



Courtesy of Rafael Osona Auctions

The living room of the Wright-Hadwen mansion on Main Street. The home's complete contents will be auctioned off Saturday, with the proceeds of the sale, and the sale of the mansion, benefiting Nantucket Cottage Hospital, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and St. Mary's Church.

Mansion contents on the block

Proceeds to benefit three nonprofits

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Within many marriages, it is often said that opposites attract. John A. Lodge collected first-edition books and maritime memorabilia.

His wife, Katherine Sherman Lodge, was fond of 18th century porcelain and 18th and 19th century silver from Nantucket and England. All of the contents from the family's Green Revival Main Street mansion, including their diverse collections, will be on sale this weekend.

"From an auctioneer's point of view, this is something that happens once every 10 or 20 years, especially on Nantucket," auctioneer Rafael Osona said. "Even on the mainland, there are very few single-owner sales."

Among the notable items on the auction block Saturday is a 1766 schoolgirl sampler, crafted by Elizabeth Hadwen at the age of 12, Gail Osona said. She was the aunt of William Hadwen, a silversmith and whale-oil merchant.

"A sampler was a customary way for girls to demonstrate their embroidery skills," said Ethan Heinonen, the Osona Auctions manager and Northeast consignment coordinator.

"Her skills were better than most others which is evident in the tight lettering and fine details."

In 1847, William Hadwen



Courtesy of Rafael Osona Auctions

The Wright-Hadwen mansion at 94 Main St.

built the mansion at 94 Main St. The house is one of two side-by-side "Two Greeks" built by Hadwen for his wife Eunice Starbuck.

According to the Nantucket Preservation Trust, the house was the last true mansion constructed by the prosperous whale-oil merchant. Supposedly the house was a gift for the Hadwens' niece, Mary Swain and her husband George Washington Wright. William Hadwen retained ownership, however, and the house became known

as the Wright-Hadwen Mansion.

The Lodge family inhabited the home for 52 years. It is on the market for \$4.9 million. Great Point Properties and Lee Real Estate are co-brokering the property, Gail Osona said.

Rafael Osona said the entire contents of the home was removed over the course of three days. The contents total 500 lots. Per the homeowners' wishes, the proceeds from the sale of the house and its con-

Osona: Proceeds benefit nonprofits

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tents will be donated to Nantucket Cottage Hospital, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Rafael Osona said he expects all of the lots to be sold.

"This is one of the most important mansions," he said.

"This house was built when Nantucket was the wealthiest town in the United States. This house has a lot of features that no other mansion on Nantucket has. President (Ulysses S.) Grant was received there. No other homes have 500 to 700 items of importance worthy of an auction."

Osona said he opened the house July 26 and Aug. 3 to allow the public to preview the contents.

"We had approximately 1,000 people come through the house," he said. "People were amazed at the architecture of the house and the contents inside."

The Osonas and Lodges were friends, which makes it bittersweet to sort through the contents, Rafael said.

"The family was involved, dedicated and they loved Nantucket," he said. "I have been working at the house for so long



Courtesy of Rafael Osona Auctions

A sailor's valentine from the Lodge estate that will be on the auction block Saturday.

that the emotion has faded and I have my antiquarian hat on. We hope a lot of the contents will go to a lot of local people."

Two Nantucketers are bidding on a 1685 fore-edge book, Rafael said. He demonstrated how the pages of the book reveal a painted scene that is only visible when the book is closed and the pages are fanned.

Osona said while it is unusual to have furniture, including beds, in an auction, the American and English furniture pieces are not the showcase of the collection.

"The furniture is consequential," Rafael said. "The meat of this collection lies in the books, maps, silver and the paintings."

The featured books include a

signed, first-edition copy of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." The book is being advertised in England because it is a British publication, Osona said.

The book is part of a complete set of first-edition books by Dickens. There is also a first-edition copy of Henry David Thoreau's "Walden."

Osona said he was also impressed by the Lodges' map of Nantucket dated June 1776, one month before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

"The chart was used by mariners for navigational purposes," Heinonen said. "You don't normally see ropewalks on maps. This map shows the ropewalk as being located behind the windmill, near the graveyard today."

Ropewalks were manufacturing sites where strands of hemp were twisted to make rope, which was the strongest fiber available for ships, Heinonen said.

The auction begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 at the American Legion Hall at 21 Washington St. The contents can be previewed today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the American Legion Hall.