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## CIA wants to sell its 'safe house'

By JURATE KAZICKAS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking for a spacious mansion with an interesting little bit of history on Maryland's fashionable Eastern Shore?

Then how about an eight-bedroom home with 79 acres on the banks of the Choptank River that was used by the Central Intelligence Agency to hide U-2 pilot Gary Powers?

The General Services Administration, which handles sales of all federal government property, placed ads in newspapers from Washington to Philadelphia last week for the "manor house," with its four-car garage, 4000 feet of "rugged shoreline" located "a convenient 1½ hour drive from Baltimore and Washington."

More than 360 requests for invitations for bids have already been received, said Robert Irwin of GSA's Real Property Division, "and more are coming in."

Fifteen people are being shown the house Saturday afternoon, Irwin said, and an employee of the CIA will be their guide.

But CIA officials are not giving out any details about the history of the "safe house," which the agency acquired in 1951.

Powers stayed there in 1962 after his release by the Soviet Union, where he had been shot down as a spy. Once the news broke about the interesting tenant, the house was no longer felt to be CIA "safe." It was later used as a "conference facility," according to Dale Peterson of the CIA. It has been unoccupied for the last three years.

Irwin would not estimate the worth of the house, but homes nearby are selling for nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

"The house needs a little renovation," said Irwin, "but structurally it's very sound."

However, a Talbot County real estate agent familiar with the property said it would cost nearly half a million dollars to fix up that "rugged shoreline."

"It's in real bad shape," said the agent, who asked not to be identified. "The dock is down, trees have fallen into the water, it's a mess. The shoreline is highly exposed. Whoever buys it will have to spend about \$500,000 for bulk heading and rip-rapping. Then the property would be overvalued and you'd never get your money back."

The State of Maryland had sent an application to take over the property for wildlife conservation but changed its mind last September.