



HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM To Identify and Honor Great Neck's Most Notable Homes



SUNSET ROAD, KINGS POINT, NY

The house at 16 Sunset Road was built in 1848 and remodelled in 1887–1889 by the firm of McKim, Mead and White, one of the most prestigious architectural firms of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their nearly one thousand commissions included a redesign of the White House and construction of New York City's original Pennsylvania Station. Stanford White joined the firm in 1879 and became the head of residential design, applying his visionary genius to create splendid homes for notable Americans including the Vanderbilts,



Whitneys, Paynes, and Astors.

McKim, Mead and White has been credited with approximately 40 individual commissions on Long Island, including a home for Edward Winslow, a partner in an investment banking firm and vice president of a real estate company. Although his address is listed as West Shore Road, street names changed and it seems that the house at 16 Sunset Road was his home.

In 1965 the house was updated by another prominent architect, George Nemeny, who was named one of the country's ten leading architects by the American Institute of Architects in the 1950s and 60s. His nomination as a fellow of the institute in 1967 was sponsored by Marcel Breuer, Philip Johnson, Edward D. Stone and Max O. Urbahn, among others. An article in *The New York Times* (July 31, 1966) describes the changes in detail. "The exterior of this Stanford White house, white clapboard with black trim, has been restored in the spirit of the Greek Revival original.

Leaded glass windows found in the garage were substituted for some of the double-hung windows, the shutters were thinned out and the entrance portico rebuilt. A hole was placed in the center of the roof to flood the center of the house with light. The only hint that this house was built before 1900 is the arched doorway in the hall. The moldings were removed from the pillars and part of one wall was opened from floor to ceiling to frame a spectacular view of Long Land Sound.... [Architect Nemeny] tore down walls to make the rooms larger, punched open the dark interior with a skylight (a technique that Stanford White often employed) and made the most of the magnificent water view with window walls. The modern architectural detailing on the second floor is a foil for the graceful arched doorway with leaded glass inserts on the first floor. A butler's pantry, spare bedroom and the old kitchen were opened up to make the present spacious kitchen.... The porch, once a dark corridor with narrow, broken-up windows, is now a glass-walled solarium with a view of the grounds and the water."

The present owners of 16 Sunset Road acquired the house in 1976.