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Real Estate: Country charm in Brookeville

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When Ignatius Waters and his bride decided to build their home on land inherited from his father on the southern edge of Brookeville, there was very little to be found except hundreds of acres farmland. Today, from its elevated perch, this 1848 home still surveys the land surrounding it, a suburban neighborhood flowing out north from Olney along Old Baltimore Road.

“You have the advantage of a country home, and yet you still have access to the neighborhood,” said Brenda Goodman, one of its current owners.

Despite its mid-century pedigree, Federal-era Greek Revival styling is firmly stamped on its all-brick exterior, beginning with its one-story, classically columned porticos sheltering the front and side entrances.

Entering the front, the floor plan reveals a classic Federal layout with two front parlors opening onto either side of the front hallway and its grand staircase, which circles gracefully upward to the home’s second and third floors.

Formal but practical, the home’s big rooms and high ceilings conform nicely to modern tastes. The front parlors are open and its expansive spaces are made more so by the 10-foot-high ceilings and the large, multiple windows on the front and sides of the rooms.

The right-hand parlor is painted a cheery yellow and is used as the current owners’ family room.

A back hallway runs the width of the house from the side entrance to the back of the front hallway. At this end is the entrance to the home’s rear staircase, which rises up parallel to the hallway. At the other end, a half bath is tucked underneath the back of the grand front staircase.

Across the hallway is the dining room, yet another large open room whose windows look down upon stunning views of the estate’s side yards. Decorated with the original chair rails and crown molding, the room will comfortably seat 10 to 12 guests for dinner.

The home reflects “the obvious love and exquisite craftsmanship that went into [its] building,” Goodman said.

Both the front parlors and the dining room have working fireplaces and they, along with the back hallway, are floored with impeccable heart pine hardwood flooring, which seamlessly segues into the multihued stonelike tile of the home’s kitchen.

Accessed from both the back hallway and the dining room, the kitchen is a warm and welcoming room with modern amenities throughout. These include stainless steel Kitchenaid appliances with an electric stovetop, a white ceramic reproduction sink, and rosy beige granite countertops and breakfast nook. Finishing the look, 42-inch-tall cherry

cabinets provide plenty of pantry space.

The Dutch door at the back of the kitchen opens onto an expansive rear deck that overlooks the wooded portion of the 4.1 acres that surround the home. The wooded area not only provides the home a bit of separation from its immediate neighbors, but also turns the deck into “a little oasis from the rest of the world,” said real estate agent Gary Gestson.

Upstairs one level, the landing from the front grand staircase opens onto the double-door entrance into the master bedroom suite.

Actually two rooms with a hallway running between them, the suite opens off the right into a sitting room or study area.

Off the room are entrances to a huge walk-in closet at one end and the master bath at the other. The master bath features light oak cabinetry with light brown granite countertops, a corner shower, and a claw foot ceramic tub.

The master bedroom is a large, light airy room aided by both the multitude of windows overlooking the front and side of the home and the 10-foot second-floor ceilings characteristic of the Federal style. A king-sized bed fits comfortably within the room, which also boasts one of the two bedroom fireplaces on the level.

The right-hand back bedroom boasts the other fireplace.

At the hallway’s other end is the third bedroom and the hallway bath. Both bedrooms are light spaces boasting room enough to comfortably fit a queen-sized bed in the former and a full-sized bed in the latter.

The third floor opens up on two more bedrooms, which showcase the home’s original exposed roof beams and window seats ensconced within the level’s dormer windows. The home’s laundry is also found on this level.

Last, but not least, is the raised semi-basement, which runs throughout the home’s footprint. With two finished rooms, half windows, and huge storage areas, even this area reflects the home’s practical yet elegant Federal styling.

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