces for family gatherings and formal dinner parties.

A dramatic entryway and curved staircase lead to the second floor. That staircase is another feature that caught the couple's eye when they first saw the home. "We both fell in love with the stairway," Nancy Barker recalled.



Photo by Sotheby's International Realty

**Above: An elegant living room features a period-appropriate vintage fireplace. Below left: The large kitchen features abundant counter space and a center island with cooktop. Below right: The 1873 colonial at 150 Riverside Ave. is on an artfully landscaped half-acre plot and is listed for \$3.18 million.**



In all, the home has six bedrooms and four full-baths, plus a half-bath. A separate guest suite with a private entry could also serve as an elegant home office or be equipped for a home gym.

And there's more than ample

three-season and outdoor living spaces, including a second-floor balcony, a warm solarium with floor-to-ceiling windows and a covered deck with craftsman detail that looks out upon the artfully manicured lawn. The

way the home sits back from the street, and the seclusion of the backyard makes for a private setting.

The property is conveniently located minutes from Greenwich schools and the train station in

**Details**

**Address:** 150 Riverside Ave.

**Price:** \$3,180,000

**Number of rooms:** 16

**Features:** The 6,218-square-foot Colonial built in 1873 with Victorian details has six bedrooms and four-and-a-half baths. It sits on a half-acre, minutes away from public transportation and Riverside schools. A guest suite with a private entrance can double as an office or spacious gym. The home features a stunning entryway with a curved staircase, a large kitchen with center island and a formal dining room — a perfect combination for someone who likes to entertain. It has been thoughtfully planned to make the most efficient use of the heating and cooling systems, with seven heating zones and four A/C zones.

**Schools:** Riverside School, Eastern Middle, Greenwich High

the Riverside neighborhood, which the sellers noted is a great place to raise a family.

"Riverside is still a neighborhood community. It's tight-knit in that respect," Bruce Barker said.

"St. Paul's Episcopal Church is just a quarter-mile up the road," Nancy Barker said. "At 6 p.m. in the evenings, the church bells sound. They play three hymns, and when our children would be out playing in the neighborhood and heard the bells chime, they always knew it was time to come home for dinner."

Buyers with large families or growing ones will find 150 Riverside Ave. as appealing and comfortable as those who may have smaller families but enjoy entertaining and having their home frequently filled with guests and visitors.

"We've hosted open houses here for 120 people," Barker said.

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