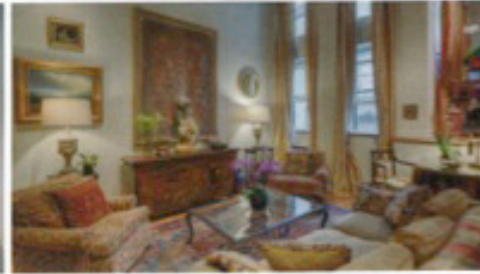


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# MANN REPORT RESIDENTIAL



What was once home to farmland and then later to St. Paul's Catholic School is now a quaint co-op building nestled in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn. One apartment in particular, located in what used to be the school's gymnasium, has recently gone on the market with Ideal Properties Group as its owners plan their move over 1,900 miles across the country to New Mexico.

The land on which 54 Verandah Place sits is centered in the historic Cobble Hill district of Brooklyn, New York. The entire plot was once farmland owned by Cornelius Heeneey, an Irish immigrant known for his work as a fur trader alongside John Jacob Astor of the well-known Astor family. Once retired from the fur industry, Heeneey dedicated his life to the Catholic Church, donating his funds and time to the development of St. Paul's Catholic Church. Built in 1836, St. Paul's still stands as the oldest church in all of Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island.

In the late 1970s a fire caused the school to close and in 1984 the building was rebuilt into co-ops. Now what used to be St. Paul's Catholic School is now a co-op building holding 27 apartments. "All the apartments in the building are different," said Ray Lackovic, owner of 54 Verandah Place. "Some look like school rooms with classroom windows and classroom doors while the others, in the main area of the school building, have wooden ceilings." Lackovic shared the apartment with his partner Eric Landgraf.

The space, which was converted into a multi-level two-bedroom, 2.5 bath duplex with 1,750 square feet, has given the couple a unique space perfect for entertaining their friends and family over the past 23 years. "We like the fact that the apartment is not ordinary by any means," said Lackovic when asked about his favorite part of the apartment. "Despite the openness, there is also a coziness that is afforded by the loft space and the separation of the bedrooms."

54 Verandah Place was the perfect home for the couple while Landgraf owned and operated his own flower shop in Yorkville. Today, the two are retired and planning for a change of pace in their recently purchased home in New Mexico. As they leave their home on 54 Verandah Place, they have made their mark on a special part of Brooklyn's history, and now its future owners will have a chance to do the same.

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