

Own a piece of history (and a string of horses) in Upper Marlboro



By Joan Kasura
Special to the Examiner

For someone looking to get away from it all, Joshua Turner's country estate in Upper Marlboro's hunt country offers an opportunity of a lifetime.

Nestled in the rural Rosaryville area of Prince George's county seat, the property includes not only a piece of Maryland history but a thriving, nationally renowned, equestrian business as well. Built sometime in the 1880s, this stunning cross-gabled home with Queen Anne decorative accents, corbelled chimneys and a widow's walk was originally part of a 1,000-acre country estate owned by Joshua Turner, a successful Baltimore agricultural fertilizer merchant.

The home has been designated a historic landmark and sits next to the 982-acre Rosaryville State Park, where Mount Airy Mansion is located. The mansion was owned by generations of the Calverts, Maryland's founding family.

Situated on a low hill off Frank Tippet Road just a few miles from Pennsylvania Avenue as it begins to wind its way out into the Prince George's countryside, the home immediately impresses those turning into its gravel driveway. The entrance to the estate is framed by thick, white-gated pillars, and mature trees and pastures line the drive to a second gate.

The gray stucco exterior and the front wrap-around porch are shaded, and the front double door pays homage to the property's attached Merrymount Equestrian Center with a stained-glass transom featuring a marbled white horse's head and bright red Victorian glass accents.

Inside the home, the magnificent 36-foot center hallway reveals that this was "the area's grand manse of the period. And everywhere you look, there are extraordinary [Queen Anne] interior details," said Realtor Gary Gestson.

There are intricate ceiling medallions and inlaid marble-mantled fireplaces in all the main floor rooms. Both the large reception parlor to the immediate left of

At a glance

- **Property:** Joshua Turner House, a 7-bedroom, 3.5-bath Victorian cross-gabled home and horse center in Upper Marlboro, Md.
- **Price:** \$3.3 million (includes home and business)
- **Description:** Historic home of approximately 5,100 square feet and a nationally known equestrian training business, both situated on 6 acres in the heart of Prince George's horse country
- **Contact:** Gary Gestson, 301-646-0046, Long & Foster Real Estate



the front door and the small private parlor across the hall also have two stunning front windows that reach from the floor almost to the top of the 11.5-foot ceilings, providing an expansive view of the home's front lawn.

Such marvelous window views continue even in the newest portion of the home, a 1.5-story kitchen addition from the late 1970s. The entrance is framed by yet another (newer) stained-glass transom over double doors that echoes the original horse-head pattern over the front entrance. Immediately to the left of the kitchen's entrance, expansive floor-to-ceiling windows overlook the large in-ground pool bordered with a rounded brick edge and surrounded by an extensive concrete deck and patio area.

An open and airy space, the kitchen opens up on the right to a large center island that includes a six-burner range and small sink and is topped with ceramic tiles in a burgundy marbled pattern. Other amenities include gleaming white Corian countertops, a generous expanse of walnut cabinetry, a three-basin sink, and, over that sink, yet another huge expanse

of window looking out onto the barns of the equestrian center.

The kitchen's gray slate-like ceramic tile continues into a mudroom-like hallway with a back door at either end. One opens onto the pool deck, and the other onto the side driveway. In between, are a full shower bath with sauna, a butler's pantry with space for an additional full-size refrigerator, and the laundry room.

Back in the original portion of the house, a grand staircase rises, pauses at yet another floor-to-ceiling window positioned at the landing, and spills out onto a large foyer area that originally served as the children's schoolroom. Doorways to four bedrooms, including the master bedroom, and a hallway bath open off this area. Beyond the hallway bath is an office or additional bedroom, which can also be accessed by back stairs between it and the kitchen below.

In even the smallest of bedrooms, large windows and high ceilings avert any feelings of closeness. And, while closet space is at a bit of a premium, those high ceilings help compensate by allowing the easy accommodation of highboys and tall armoires or wardrobes. The master bedroom has its own bathroom with dual sinks and a shower bath.

Myriad possibilities abound for the home's top floor, consisting of one finished and three unfinished rooms and accessed by a narrow staircase from the upstairs foyer.

While it should be noted that there is radiated heat, the home has no central air. However, the shady tree canopy maintains a cool interior temperature both upstairs and down even on the notoriously hazy, hot and humid days of a Maryland summer.

For those who want to take up the horse life, the attached Merrymount Equestrian Center is an income-producing training facility with 58 stalls, 30 schooling horses, a large indoor arena, outdoor training rings and paddocks and the use of more than 35 additional acres. The center has horse-boarding facilities for rent and hosts horse shows during the year and an eight-session summer camp.

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