

ELITE STREET

Famed 'Home Alone' house sells for \$5.5M

Winnetka mansion continues to draw fans of 1990 film

By Bob Goldsborough
For the Chicago Tribune

The red brick Georgian Revival mansion in Winnetka made famous by the 1990 film "Home Alone" sold on Dec. 16 for \$5.5 million — slightly above its \$5.25 million asking price.

Built in 1921, the three-story, 9,126-square-foot mansion has had its own starring role on its Winnetka street now for more than three decades. A 1992 Tribune headline for a story about the home being placed on a local house walk called the mansion "a home that's never left alone." Then-owner Cynthia Abendshien told the Tribune even back then that "there are a lot of people, especially children, that will knock on the door and ask to see the house."

It's not much different today, although the mansion now is set behind a wrought iron fence and gate. On a nice day, a visitor showing up to gawk at the mansion soon will discover that there's company — other visitors there for the same purpose.

Now, the five-bedroom mansion has gotten its first new

owners in 13 years — and seven years after the current owners renovated and expanded it. The home has six bathrooms, four fireplaces, an entry staircase that famously was showcased in the film, a recently added family room with 10-foot-high coffered ceilings, French doors and a kitchen with double islands, bespoke white cabinetry, a hidden pantry, an eight-burner Wolf range, a Sub-Zero refrigerator and a built-in banquette. Other features include a second family room, a screened porch, two laundry rooms, a primary bedroom suite with a walk-in closet and a marble bathroom with dual vanities and a third-floor junior primary suite with built-ins and backyard views.

On the basement level are an indoor sport court, a movie theater and a wet bar. The mansion also has a heated and attached, three-car garage.

The sellers, Timothy and Trisha Johnson, purchased the landmark home through a land trust for nearly \$1.59 million in 2012.

Lori Nieman of @properties represented the buyers. In a statement, she said they wished to remain private.

The mansion had a \$49,770 property tax bill in the 2023 tax year.

Plans to offer co-ownership shares in Michael Jordan's former



The "Home Alone" house at 671 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, is one of the most famous movie filming locations on the North Shore. ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

mansion appear legally permissible, officials say: Plans by the new owner of basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan's former mansion to sell \$1 million co-ownership interests in the property appear legally permissible, Highland Park officials said earlier this month.

However, city officials' statements, which were made in response to concerns raised

at a City Council meeting by a resident and council candidate, came with an important caveat: While property co-ownership is perfectly legal — and even operating a property as a timeshare in Highland Park is legal — commercial ventures on residential properties are not allowed, and the city continues to mandate significant limitations on short-term rentals.

"This particular (use), if I understand it correctly ... they're dividing the ownership into different shares. Any of us can do that with our property. That's not a short-term rental — that's really not even a timeshare," Steven Elrod, Highland Park's city attorney, said at the Monday meeting in response to concerns raised by

Turn to Elite, Page 4