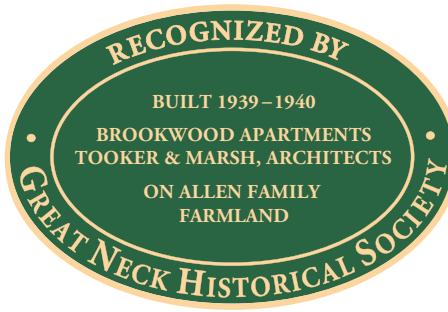


HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

To Identify and Honor Great Neck's Most Notable Homes



90 KNIGHTSBIDGE ROAD, GREAT NECK, NY

The Brookwood Apartments were built on Great Neck Plaza's last undeveloped land, previously part of the Allen family farm. The site was densely wooded and enhanced by a lovely winding brook running along the property, inspiring the owners to name the housing units Brookwood Apartments. The buildings covered just 40 percent of the one-acre lot, and was "surrounded by fine homes and magnificent private estates in one of the finest sections of Long Island's famed North Shore." The location at the corner of Clent Road made it convenient to the Long Island Railroad, with stores within walking distance and a riding stable nearby.

The architects, E. Post Tooker and Reginald E. Marsh, were primarily known for designing schools, including Manhasset High School and Munsey Park School. The team also designed the U.S. Post Office in Hempstead, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Bear Mountain Inn, built in 1915.

The Brookwood's red brick, four-story building was designed in a modified "H" shape, providing windows on every façade. The entrance bay is topped with a large classical pediment and a prominent cornice that unifies the façade. It is flanked on either side by identical verandas, and each veranda is supported by four columns and topped with a balustrade. Decorative brickwork imitates corner quoins. The entrance is set off from the street in a landscaped garden court with a brick walkway.

When the building opened in 1940 it had 56 apartments of two, two-and-a-half, three, four, and five rooms in seven different layouts. Because the building remained a rental property for close to fifty years, the apartments are largely intact and include many original features. An attempt to convert the Brookwood to a cooperative failed in the early 1980s due to a lack of interest among tenants in purchasing the units. It became a private housing cooperative in the 1990s. Throughout its history, the board of directors has been committed to preserving the building's architectural integrity and maintaining historical accuracy.

The original facilities included two elevators, an incinerator, a common recreation area with a nursery, a serving pantry and kitchen, garage space for thirty cars, a children's playground, and several outdoor fireplaces. During the Cold War the Brookwood was a designated fallout shelter. It suffered a major fire in 1971.

The first residents were professionals and young couples who were eager to move from the city to a place "in the country." The Brookwood Apartments was cited in a New York Times article as part of the early suburbanization movement that began before World War II and grew quickly during the post-war years.

