

THE WAY LIFE COULD BE

## Vinalhaven's Only Historic Stone House is For Sale

The property, a 24-acre peninsula, is listed for \$1.65 million.

By Willy Blackmore

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Granite hauled out of the quarries on Vinalhaven has been used to build countless buildings and other structures over the centuries. Stone blocks shipped down from the island to New York City were famously used to construct the Brooklyn Bridge, and the island's quarries also supplied stones used in building the city's Cathedral of St. John the Divine, too. The only thing that wasn't really built with island stone was island houses: there is only one historic home on Vinalhaven built from local stone, the Murch House, and it's currently on the market for the first time ever.

Built in 1855 by William Murch for his son Isaac, the Murch House has all the amenities you'd expect from a dwelling built 175 years ago for subsistence farmers and fishermen: not many. But what you'd be missing out in terms of electricity and modern heating systems are made up for in impossible to replicate history and charm found in the granite-block Cape with ocean views of Winter Harbor and Seal Bay. The last time the home had a year-round occupant was in 2012, which considering the context is pretty recently. There is an old barn on the property as well, along with a newer camp where you don't have to live quite like it's 1855 — that building has electricity.

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