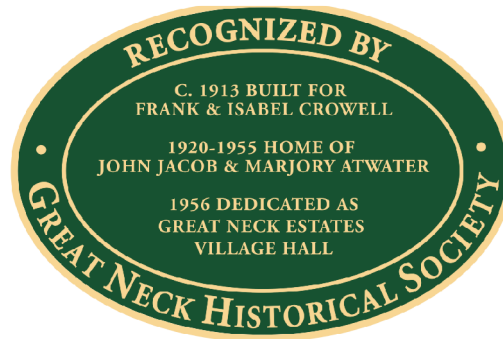


## HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

### To Identify and Honor Great Neck's Most Notable Homes



## ATWATER PLAZA, GREAT NECK, NY

The elegant home at 4 Gateway Drive, now Atwater Plaza, was constructed c. 1913 for Frank and Isabel C. Crowell. Frank was a Great Neck realtor who actively promoted sales in the McKnight development, which became incorporated in 1911 as the Village of Great Neck Estates. Great Neck Estates is the second oldest of the nine villages on the Great Neck peninsula.

The house is a fine example of Dutch Colonial Revival style, built during a period when many architects looked to earlier styles for their inspiration. The design was by George J. Hardway, a Cleveland architect who moved to New York in 1905. He lived in Great Neck where he had an office in the Playhouse building for his business, Great Neck's Better Homes. He also had an office on Fifth Avenue in New York City. He was the architect for at least one other Great Neck Estates home, on the west side of Gateway Drive.

In 1920 the Crowell home was sold to John Jacob Atwater and his wife Marjory, who came here to participate in the family business of wholesale coal and shipping. During their thirty-five years here John served as secretary of the Great Neck Association, an organization that tried to bring some order to the chaotic building boom on the peninsula during the 1920s. In 1955 the couple



returned to Pennsylvania where they owned coal mines. A portrait of an Atwater ancestor now hangs in the former dining room of the house. The furniture in the room is original to Atwater.

That year the mayor of Great Neck Estates persuaded the Atwaters to sell their house to the Village at a substantially-reduced rate and agreed to have the area surrounding the house named Atwater Plaza. In 1956 the

building was dedicated as Great Neck Estates Village Hall.

In the late 1980s, a plan by the Village Trustees to replace the building with an office-type structure was successfully defeated by a group of residents. Great Neck Estates Village Hall was remodeled to its present state in 1991.