

Lands End

LOCUST VALLEY

32-ACRE WATERFRONT ESTATE OVERLOOKING THE LONG ISLAND SOUND





Introducing the extraordinary Lands' End Manor, a thirty-two-acre "Gold Coast" waterfront estate in Locust Valley that has been home to only two families since 1929. During the "Roaring Twenties," a farm and farmhouse built circa 1850 was transformed by Walker & Gillette, the most renowned architectural firm of the 20th century, into the grand Georgian Colonial mansion that stands today. Offering incomparable serenity and seclusion, the majestic property encompasses exquisite and historic gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, lush woodlands, bucolic horse pastures, and a working farm framed by beautiful and expansive views of the Long Island Sound. A five-stall stable, six-bedroom guest house, caretaker cottages, greenhouse, pool and Georgian pool house complete this rare and magnificent estate located less than one hour from New York City. Nearby, rich entertainment and recreational resources abound in this North Shore enclave deemed the "New Hamptons" by those in the know, including golf courses, yacht clubs, beaches, museum mansions, charming village boutiques, upscale designer shops and fine dining.



The Manor House

Stately sited on a rise overlooking the Long Island Sound, the 13,000 square foot manor house will enthrall you with its exquisitely maintained interior offering bright and airy, oversized rooms, elegant original moldings, hardwood floors, and marble fireplaces. The stunning entrance foyer greets guests with marble floors and impressive hand-painted murals. A graceful spiral staircase winds its way to the second floor beneath a huge, sensational domed skylight. Beyond the foyer, a few steps descend into the ballroom-sized living room with fifteen-foot ceilings, an elegant fireplace, oversized dentil crown molding, wainscoting, original peg-and-plank oak floors, a large bay window, and several sets of tall French doors leading to the gardens and lawn. A banquet-sized dining room boasts a magnificent hand-carved fireplace with meticulous molding, a large bay window and built-in china cabinets. Designed for gracious entertaining, an expansive eat-in kitchen is equipped to handle grand affairs, outdoor parties, or intimate breakfasts. An adjoining family room provides a restful place to relax, while a generous study with rich fielded-paneling, built-in bookcases, an inviting fireplace, and bay window overlooks the distant pool. Summer evening breezes and sunsets over the water may be enjoyed from the cheerful screened porch that converts to a winter sunroom. A sunny solarium also located off the dining room features a beautiful tile floor, built-in cabinetry and exquisite views overlooking the rose garden. The home's seven bedrooms with en suite baths, four of which also include fireplaces, provide ample room for family and guests, while the spacious and luxurious master suite on the second floor is designed for pampering on a royal scale. The romantic retreat with fireplace is adjacent to two inviting dressing rooms, a sun room, two sitting rooms complete with marble fireplaces, and two luxurious baths. The private two-bedroom staff apartment may be discreetly accessed from the second floor corridor or from a separate outdoor entrance.





The Property

The thirty-two-acre estate encompasses an array of beautiful settings. Guests are welcomed through stately iron gates, along a winding driveway with Old-English-style streetlights, to the large front courtyard of this impressive Georgian manor house. To the north, a long sloping lawn leads to a sparkling gunite swimming pool, spa, and pool house with dressing rooms, baths, party room, kitchen, laundry, and pump house – all recently renovated - and continues down to a historic, award-winning gazebo overlooking the nature preserve and waterfront. A breathtaking English garden off the living room adorned with a myriad of flowers is awash with color and overlooks the distant waters of the Long Island Sound beyond century-old specimen trees and the same expansive lawns. A wine-grape arbor, accented with roses, begins a meandering pathway leading to the magnificent walled rose garden, complete with statuary and a fountain. Both gardens are on the Historic Gardens Registry at the Smithsonian Institute. About 250-feet away, the property takes on a serene bucolic ambiance with a pebble stoned pathway leading to a generous vegetable garden, herb and spice garden, and a cutting garden to provide fresh flowers for the mansion.

In addition, there are various fruit trees and grape vines, from which the owners produce Lands' End wine. Here, a driveway leading to the rear entrance, passes by split-rail-fenced pastures and winds around the garden to a large working greenhouse with adjoining office, bathroom, and basement. Beyond the greenhouse, the drive reaches the stables featuring a comfortable paneled lounge/tack room with bathroom, an exquisite and meticulously maintained five-stall stable area fit for thoroughbreds, plus an attached four-car garage, a one-bedroom and bath groomsman cottage and a two-bedroom, two-bath caretaker cottage – all under one roof. A short stroll away, a charming two-story guest “cottage,” built in the 1930's, offers ample and comfortable space for guests with six bedrooms, five baths, a library, playroom, dining room, living room, kitchen, basement, and flagstone patio. The northern expanse of the property is covered with groves of trees obscuring various outbuildings including a barn and several garages. One will delight in taking pleasant walks or horseback rides through orchards, past specimen trees (one of which won an award at the 1936 World's Fair), sweeping lawns, and through wooded areas where one may perhaps catch a glimpse of golfers on the neighboring Creek Club course or yachts passing on the Sound. For a quieter moment, the Japanese “Reflection Garden” offers an ideal escape to ponder and muse. Whatever your mood, Lands' End is sure to please.

The History

Originally the Cravath farm with farmhouse, built circa 1885, was bought by George Galt Bourne, son of Frederick G. Bourne, president of Singer Manufacturing Company, in the early Twentieth Century for a summer getaway and a place for his new wife, Massachusetts socialite, Helen Whitney, to raise her horses. An avid equestrian, she later married, Harvey Dow Gibson, a very wealthy and well-known businessman, who at 34, was the youngest man to be a New York bank president when he became the President of Manufacturer's Hanover Trust, the precursor of today's Citibank. Gibson served as the President of the Red Cross in France during World War I, receiving the country's highest honor, the Order National de la Légion D'Honneur, and in England during World War II earning many more honors. In 1926, Gibson hired the famous firm of Walker & Gillette to transform the Lands' End farmhouse into a magnificent Georgian masterpiece with palatial rooms fit for entertaining grand parties for which the Gibson's had a reputation of throwing. In fact, frequent house guests were Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose observations of their time spent on the "Gold Coast" while at Lands' End inspired Fitzgerald's novel, "The Great Gatsby." Many mansions have been referred to as "Great Gatsby" homes, but Lands' End Manor could very well be the first to truly earn that honor. Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed Central Park in New York City, designed the seemingly endless grounds at Lands' End and its many spectacular gardens.

The Gibson's lived in several homes depending upon the season. These included Lands' End Manor, a house on Park Avenue in the City, and one in Conway, New Hampshire, where Gibson grew up and later developed a nearby mountain ski lodge by importing European skiing experts to teach Americans, especially his stepdaughter, Whitney, to ski better. Whitney was an exceptionally beautiful woman quite sought after in New York social circles. But she left that behind to become an actress, which caused a bit of a scandal back in New York. Her fame was short lived as she married a successful Hollywood Director named Stanton Griffis and they moved to London when Griffis became Ambassador to England. For a brief time, she lived with her husband at Lands' End Manor. For years, Gibson commuted to Wall Street by means of his yacht, which he kept docked 600-feet away at the edge of the lawn.





For convenience, he housed the boat crew at the mansion in a two-bedroom apartment built specifically for them. Of the 140 acres, The Gibson's generously donated a large portion of the coastal area to be preserved as a wildlife sanctuary, and the creek area to The Creek Club, which Gibson founded along with several of his neighbors and friends such as J.P. Morgan Jr., Vincent Astor, Marshall Field, George Baker, Herbert Pratt, and Harry Payne Whitney. After Gibson's death in 1950, Helen held onto the remaining land until her death in 1974. In 1982, their daughter, Whitney Bourne, had a well-known land planner sell the property to the current owners. They bought the 24-acre property, and for the next decade or so bought up all the adjoining parcels containing the outbuildings, guest quarters, pastures, and gardens. Like the Gibson's, they love entertaining, yachting, and horses and have maintained and enhanced all parts of the property while keeping its "Great Gatsby" heritage and ambiance.



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Owned by only two families since its transformation from farm to estate, over 120 years ago, Lands' End Manor now presents the rare opportunity for a new owner to define the next chapter in the history of this storied estate.





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