



HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

To Identify and Honor Great Neck's Most Notable Homes



50 POND ROAD, GREAT NECK, NY

The home at 50 Pond Road was built in 1909, a date inscribed in the cornerstone, for E.M. Scott, who has been described as “one of the most successful manufacturers in the world.” At that time the property was 62 acres, with close to 2,000 feet of frontage on the Long Island Sound. The same numbers were recorded by North Hempstead in 1925. A 1932 map indicates the property as 16 acres, a 1947 map as 9 acres, and today, it is under two acres. The property now has 350 feet of shoreline, with trees shading the elegant home, swimming pool, pool cabana and detached two-car garage. The dock was destroyed in a storm.



RESIDENCE OF E. M. SCOTT, GREAT NECK, N. Y.



Reception Hall – 1950



Study – 1950

The house is constructed of granite block, with walls close to three feet thick and ceilings a minimum of 12 feet. Inside, the architect created a grand reception hall with a beamed ceiling, columns and a large entry fireplace. The oak-paneled dining room also has a beamed ceiling, built-in cupboards, and tooled leather paneling. Still clearly visible in the spacious dining room are the initials “S,” incised into the four corners. One of two kitchens was located on the first floor, as well as a study, sun room with a tile floor, and two of the master bedroom suites, both with fireplaces. There is a total of seven fireplaces and seven bathrooms.

The handsome dark wood central staircase rises and splits, each side leading to the second floor's three master bedrooms, two with French fireplaces and baths, plus four servants' bedrooms (two with water and a bath). The third floor full attic has three finished rooms, two of them cedar-lined for storage. The basement had a second kitchen connected to the floor above by a dumbwaiter; a fireproof wine room; a marble-walled three-tub laundry; a toilet; and furnace and coal rooms.

The property was purchased in 1925 by August Heckscher (1848–1941), a financier/industrialist and philanthropist. Heckscher had a summer home in Huntington, where he was a generous benefactor, but moved to Great Neck to be closer to the city. He named his estate *Feu Follet**, and while living at 50 Pond Road swam nearly every morning in Long Island Sound. Heckscher was a real estate operator, mine executive, financier and philanthropist.



In Huntington he funded both the Heckscher Museum of Art and Heckscher State Park; in New York City he created Heckscher Playground in Central Park. He also established the Heckscher Foundation for Children and worked to eliminate slums in New York City.

Mrs. Mae Van Brunt Howes owned the house in 1950. In 1977 Barbara and Herbert Haar, president of the Fairmoor coat and suit company, sold it to the present owners, Dr. Edward and Mahboubeh Soufer.

*Translation: will-o'-the-wisp (Early Latin: 'foolish fire'). A folk belief in English and European folklore; a ghostly, flickering light seen by travelers at night, especially over marshes. It is said to recede if approached, drawing travelers away from safe paths. Scientifically, it is methane (marsh gas) that bubbles out of marshes; in contact with air it can spontaneously catch fire.