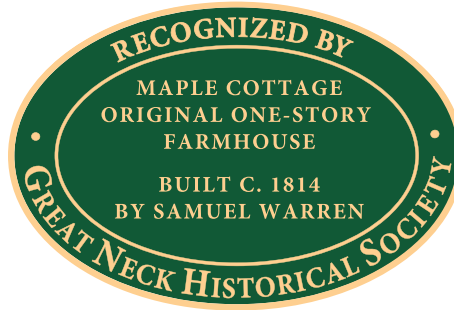


## HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

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



## 42 FARM LANE, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.

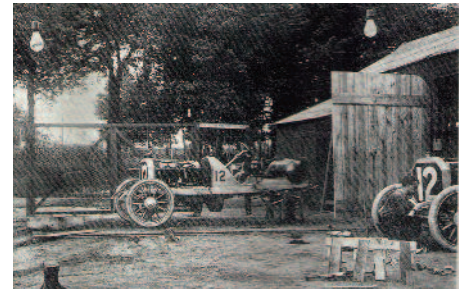
A one-story farmhouse was built c. 1814 by Sam Warren on large property that later became Farm Lane. Originally, it was simply two rooms plus a fireplace in the basement. There was no foundation; the house was built on boulders. Early beams in the dining room ceiling are marked with roman numerals, and square nails are visible in the beams and floor boards. A second story was added years later.

John Dannelly of Great Neck, a descendant on his mother's side of Charles Carroll of Maryland, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, purchased the house after his marriage to Catherine in 1877. Their wedding was one the first held in the newly-built St. Aloysius Church in northern Great Neck. John owned a landscape business and worked with A.T. Stewart to lay out the model community of Garden City. After moving in, the young couple named their house Maple Cottage. Over the years, they made the house more comfortable for themselves and their 13 children. John built a large copper water tank in the attic (to improve water pressure), and his house was the first in Great Neck to have indoor plumbing and electric lights. A letter from the Dannelly's granddaughter, Betty Weststrom, is filled with her memories of floral bouquets in all the rooms, a beautiful rose garden and gigantic trees. In addition to the main cottage, the Dannelly Farm had a guest cottage,



carriage house, a stable with a tack room, and a barn, plus a greenhouse. The caretaker/gardener had his own cottage.

The house welcomed a host of guests during the 1905 and 1906 Vanderbilt Cup Races, held on Nassau County public roads including Lakeville Road. The Locomobile team from Bridgeport made the house their headquarters for three weeks during practice runs, and the family moved into the cottage. Members of the Automobile Club of America stayed in the house as well. The Locomobile racer came in third in the 1905 race. At a formal dinner in the house at the end of the event, little china replica cars were used as placecard holders. (The dining room table had room to seat 24 on beautifully carved Hepplewhite chairs.) In a letter to her uncle, Agnes Irene, a member of the Dannelly family, wrote, "We simply had a time as we never had before." It was an occasion she would never forget.



John Dannelly also loved raising horses and racing trotters. He gave local horseback riders permission to cross his farm, which was part of a hunt trail. The riders, who were called "pinks," wore high hats. The entire family enjoyed skating on Lake Success.

The Dannelly's had illustrious neighbors. Stage star Eddie Cantor bought 20 acres from John in 1929, and William K. Vanderbilt's nearby estate and farm covered nearly half of present-day Lake Success. Maple Cottage remained in the Dannelly family for over 70 years, until the 1950s. Betty Weststrom's letter describes the fate of Eddie Cantor's house: "[He] built a lovely home there...but then had it blown up when he didn't want to or couldn't pay the taxes due. My Grandmother was devastated, and then he sold it for a development!" The daughter of Eddie Cantor's chauffeur, Mrs. Kavanaugh, who always loved Maple Cottage, purchased the house and was living there in 1977. The present owners, Sarah and Scott Gorenstein, became the proud owners of the historic Maple Cottage in December 2000.