

HOMES & GARDENS

Crime scene real estate: It's spooky what sellers don't have to tell you

Updated Jan 19, 2016;
Posted Oct 29, 2015

19

561
shares

By **Janet Eastman**, jeastman@oregonian.com

The Oregonian/OregonLive

More share options:

If you're new to a neighborhood, beware. Real estate listings don't reveal all. Oregon doesn't require real estate agents to say that someone was violently murdered inside a house or even investigate if meth was cooked there.


Other incidents deemed "not material facts" to a residential transaction include if a registered sex offender lives nearby, the land or a neighboring parcel was the site of a suicide or crime, or that an adjacent property has been determined to be not fit for use due to health issues such as contamination as well as prostitution, gambling and unauthorized delivery, manufacture or possession of a controlled substance.

If a seller doesn't disclose it and an agent doesn't see it, you could end up with a home with a stained reputation. And

Consider these:

Convicted serial killer Susan Monica's 20-acre farm in Southern Oregon's Rogue River is not yet for sale. Monica is holding onto the land even though she's serving a minimum of 50 years for killing, chopping up and feeding two men to her pigs because, as she told the court, "the pigs were hungry."

Testimony at her trial earlier this year said she watched her handyman being disemboweled and struggling for his life in the pig pen. She said she shot him to put him out of his misery.

The judge called her a "cold-blooded killer," according to reporter Mark Freeman of the Medford Mail Tribune. The defense attorney explained that Monica "just doesn't have a good filter." 1 

But look at Homefact.com and the property at 9184 W. Evans.

Inching up the state, the house where a 38-year-old son was arrested for killing his parents and, after the smell got to him, stuffing them into a large chest-style freezer, is also not yet for sale.

Three days after shooting his parents, police say the son talked to an appliance salesman about needing a "two-body" freezer. The son then wrapped his parents in packing material and taped a plastic bag holding their passports onto their bodies, according to the Associated Press.

Left behind in the house for police to find were thousands of dollars in cash, notes by the son about the deaths, Powerball tickets that he purchased the day after the murders, prescription and illegal drugs, and shotguns, handguns and rifles, according to AP.

A dead cat was wrapped in duct tape and stored in a backyard shed.

But again, look at the online real estate databases and you see a Google Image street view of a pastel yellow ranch house shaded by two trees and a nicely maintained lawn. The generic description for the three-bedroom house at 513 Nicholas Dr. in Springfield is that it's near a Dutch Bros. coffee, Outback Steakhouse and a few parks.

The photo is quite a contrast to the grisly image of yellow police tape wrapped around the front door in June. The son later killed himself in jail.

Closer to home, the Oregonian's Steve Mayes wrote about the worst house in Clackamas County filled with drug addicts and piles of trash.

Photos taken by Mayes in June show an RV with windows blown out in the backyard. Like the garage, the RV was stuffed with garbage since trash hadn't been picked up in years.


Hypodermic needles and syringes littered the ground behind the house. A Gatorade bottle in a room was packed with used needles, wrote Mayes, who refers to the sarcastically nicknamed Risley Hotel as "a squalid dive filled with drug addicts, rats and garbage," a "pesthole that plagued a peaceful Oak Grove neighborhood" and a place where sex offenders, drug sellers and other unsavory transients lived in a warren of makeshift rooms.

Clackamas County deputies had gone to the house 240 times

The June day deputies evicted residents and boarded up the house was called Kick-out day.

It's not a permanent solution.

"You can't arrest your way out of these problems. The people you arrest go right back and are a problem for the neighbors," said Clackamas County Deputy District Attorney Bill Stewart, who helped coordinate the crackdown.

But look at [3915 SE Risley Ave. on Redfin](#) and you see a Google photo of a modest, yellow house. Sure, the lawn looks like it needs TLC, but nothing in the description alludes to its most recent past: "Nearby restaurants include Foxy's Restaurant and The Grove Restaurant & Bar. 3915 SE Risley Ave is near Bunnell Park, Risley Park and Rocky Island Park." ¹ 

In Oregon, a seller doesn't have to reveal everything. Still, search an address on the internet and you might be able to

Other states have hard sells too. Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer's boyhood home in Ohio has been on and off the market. Says the most recent real estate agent with a shrug, "the home never killed anyone."

Still, the facts are Dahmer was 18 and living here when he buried parts of his dismembered first victim under the porch. At one point, PETA wanted to turn the home into a vegan restaurant but zoning wouldn't allow it. The most recent asking price was \$295,000, according to TopTenRealEstateDeals.com.

Even the Pennsylvania house where scenes from the movie "Silence of the Lambs" was filmed is a tricky sale.

This 1910 Princess Anne house is where the fictional Agent Clarice Starling pulled her gun out after Jame Gumb answered the front door and fled out the dining room.

If you believed the real estate listing, Gumb, aka Buffalo Bill, would appreciate that this house has 2,400 square feet of living space and a full attic, full basement and oversized garage that can shelter four vehicles and a workshop.

The 1.76-acre property also has an in-ground pool and a vintage caboose used as a pool house. It's listed for \$285,000 but thepreferredrealty.com is having trouble selling it.

And then there are haunted houses.

The price for a corner apartment in Manhattan's Dakota Building, where John Lennon was killed in 1980, has been reduced from \$19.5 million to \$14.5 million.

The building's French Renaissance, German Gothic and English Victorian architecture exterior was filmed as the home of Mia Farrow's devil-mama character in the horror film "Rosemary's Baby."

TopTenRealEstateDeals.com calls the building one of the scariest building in New York City with a long history of ghosts and hauntings. Visible are gargoyles and a mysterious Indian figure that watches over the building's main entrance.

Do haunted houses really exist?

