

Piece of Buckland history to be sold; couple needs more room for dogs

By TERRY KARNES
 Observer staff

You don't have to be a doctor to own the historic Dr. Brown House in Buckland. The house, which was built in 1793, will be going up for sale soon in the historic Buckland village off US 29 south.

Jim and Molly Toth have owned the house for nearly 18 years and even though the structure has about 3,500 square feet of living space, they need more room.

"We adopt old dogs," said Jim Toth, who will also retire in June. The couple hopes to move to the Shenandoah Valley for more room and more land for their animals and themselves.

"This is a lovely, lovely area," he said. The Toths discovered Buckland while on a day trip in 1975 when they caught a glimpse of a white poster on the stone Buckland Tavern building and decided to stop. There was an antique shop in the Dr. Brown House, which is also called the Dr. Kerfoot House after the doctor who lived in it during the Civil War. Toth said he and Molly walked through the



Built in 1793, the three-level Dr. Brown house with 3,500 square feet in Buckland features a fireplace in the dining room, floor to ceiling bookcases in the library and basement with original fieldstone foundation

Terry Karnes / the Bull Run Observer

house that would eventually become theirs and "thought this was wonderful."

About 10 years later, when Toth was stationed at Quantico and the couple needed to find a place to live they stumbled on Buckland again after a visit to look at houses in Warrenton, noticing then a sign that said there were homes for sale in the village. The mill and mill house and Moss House were on the market at that time, as well. The Dr. Brown house "best suited our needs at that time" as the Toths' eldest daughter was living with them with her children. Toth's mother also lived with the family for some time.

"It's a good family home," he said. "There is a great deal of privacy and the community spirit in Buckland is very strong." The

Toths have four children and 10 grandchildren.

As you enter the house through its front door you are on the middle level and there is hardwood flooring in the foyer and throughout. The library is to your left, with bookcases going floor to ceiling on two walls and a fireplace. The dining room is to the right with a fireplace. The hardwood planks in the library and the master bedroom upstairs differ from those in the foyer and dining room as that section of the house was added after the Civil War. There is a kitchen and den in the rear of the house on the middle level that was added in the 1970s, with a full bathroom between them. The kitchen before then was in the basement, added in 1957,

and before that was outside. The basement has its original fieldstone foundation. There is a full bathroom in the basement as well.

As you travel upstairs to the third level, the stairs break to either side and to the right there is the original bedroom of the house with a fireplace, as well as a bathroom, which Toth said was probably used as a bedroom before indoor plumbing was added. To the left there is the master bedroom which was added when the library was added after the Civil War.

The back porch, under the rooms added to the rear of the home, offers a view of Broad Run with direct access to it and the geese were enjoying a rather cold swim on it last week.

Buckland was chartered in 1798 as the first inland town in Prince William County. The houses that are still standing are representative of what the small, mill-oriented communities looked like in the late 1800s to early 1900s.

Many of the buildings in Buckland date back to 1743, some even before that, Toth said. There is also archeological evidence of Native Americans in that area that has been discovered in the historic district.

There were 20 homes in 1798 plus the Buckland Mill. The Dr. Brown home is directly across the street from the stone Buckland Tavern, where Gen. Lafayette visited. Several Civil War battles were fought in and around the town including JEB Stuart's first bivouac during his cavalry sweep around Union Army of the Potomac during the Gettysburg Campaign in 1863, as well as the Battle of Buckland, or the "Buckland Races," a cavalry battle that ended Robert E. Lee's Bristoe Campaign after Gettysburg.

The listing agent for the Toths is Ashley Leigh of Long & Foster. Leigh is an associate broker and the Ashley Leigh Team had more than \$50 million in sales in 2002.

For more information about the Buckland house, email Leigh at aleigh@aclteam.com or call him at 703-485-4554.

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