

West End

CLASSICS

Pearls



For sale this summer: two iconic John Calvin Stevens masterpieces

BY COLIN SARGENT

Like any architect worth his or her salt, John Calvin Stevens loved to invent, refine, experiment, renew. Two stunning examples of his restless genius are for sale this summer in the West End.

The Webb House, a brick Colonial Revival that is considered one of Stevens's crowning accomplishments of lovely proportion, was built at 29 Bowdoin Street in 1906. It features 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, a dining room with coffered ceilings, a gracious stair, lush gardens, and a heart-thumpingly beautiful library "of rare

From top: 161 Pine Street was a collaboration of architects John Calvin Stevens and Francis H. Fassett in 1882; Stevens designed the Webb House at 29 Bowdoin Street in 1906.





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From top: Living room at 161 Pine Street; the library at the Webb House was added “in the 1940s,” according to Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., co-author, with John Calvin Stevens II, of *John Calvin Stevens, Domestic Architecture, 1890-1930*.

Primavera paneling,” according to listing agent Mallory Garrison. (Lovely as it is, Earle G Shettleworth, Jr., of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, co-author of *John Calvin Stevens, Domestic Architecture, 1890-1930*, dates the luscious library paneling to the 1940s, “not original to the house.”) It’s listed for \$1.4 million by Legacy Properties Sotheby’s International. Monthly mortgage payments, according to the listing sheet, are ‘just’ \$6,998, so you can slide on in.

To die for: the lovely balustrade like a tiara on the slate roof. Shettleworth particularly admires “the spatial flow of the first floor here, with the large stairwell and the way the rooms radiate off the entry space. John Howard Stevens, John Calvin’s son, once told me that this was his father’s favorite house in Portland.”

Life is cozy on the corner of Pine and Vaughan as well, at the Victorian masterpiece Francis H. Fassett and the young Stevens designed at 161 Pine Street 1882. During the last recession, when the current owners snapped up this fantasy Queen Anne mansion in 1993 for an amazing \$260,000, the coup was the talk of the town. How was that for an investment? Today the 6,650-square-foot house, listed as a single home (“currently [5] fabulous rental units”) by Kim Swan of The Swan Agency Sotheby’s International Realty, is still a bargain at \$950,000. ■

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