In 1988, Arthur creator Marc Brown bought a Martha's Vineyard estate for $700,000; after 37 years and writing half the books there, he sold it for $6.4 million

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Martha's Vineyard estate (Image Credit: Instagram/ @wsjrealestate)

Arthur creator Marc Brown and his wife, artist Laurene "Laurie" Krasny Brown, have sold their longtime Martha's Vineyard estate for $6.4 million after spending decades restoring the property. As reported by The Wall Street Journal, the 7.8-acre Vineyard Haven property sold after being listed for $6.9 million in 2025 and later reduced to $6.495 million before going under contract in June 2026. The couple spent years and millions of dollars renovating the estate, which became both a family retreat and an important part of Brown's creative life.

A 37-year connection

Brown and Laurie first bought the property in 1988 for $700,000, according to property records cited by PEOPLE. They went on to own the estate for 37 years, gradually restoring its historic buildings while retaining its character. The property dates to the 1730s and was once part of a much larger 225-acre farm.

The estate became more than a vacation home for the couple. It was also a place where their artistic work could flourish. Brown, who created the aardvark character Arthur and built the popular children's book series around him, used the property as a creative retreat away from the couple's primary residence in New York City. The connection to Arthur is particularly significant. Brown told The Wall Street Journal that he wrote about half of the Arthur books at the Martha's Vineyard property.

That detail gives the estate a unique place in the history of the children's series. While millions of readers know Arthur as the fictional aardvark at the centre of the books and television series, a substantial part of the character's literary history was created at this private island retreat.

Martha's Vineyard estate sold for $6.4 million (Image Credit: Instagram/ @wsjrealestate)

Years of restoration

The Browns did not leave the historic estate unchanged. Over more than three decades, they invested considerable time and money restoring and renovating the property. The couple spent millions of dollars on the work, with Brown and Laurie approaching the property from an artistic perspective. The result is a collection of spaces that combine the property's historic character with additions designed for modern family life and creative work. According to PEOPLE, the main residence is a renovated antique farmhouse with five bedrooms and four bathrooms. The property also includes a saltwater swimming pool, a two-bedroom pool house and a carriage house with an artist studio above a three-car garage. There are two artist studios on the estate in total.

For the Browns, those creative spaces were an important part of the property's identity. Their work as artists shaped how they approached the restoration; the couple viewed the setting almost like a composition that could continually be refined.

From $700,000 to $6.4 million

The property's final sale price represents a significant increase from the $700,000 the Browns paid in 1988. However, the difference should be viewed alongside the substantial investment they made in restoring the estate over the years. The couple initially put the property on the market in July 2025 for $6.9 million. The asking price was later reduced to $6.495 million before the property went into contract in June 2026. It ultimately sold for $6.4 million.

The sale also marks a change in direction for the couple. Rather than simply leaving Martha's Vineyard, they are turning their attention to another restoration project. PEOPLE reported that Brown and Laurie recently purchased a home in New York's Hudson Valley that they plan to restore.

A home with a creative legacy

For nearly four decades, the Martha's Vineyard estate served several purposes for Brown and his wife. It was a vacation home, a restoration project and a place where their artistic careers developed alongside one another. Its connection to Arthur, however, may be what makes the property particularly memorable. Half of the books featuring the beloved aardvark were written there, meaning the estate became part of the creative story behind a series that went on to become a major children's franchise.

Now the property has a new owner, bringing Brown's 37-year chapter on Martha's Vineyard to an end. The $6.4 million sale marks the end of decades spent restoring the historic home, where Brown also wrote about half of the *Arthur* books. The couple are now turning their attention to another historic property in New York's Hudson Valley, where they plan to begin a new restoration project.

What are your views on this? Tell us in the comments section below.