



Home of the Week Cape Cod Classic

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Like Long Island, its fellow isthmus to the south, Cape Cod has undergone a profound cultural shift since the end of World War II. Both contained some of the earliest inhabited settlements in North America, both had a strong maritime and fishing tradition, and both are blessed, though some might say cursed, by long stretches of sandy beach and proximity to a major population center.

The result is one painfully familiar to people who have found themselves, at one point or another, inching their way forward on Friday nights on either the Long Island Expressway or Route 6, respectively. Over the years, the once-pristine shoreline has become overbuilt and the price of real estate—especially of properties on the water—has shot through the roof. Every year, more and more people arrive, and every year the people who are already there, even if they are relatively *arrivistes* themselves, grumble about how the whole place is going to hell.

Yet, the simple fact of the matter is that these places are so beautiful and so convenient that people keep putting up with the traffic, the high prices and other various and sundry irritations. Because, after all, once one is there, with the sunlight sparkling on the water, the gulls circling overhead, the sailboats luffing their jibs and the waves crashing on the sand, it is practically impossible to wish to be anywhere else.

One of the secrets to thorough enjoyment of these magical spots is isolation, or at least the impression of it. Take this classic beachfront house located on Cape Cod in the village of

Osterville. Built in 1907 and on the market for \$6.45 million, this two-story, shingle-style cottage on 1.76 acres enjoys unobstructed views of Nantucket Sound and its own private beach. For the family looking to enjoy the best that the Cape has to offer, it would be hard to imagine a home with more privacy, style and history.

To those who have never had the pleasure of experiencing Osterville, it is small and charming and home to the Wianno Club and the Wianno Yacht Club, where generations of lucky children—and not a few parents—have learned how to golf, fox trot and sail. It is part of the town of Barnstable, which also includes the villages of Hyannis, Hyannisport, Centerville, Craigville, Cotuit, Marston Mills and West Barnstable.

The house is listed with Paul Grover of Kinlin Grover Real Estate in Osterville, Mass.

Forbes Fact

For many years, the house was the summer residence of General and Mrs. James Gavin. Gavin, who died in 1990, was Commanding Officer of the 82nd Airborne Division that jumped in Normandy on D-Day, 1944. Known as the "Jumping General," he led parachute assaults on Sicily and on Salerno Bay, Italy, in 1943. Following the Normandy Invasion, Gavin was promoted to major general at age 37, the youngest major general since Gen. George Armstrong Custer. After the war, he became head of Army research and development, was ambassador to France under **President John F. Kennedy**—whose family lived nearby in Hyannisport—and authored several books, including the autobiographical *On to Berlin*, in 1978.