



CHURCH CONVENT TURNED LUXE HOME TRADES FOR \$14.8M

Zachary Kussin | June 06, 2014



154 Waverly Street

The 22.5-foot-wide Greek Revival townhouse at 154 Waverly Place, which from the late 1950s to the late 1990s served as the convent for the nearby Church of St. Joseph, sold for \$14.8 million, according to city property records filed today. The selling entity is a trust controlled by South African-born mobile computing executive Nicholas R.H. Toms, who bought the building in 2000 for \$4.2 million and listed it this March for \$14.95 million.

Located between Gay and Grove streets, the five-story home comes fully renovated, but maintains its original details. Amenities include five fireplaces, crown moldings, high ceilings, wide-plank hardwood flooring, and a landscaped garden space. The nearly 6,000-square-foot interior space has 10- to 12-foot ceilings, six bedrooms, five full bathrooms and two powder rooms. Outdoor square footage totals 2,000 square feet.

The renovation to turn the property into single-family took two years, according to previous reports. "We replaced everything except the staircase," Toms told the New York Times of the home. "That, we restored. Maybe it's because of its history and holy inhabitants, but this always felt like a happy house, and its aspect on Waverly Place is such that all through the year there is sunlight in every room."

Toms could not be reached for comment. He and his wife, Caroline, an interior designer, listed the home with Rachel Glazer of Brown Harris Stevens. Their three teenage sons are heading off to boarding school, and the property is too large for the parents' needs, according to the Times.

A spokesperson for Brown Harris Stevens did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

The buyer took out an \$8.9 million mortgage. The authorized signatory of the purchasing LLC is listed as Albert Marino, who shares a name with the COO and co-founder of hedge fund Claren Road Asset Management, which recently inked a major deal for office space in the East Village. A message to Claren Road seeking comment and confirmation was not immediately returned.



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