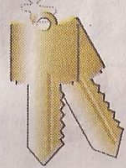


Victorian was once home to papers' owners

By Susan Nova
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Down a driveway and through a rose-covered wrought-iron arch is an 1897 Victorian home on Shippan Point in Stamford that once served as a summer getaway for members of the Gillespie family, who for 117 years worked for and later owned *The Advocate*, until it was sold to the Times Mirror Co. of Los Angeles in 1977.

ON REAL ESTATE



Along with Greenwich Time, a later Gillespie purchase, the *Advocate* was sold in 2000 to the Tribune Co. and then to Hearst Corp. seven years later.

When the house was built in 1897 as part of a family compound on Silver Beach, many residents owned homes in downtown or north Stamford for winter use, as well as homes on the shoreline dedicated solely to the warmer months. Shippan had long been the city's great summertime shore resort, easily accessed by boat or trolley.

Even earlier, in 1890, F. R. Gillespie built a chapel at Ocean Drive West and Fairview Avenue, where he and other residents preached at Sunday evening services and held Sunday school classes.

The eight-room, more-than-3,300-square-foot house on .31 acres is set directly on Long Island Sound with its own sandy beach and incredible views across Stamford Harbor to Dolphin Cove and Tod's Point. The original pillared veranda, now floored in Brazilian Ipe wood, continues to run along the rear and side facades. Below is a bluestone patio. Sailboats bob gently at their moorings, swans regularly float by, and a gaggle of goslings has found a nesting spot on the green lawn behind the house.

The house remained in the family until 1978, according to Gail and Ron



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A completely redone Victorian home on Shippan Point that for more than 80 years served as a summer home for members of the Gillespie family, former owners of *The Advocate* and *Greenwich Time*, is for sale at just under \$3.4 million. The eight-room, more than 3,300 square foot home is set on 0.31 acres directly on L.I. Sound and Stamford Harbor.

Malloy of The Malloy Realty Group at William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty on Bedford Street in Stamford, who have listed the house at a little less than \$3.4 million. The current owners bought the home in 2006 and have finished a major redo, with interior design work by Colangelo Associates Architects in Stamford and Ryan Salvatore of Nassau Interests Inc., based in Darien.

The entry has a vaulted ceiling with beadboard and beams. Almost the entire first floor is open to maximize water views. There's a living

area with the original fireplace and a dining area. The huge kitchen area comes with a built-in desk, window seat, sea green marble throughout and top-end appliances from Wolf, Asko, SubZero and Dacor, including a warming oven and refrigerator and freezer drawers. A walk-in pantry offers a prep sink, beverage refrigerator and storage. Nearby is a room that could be a library, office, play room or formal dining room.

Upstairs, the master bedroom has a waterside Juliet balcony and a

double-sided gas fireplace that also opens to the master bath. The oversized dressing room has built-in chests of drawers, tie racks, the usual rods and shelves, a built-in laundry hamper and a window seat with a view of one of the gardens. The marble master bath has a heated floor and flat-screen TV, a free-standing, oval, jet-bubble tub and a steam shower for two, with instant hot water, simulated rain and body washes.

The bath serving another second-

Please see HOUSE on R2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This century-old Shippan Victorian has a private sandy beach and small dock. There are five bedrooms, 4.5 baths, extensive gardens and a detached three-car garage.

House features beach, Sound views

Continued from R1

floor bedroom has marble countertops and white subway tile. Surrounding the tub is a band of tile showing brightly colored sailboats on a brilliant blue sea with flying seagulls and puffy white clouds. The separate laundry room has a sink and built-in ironing board.

On the third level are three additional bedrooms, two with seaside window seats, and two baths, one with tiles in blue and sea green.

The original summer cottage on land that cost about \$800, according to historical records, was four rooms, two up and two down. In the first 1920s' expansion, the summer kitchen was moved from the carriage house into the main house, and a formal dining room was installed. Bathrooms and bedrooms were added to the second level, and the attic was expanded.

In the present house, all the floors have been newly crafted of 8-inch wide quarter-sawn bleached white oak, and beadboard wainscoting is used virtually throughout.

A new steel "girdle" reinforces the house, and all systems have been modernized and computerized, even the awnings in the master bedroom and over the veranda. The home is Energy Star certified, with many

"green" elements included.

Outside is a three-car garage and professionally designed perennial gardens.

The Advocate was known originally as *The Intelligencer*, founded in 1829 by Albert Hanford. The following year, William Henry Holly took over the newspaper, and *The Sentinel* was born. In 1848, Edgar Hoyt and Andrew Smith owned the paper and changed its name to *The Stamford Advocate*, selling it to William Speers Campbell in 1860. Later names included *The Democratic Sentinel*, *Farmer's Advocate* and *The Farmer and Mechanic's Advocate*.

By 1861, Canadian brothers William and Edward Gillespie joined the staff at the paper, with Edward, a journeyman printer, covering the Civil War from the front lines.

Later, the Gillespies bought the newspaper, the first of three generations of Gillespie owners. It was turned into a daily in 1892, and two years later moved into 258 Atlantic St., remaining there until 1980. The name was changed to *The Daily Advocate*, but the paper later resumed its earlier name, *The Stamford Advocate* and is now *The Advocate*.

In 1883, William retired, and the

business was sold to his brothers Edward and Richard Gillespie, according to the April 20, 1883, edition of the *Stamford Advocate*, which then was a weekly newspaper. Richard died in 1921 and was succeeded by his son, Richard Jr., and later his brother, Schuyler, and then his brother, Kingsley, who was publisher for 30 years, during which period he bought *Greenwich Time*.

William Gillespie built a huge, four-level Victorian house with turret on Washington Avenue in 1892. Having left the newspaper, he was then president of Gillespie Lumber Co. at Waterside, a business he started originally as White, Gillespie & Thayer, later Gillespie & Thayer, according to *The Stamford Historical Society*. He was also connected with the Waterside Mills and was one of eight originators of the Stamford Horse Railroad in 1876.

The book *"Picturesque Stamford: A Souvenir of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Settlement of the Town of Stamford,"* was written by Edward Gillespie and published by the brothers in 1892. The book includes photos of the Gillespies, their children and their 30-foot steam launch "Advocate," built in 1886 in Boston.