



HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

To Identify and Honor Great Neck's Most Notable Homes



200 GRIST MILL ROAD, GREAT NECK, NY

The home at 200 Grist Mill Lane in the Village of Saddle Rock is significant for its location, which faces Udall's Pond and is adjacent to the historic Saddle Rock Grist Mill (previously known as Udall's Mill or the Allen Mill). The grist mill was constructed from equipment brought over from England as well as from local building material, and was operating before 1700. It ran continuously until early 1940, producing meal and flour made from corn and wheat grown by local farmers. The sloop *James Udall* and other boats came right up to its door and loaded excess grain and flour, taking it to the city to be sold. The names of some of the ships that utilized the mill were carved into the timbers of the mill and are still visible today.

The home at 200 Grist Mill Lane is long on history but short on reliable documentation. Nassau County lists the house as built in 1790, while another document puts the official date as 1928. One real estate sales record says the house was 100 years old in 1951, another says it was built in 1921, while a third gives the date as 1928. *This Is Great Neck*, a history of the community published by the League of Women Voters in 1975, indicates that part of the old Allen homestead can be seen at 220 Grist Mill Lane. The book's description of that house, as a "marvelous rambling building graced with scalloped shingles," almost certainly describes the structure at 200 Grist Mill Lane, but no historical verification is provided. The current owners, who enlarged and remodeled the house, report details such as tongue-and-groove paneling, a stone basement, and seashells in the foundation that would indicate the presence of older construction. There is an old cell and water well in the basement, and a brick smoke house in the rear yard that had a double-sided fireplace, but was so old that the fireplace turned to dust.



Louise Udall Skidmore Eldridge inherited the mill and surrounding area from her wealthy family. She married Roswell Eldridge, and their 400-acre estate, known as Redcote, became the Village of Saddle Rock in 1911 when the Eldridges applied for incorporation. It was the first village on the Great Neck Peninsula, and Roswell Eldridge, was its first mayor. Most of the 77 residents who lived on the estate in 1911 were either related to the Eldridges or worked for them. The Eldridges were community activists, founding the Great Neck Library, the Park District and the first arts center. Louise succeeded Roswell as mayor after he died, and in 1926 was officially recognized as the first female mayor in the State of New York.

Because the Village of Saddle Rock was essentially the private property of Louise Udall Skidmore Eldridge and her husband Roswell Eldridge until her death in 1947, it is difficult to locate any information about 200 Grist Mill Lane in sources such as the U.S.

census. A 1949 deed transfers the property, with the buildings thereon erected, by Louise U. Eldridge's executors to James Crosby. At that time Grist Mill Lane was a

private drive. According to real estate records, the owner in 1951 was Robert A. Curry, who sold the property to Jay and Reva Kramer in 1953. David Schwartz and Lori Beth Horowitz purchased the property from the Kramers in 1996.

