

## COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT: MILTON

Number of sales in past year: 246  
Average days on market: 103

Median price: \$462,250  
Highest price: \$2,400,000

SOURCE: MLS PROPERTY INFORMATION NETWORK

# Create a 'Downton' experience in Milton

By PAUL RESTUCCIA

Modeled after *Le Petit Trianon* chateau in Versailles, this Milton mansion with 11 fireplaces has museum-quality interiors imported from the New York City mansion of William Vanderbilt.

The 25-room, 10,000-square-foot mansion at 88 Milton St., built as a Colonial in 1912 for a prominent Boston lawyer, is set on almost 12 acres of land and includes a 6,000-square-foot carriage house with two apartments for live-in caretakers and garage parking for six vehicles.

The showpiece areas in this home are the living room, dining room and library, replete with French-style gilded wall coverings, marble fireplaces and grand chandeliers from the Vanderbilt mansion, which were installed in the home in the



### THE APPRAISAL

#### Pros:

- Furnishings from Vanderbilt mansion, including crystal chandeliers, carved marble fireplaces, gilded paneling and frescoes
- A 12-acre site with tennis court and in-ground pool that can be subdivided for additional home
- Carriage house with two live-in apartments and six garage spaces
- Master bedroom suite has fireplace and Carrara marble bathroom

#### Cons:

- Kitchen and most bathrooms need updating
- High taxes



1940s and 1950s when the house was redesigned as a French chateau.

It's a chance for a wealthy buyer to manage their own Highclere Castle a la "Downton Abbey," as its formal spaces contrast with the back-of-the-house kitchen and upstairs quarters for live-in help. And there's a 40-foot pool and tennis court. The site even has what's reputed to be New England's oldest willow tree.

On the market for \$3,950,000, the home has a grand side entrance, with a circular paver drive with a central fountain that's surrounded by white marble walls. The foyer has a marble and wrought-iron staircase up to the luxurious living spaces on the first floor.

To the right is a barrel-vaulted library with mahogany-lined walls and bookcases, a marble fireplace and French-style hand-painted frescoes.

The adjacent living room has high ceilings, a grand



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crystal and brass chandelier, raised gilded boiserie-style paneling and quarter-sewn oak parquet flooring. This sunny room has tall windows and a French-style carved marble fireplace. On either side of the living room are sunrooms.

The adjacent dining room also has a grand chandelier and sconces, and features a veined green marble fireplace and buffet table.

The kitchen, redone in the 1980s, features 50 oak cabinets, white Corian counters and older Jenn Air and KitchenAid appliances. There's a dining area with glass doors leading out to a brick patio, and outside

there's an in-ground pool shaded by an alley of linden trees.

On the home's second floor, there are five bedrooms, many with fireplaces and built-ins. The elegant master bedroom has hand-painted paneling with dentil molding, oak floors, a fireplace and eight windows. The en-suite master bathroom is white Carrara marble with beige granite-topped vanities.

There are three more bedrooms on the third floor, with back-stair access that were built for live-in help.

The home's carpeted basement, done in the 1980s, has an oak-paneled billiards room, a playroom with window seats and a laundry room with a full-size washer and dryer.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY MATTHEW WEST

**IN THE DETAILS:** The mansion at 88 Milton St. in Milton features frescoes, gilded wall coverings, marble fireplaces and chandeliers that were once in the Vanderbilt mansion in New York City.

## Home showcase

■ **Address:** 88 Milton St., Milton

■ **Bedrooms:** Nine

■ **Bathrooms:** Six full, two half

■ **List price:** \$3,950,000

■ **Square feet:** 10,000, plus 6,000-square-foot carriage house

■ **Price per square foot:** \$395

■ **Annual taxes:** \$47,783

■ **Features:** Furnishings in living, dining and library rooms from the Vanderbilt mansion in New York City; grand side entrance with marble walls and fountain; in-ground pool shaded by linden trees; 12-acre site with tennis court; carriage house with two live-in apartments and six garage parking spaces; hand-detailed master bedroom suite with eight windows and Carrara marble bathroom.

■ **Location:** Adjacent to Curry College in Milton and near the Blue Hills Reservation; about seven miles from downtown Boston

■ **Built in:** 1912, updated to French style in 1940s and 1950s; kitchen, baths and basement redone in 1980s; roof, plumbing, wiring replaced in 1996.

■ **Broker:** David Murdock of Campion and Co. at 617-828-7020

