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Historic Orange Equestrian Estate with Ties to Local Publishing Lists for \$5.5 Million

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A notable estate in the equestrian-friendly neighborhood of Orange Park Acres has hit the market for \$5.499 million. The 2-acre property offers both luxury living and horse facilities, and it carries a legacy that stretches back to the city's early publishing roots.

The gated property, located in the city of Orange, features a 3,276-square-foot colonial-style home that blends traditional charm with modern upgrades. Built in 1965, the residence was originally owned by Robin Fairbairn, a lawyer and the grandson of William O. Hart, the

founder of the Orange Daily News. Hart's contributions to the community were recognized with the naming of Hart Park in his honor.

According to historical archives, The Register described a lively housewarming at the newly constructed home in December 1965. Robin and his wife, Rossie, welcomed 120 guests to celebrate their move into the two-story colonial residence. Just four years later, in 1969, the home changed ownership when a local surgeon and his wife purchased it for \$88,000.

Recent real estate records show the home was last sold in July 2024 for \$3.3 million, more than 11 percent above its asking price of \$2.985 million. The recent renovations and prime location likely contributed to the premium sale.

Maintaining its classic colonial structure, the home opens to a grand entryway and sweeping staircase. Inside, the layout includes five bedrooms and five bathrooms, with natural stone finishes and designer details throughout. The kitchen, equipped with high-end appliances, connects seamlessly with the dining room and features a pass-through window to the backyard barbecue space. In the living room, a fireplace and custom cabinetry add warmth and functionality.

The primary suite also includes its own fireplace, a walk-in shower fitted with dual shower heads, and a freestanding tub for added comfort. The home's updated design balances timeless elegance with present-day conveniences.

Outside, the estate is fully equipped for equestrian use. The grounds include a seven-stall barn complete with a tack and hay room, a lighted full-size riding arena, and a round pen ideal for training. These facilities make it well-suited for horse enthusiasts or those in the competitive riding community.

Additional outdoor features include a swimming pool, a large patio, and a gazebo, which provide relaxation or entertaining space. A detached two-car garage offers flexibility, with space that could serve as an office, home gym, or creative studio. The property also comes with architectural plans for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), which provides future potential for expansion or multi-generational living.

Karen Bunnell of Compass, a brokerage known for handling luxury and historically significant properties in Southern California, holds the listing.

This estate provides upscale amenities and equestrian appeal and reflects a piece of Orange’s cultural and journalistic past, making it a rare find in today’s market.