

RICHCRIBS

A castle with a tower in Southampton: \$3.695M



Balcastle's tower includes a guest room that overlooks an octagonal pool house.

Southampton's historic "Balcastle," with its four-story tower, is on the market for \$3.695 million.

Inspired by a castle in County Wicklow in Ireland, the Gothic Revival-style house is made of brick and stone and contains Gothic windows, says listing agent Robert Lohman of The Corcoran Group. It is listed on the

National Register of Historic Places, he adds.

The house was built in 1911 by J. Edward Elliston, a local artist and preservationist, says Lohman. The current owner is interior designer William Sofield, who bought the house two decades ago, says Lohman.

"We think it was built originally to be a school," says Lohman, adding that

the Elliston family donated land in Southampton that would become Elliston Park.

The castle's tower has a guest room and a terrace overlooking a pool. An octagonal pool house has a guest room and a bathroom.

The 2,900-square-foot, four-bedroom, 4½-bath home is on a 0.43-acre lot. — ARLENE GROSS

A HOUSE WITH TIES TO J.P. MORGAN JR.

A Port Washington house on the market for \$1.695 million once housed banker J.P. Morgan Jr.'s private secretary, John Axten, says listing agent Maggie Keats of Douglas Elliman.

"The home itself is pretty distinguished," says David Sigman, who bought it with his wife, Robin, in the late 1990s. "We have a big front lawn with hedges, so it's almost like having a private room in front of the house."

The five-bedroom, 3½-bath Dutch Colonial on a third of an acre measures just over 3,000 square feet. Over the years, the Sigmans and previous owners added onto and renovated the house, he adds. There are older, formal rooms, such as the dining room, foyer and living room, as well

as contemporary spaces, such as an open kitchen, breakfast area and den.

"It really is old and new at the same time," Sigman says. The main part of the residence dates back to the early 1900s, he says.

Sigman has researched Axten since moving into the house. The 1940 census confirms that Axten, of England, lived in the Town of North Hempstead at the time.

He identified himself as the private secretary to J.P. Morgan.

In the book "The House of Morgan: An American Banking Dynasty and the Rise of Modern Finance," Ron Chernow writes that the banker hired Axten at age 19. According to the text, Axten had held the position for 40 years by the time J.P. Morgan died in 1943. — ARIELLE DOLLINGER



This Port Washington home is listed for \$1.695 million.

THE CORCORAN GROUP / ROBERT M. LOHMAN

DOUGLAS ELLIMAN/PHILIP DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY