

Habitat: New England farmhouse with an English flair

By Katrina Koerting

BRIDGEWATER — For more than 150 years, a white farmhouse has sat on Hatch Road, named for the family who resided there for about two centuries.

When the current owners moved in about 18 years ago, the classic 2,754-square-foot New England home was given a touch of old English flair.

Dana Wiehl, one of the owners, added English gardens throughout the more than five acres of property, planting various perennials, including hydrangeas and roses.

“I grew up in England, so I really liked gardens,” she said. “When we moved in, the only flowers were plastic flowers in rusted buckets at the end of the driveway.”

Beverly Mosch, agent for the home listed at \$1,095,000, said the landscaping enhances the home.

“The gardens are exuberant,” Mosch said.

Wiehl said she and her husband were drawn to the property because of the surrounding neighborhood, and the house’s simple, elegant architecture. The home abuts dozens of acres of protected land.

“There’s a lot of natural beauty,” she said. “It’s a very unspoiled view. It’s a very bucolic place to live.”

Wiehl also added a swimming pool behind the house, which is bordered by a historic tobacco shed and two small barns.

While the tobacco shed is listed on the state’s Historic Resources Inventory, Wiehl said she is unsure what the barn actually stored. The barn is now a stable for the horses at the Wiehls’ Wayside Farm.

Wiehl said she loves living in a home



that has such a long family history. The Hatch family lived in the house until the 1970s.

The main house was built around 1849, but a stone in the basement engraved with the year “1767” hints at an even longer history.

The house has 11 rooms, including three bedrooms. A sitting room, two guest rooms, bathroom and master suite occupy the second floor. The original layout evolves into a more open floor plan toward the back, which includes the kitchen, a sitting room with fireplace and a family room filled with bookcases, all of which open onto a large deck that overlooks the gardens and pool.

“It’s a very warm, cozy house,” Wiehl said.

Mosch said the home’s four fireplaces enhance the relaxed atmosphere.

“It’s very inviting,” she said.

The Wiehls did a lot of work when they moved in, renovating the kitchen and bathrooms and rebuilding the guest house in the style of the main house. They kept a lot of the original features, including the door fixtures.

Shortly after the Wiehls finished the restoration, they received a surprise visit from an elderly woman who happened to be the last Hatch born at the house. The Hatch family lived there until the 1970s.

During the visit, the woman shared stories about growing up on the property, including watching her father drive his tractor to the hayfields, which are now woods. She also told the Wiehls she was pleased the Wiehls were taking such good care of the home.

“I like knowing the house has been here so long and has such a family history,” Wiehl said.