

# A PLACE IN HISTORY

For the right owner, maintaining a home graced with the patina of time is both an honour and a duty, writes **Iyna Bort Caruso**.

When purchasing exquisite luxury goods – paintings, sculptures, textiles, furniture and wines – provenance matters. Similarly, when well cared for, homes enriched with the prestige of age and history can acquire the patina that only decades or centuries can bestow. With it, they take on unmatched nobility and grandeur.

A certain class of buyers places a premium on properties enhanced by time. For them, living in a historic residence is akin to living with a famous work of art. “The discerning affluent buyers in our marketplace want a sense of history, or a certain provenance, in a historic home, which doesn’t exist in a new house,” says Michael Rankin, managing partner at TTR Sotheby’s International Realty in Washington, DC.

Typically knowledgeable about architectural periods, buyers of older homes possess a keen eye for authenticity. They demand the grand scales and proportions associated with previous eras – high ceilings, formal living rooms and entrance halls, double parlours and fireplaces – while also insisting on features such as restored mouldings, handcrafted balusters and original hardware and flooring. Kitchens and bathrooms may be updated, but otherwise the home should speak of the period and environment in which it was built. “People who buy historic estates truly want to be the next stewards of an architectural masterpiece,” Rankin explains. “They cherish the responsibility of being the caretaker of the home. In fact, they consider it a privilege.” Owning a historic home can be a major endeavour, but to the right person, it is a priceless labour of love.

New York-based writer Iyna Bort Caruso has contributed to *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Newsday*, among other publications.

## VICTORIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

One of the city’s most discussed properties, this unique home has seen many transformations in its 100-plus years of existence. While the exterior of the house is designated heritage, its interior has been reimagined and splendidly rebuilt.

**\$1,393,050** Property ID:5PHT2J | sir.com  
Sotheby’s International Realty Canada  
Andrew Maxwell +1 250 213 2104





## ROUND ROCK

TEXAS

(Left) This three-storey mansion built in 1895 occupies an entire city block. Offering eighteen beautifully adorned rooms, this grand home is dotted with stunning chandeliers as well as nine fireplaces.

\$2,500,000 Property ID: TWWKTH | sothebysrealty.com  
Kuper Sotheby's International Realty  
Susan deGraffenried +1 512 699 7577

## RYE

NEW YORK

(Below) Built in the early 1900s, this historic centre-hall Colonial-style mansion located in a private gated enclave on South Manursing Island was completely renovated in 2013 and 2014. Meticulous craftsmanship has restored original features while upgrading the entire property with state-of-the-art amenities and mechanical systems.

\$6,750,000 Property ID: XNFXEM | sothebysrealty.com  
Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty  
Christy Murphy +1 914 262 7123  
Melissa Kaminsky +1 917 748 8880

