

O'Donnell Home, 4434 Mapel Lane, Carmichael By Sally Dunbar, Old Homes Editor

While the Fair Oaks Historical Society focuses on the old homes of Fair Oaks, I couldn't pass up sharing Carmichael's O'Donnell House with you this month, which is currently for sale for \$2.6M, on the outskirts of Fair Oaks. Because it is so close, the O'Donnell's must have had interactions with our early Fair Oaksians, so we'll consider them part of our story.



The historic home is located near Winding Way and Barrett Road on Mapel Lane, down an unobtrusive driveway - you would never know it is there. The home is advertised as having been built in the 1880's by the O'Donnell family, as an elegant 2 story Victorian home of 3,455 sf. While it is currently on 6 acres, an additional 9.4 acres was previously donated as O'Donnell Park - a newly developed community park on Charleston with a nature path, butterfly garden, and playground. While the home is not visible from

the street, it is also barely viewable standing in front of it, as the overgrown trees obstruct your view.



In 1985 Marc and Paula Turtletaub (of The Money Store) purchase the home from the O'Donnell family. The Turtletaubs completed major restoration and renovation of the home, including stained glass windows, wood and marble flooring, gilded molding, fireplaces, lighting, trim, wall paper, etc, to the tune of \$3.2 - \$3.5 million dollars. Shocking? Yes. But it gets better!



In the mid 2000's a second 4600 sf residence was added to the property, adjoining the original home. It includes a 4 story turret, a curved marble staircase, a massive stained glass dome, wall murals and a labyrinth of suites and rooms that boggles the mind. No expenses were spared to recreate the finishes, style, and craftsmanship of yesteryear. Literally no expenses were spared - the construction costs were \$9.2M! It is nearly impossible to understand how that much money was spent, but it was.



In 2015 the home was placed on the market for \$4.6 M. Sadly, the home eventually went into foreclosure, and in 2016 it has come back on the market for \$2.6 M - a veritable bargain at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ the cost of renovation!