

DELAWARE

Fact Check: Joe Biden no longer owns DuPont mansion featured in Eric Trump tweet

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Joe Biden may own two Delaware homes — his primary estate in pricey Greenville and a 6-bedroom vacation house near Cape Henlopen State Park — but he no longer resides in the 10,000+ square-foot Wilmington colonial Eric Trump showed earlier this week in a tweet that raised questions about the Democratic presidential candidate's finances.

Trump shared an aerial photo of the 5-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom house at 6 Montchan Drive on Oct. 17, tweeting, "The salary of a U.S. Senator is \$174,000 per year. This is Joe Biden's house.... seems legit," followed by an eye roll emoji.

USA TODAY FACT CHECK: Joe Biden no longer owns house highlighted by Eric Trump in online posts

Trump's claim is false: Biden no longer owns that home and Biden has not made a senator's salary in more than a decade, having not served in Congress as a senator since becoming vice president in 2009.

Biden purchased the former DuPont mansion for \$185,000 in the mid-1970s after learning it was set for demolition. He made extensive repairs on the home, which he nicknamed "The Station" and used as his headquarters during his 1988 presidential campaign.

2008 BIDEN ARCHIVES: Analysis: How Biden made a large profit on the sale of his house (News Journal archives)

BIDEN'S BEACH HOUSE: Rehoboth Beach area braces for the Biden family

An account of Biden's purchase of his former home at 6 Montchan Drive was included in Richard Ben Cramer's 1988 book on presidential candidates, "What It Takes."

"It's the kind of place a thousand Italian guys died building — hand-carved doorways, a curving hand-carved grand staircase that Clark Gable could have carried a girl down, a library fit for a Carnegie, or Bernard Baruch, someone like that," Cramer wrote. "Joe found it one night, a couple of years after he became a senator.

"He was driving around, like he did back then. He was snooping around Greenville, streets of his dreams, when he saw it, all overgrown, boarded up. Some developer was going to knock it down. ... He got in the developer's face and started talking — fast," Cramer wrote.

Biden married his wife, Jill Biden, in 1977, and the couple raised three children in the home. In 1996, they put it on the market for \$1.2 million — and that's exactly what John R. Cochran III, chief marketing officer at the MNBA credit card bank and a longtime political benefactor, paid for it.

The home is currently valued at \$1,643,478, according to Redfin.

WHERE'S BIDEN: Top 10 places to bump into Joe Biden in Delaware

Biden made his most recent domicile purchase on a North Shores beach home in 2017 for \$2,744,001, according to the last sold price via Redfin. Since ending his tenure as vice president, Biden and his wife have earned more than \$15 million from public speaking, teaching and writing.

Trump's tweet comes weeks after the New York Times reported Trump paid \$750 in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017, heightening critics' suspicions about Trump's finances and financial dealings.

According to a Business Insider story from September, President Donald Trump owns more than \$122 million in personal real estate in the United States and the West Indies, a total of eight properties.

The New York Times revealed in September that Trump has hundreds of millions of dollars in debt, along with an audit battle with the Internal Revenue Service that may cause him to owe more than \$100 million.

Reporters Cris Barrish and Devon Link contributed to this story.

