

# Murder Inc. mobster's former Fort Lee mansion back on auction block

Kathleen Lynn, *The Record* Published 3:50 p.m. ET March 31, 2016

*(Photo: Courtesy of Guernsey's auctioneers)*

CONNECTTWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE

The Fort Lee home built by Murder Inc. killer Albert Anastasia is heading for the auction block — again.

The Mediterranean-style home on Bluff Road, with New York skyline views, was scheduled to be auctioned last December. But that sale was delayed when the home's owner, Arthur Imperatore, the founder of a North Bergen trucking company and the NY Waterway ferry, decided it should be spruced up first.

Now the auction is scheduled for June 8, according to Arlan Ettinger of the New York auction company Guernsey's.

**Photos:** [A look inside Murder Inc. mobster's former Fort Lee mansion](#)

The home, at 75 Bluff Road, was built in 1947 by Albert Anastasia, the cold-blooded head of the New York mob's Murder Inc. He had decided to leave New York City when authorities there cracked down on organized crime. Anastasia lived in the home for about a decade — running a gambling parlor at Fort Lee's Riviera nightclub — before he was gunned down in a barber's chair in a New York City hotel in 1957. No one was ever charged in that crime.

After Anastasia's death, the estate was purchased by comedian Buddy Hackett at a Bergen County sheriff's auction in 1958. Imperatore bought the property in 1970. His wife, from whom he was separated, lived in the home until her recent death.

According to Ettinger, the home has had an extensive paint job, both inside and out; carpets and floor tiles have been replaced and the roof and windows have been repaired.

"It needed freshening up," he said. For example, two bedrooms were painted in vivid tones of turquoise and shocking pink; those have been repainted in more neutral colors. And an older tile floor in the foyer has been replaced with hardwood.

**Related:** [Murder Inc. mobster's former Fort Lee mansion on the auction block](#)

Just as important, Ettinger said, architects and engineers have drawn up plans showing how the 1.3-acre property — prime real estate on the Palisades — could be subdivided to make room for another house.

The home's vintage kitchen and baths have not been replaced. Ettinger called them "museum-quality examples of mid-20th-century design."

"Whether they're going to please everyone's taste, that's for them to decide," Ettinger said.

The earlier scheduled auction called for a minimum bid of \$5.5 million. Ettinger said that for now, the minimum remains \$5.5 million, although he said that could change. The property is assessed by the town at \$3.75 million, with annual taxes topping \$82,000.