A Landmark Treasure on Academy Hill

Stratford, Connecticut
Prominently sited in the heart of Stratford’s historic district in the renowned Academy Hill area, this circa 1745 center hall Colonial is brimming with character and distinction. Also known as the Edward Curtis House, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Just until the later years of the 20th century, the Curtis family resided in this home upholding the history of the Curtis cobbler shop which still stands on the property, now used to store garden tools and the like. The Curtis House has been lovingly preserved over the years with modest modernizations made along the way, careful not to detract from any of the home’s original character. Today, as majestic as it was in 1745, the Curtis House continues to enjoy its stature overlooking Academy Hill, basking in the afternoon sun.

Characteristic elements harkening from the era are carried throughout this landmark property. The rugged edges of the hand-hewn beams are admired by all who visit and are evidence of the simple tools with which the home was constructed. Showing a more refined aspect, are the carpenter’s signature carved “Tudor Roses” which can be found above the pilasters flanking the front door. Original double front doors with 4 bull’s eye glass windows and original leather bushings open wide to the foyer.

The home’s center hall staircase winds its way upstairs with paneled cabinet doors under, with the original butterfly hinges continue its functionality for storing cloaks and boots. Varying width pine and oak floors run throughout the home with the well-worn smoothness earned by their age. To the right of the foyer is the parlor, to the left is the dining room. Each room is generous in size and with their own original fireplaces. The parlor, with its elegant raised wall panels and moldings, remains as a most formal sitting room for guests and leads to the Keeping Room.
The formal dining room reveals more original delights from a rare plaster colonial anaglyph with an antique Czech layered glass chandelier hanging below. The fireplace is framed in English Minton tile, circa 1850 with a corner cabinet next to it. A door from the dining room leads to the kitchen side of the Keeping Room. With its hand-hewn exposed beams, the Keeping Room continues to be the heart of the home.
Spanning the back of the home is the Keeping Room with a 9-foot fireplace with two beehive ovens and exposed original beams to remind you to its early years.

The kitchen is off the Keeping Room and was updated in 2009 with granite counter, country farm sink, stainless steel appliances, soft-close cabinet doors and drawers. With all its modern appointments, the kitchen never lost its original charm. A separate pantry room and a roomy mud room offer additional storage. At the far end of the Keeping Room, a classic 32 pane picture window allows the afternoon sun to bathe the room with warmth.
The back porch was updated in 2011 to a year-round sun room accented with raised panel trim, striking plank cathedral ceiling and three walls of windows overlooking the private yard and gardens.

The center hall stairs in the foyer leads to the sleeping quarters. There is also a convenient staircase from the Keeping Room that also leads to the upstairs four bedrooms. Two of the larger bedrooms each have their own fireplace and overlook Academy Hill. Situated across the hall are two more bedrooms, likely used for summer sleeping as there is no fireplace and face the Housatonic River capturing the cooling sea breezes each evening. One of the bedrooms is currently used as an office. At the end of the hall is the laundry room, and a separate full bath. The bathroom is easily accessible by all the bedrooms and was also updated in 2011, with all new tile, new tub, and marble floor. Hand-hewn beams are found throughout the back bedrooms, along with built in cabinets and bookcases. The walk up attic provides ample storage space.
A rare opportunity to own a well-preserved piece of early American history.