



**Archives of American Gardens
Image SG-NY657_MAR001
OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE
REPORT**

Date Created: 2024-07-30

Archives of American Gardens Image SG-NY657_MAR001

Open Source Investigation Report

Date of start: 2024-07-27

Date of end: 2024-07-31

Analyst(s): Tori Cheung

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SG-NY657_MAR001 is located in Red Spring Lane, Glen Cove, New York. There was no accompanying street number found. The name of the estate is called 'Myhome' and it was built for a financier named Francis Sydney Smithers. The landscape architect for the garden was Ellen Biddle Shipman.

Supporting Evidence

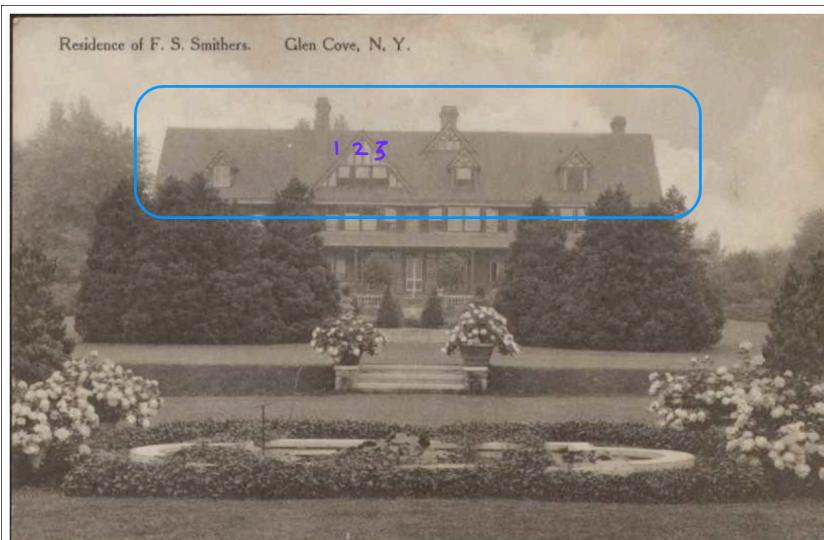
The screenshot shows a web page from Old Long Island. At the top, there is a banner with the text "DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF LONG ISLAND'S 'GOLD COAST' ESTATES AND OTHER THINGS OLD." Below the banner, the date "FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009" is displayed. The main title is "Myhome". Below the title is a photograph of a large, multi-story house with a prominent gabled roof and a well-manicured lawn and garden in front. The caption under the photo reads "Residence of F. S. Smithers Glen Cove, N.Y.". To the right of the photo, there is a sidebar with the heading "MY DEAL" and a small profile picture. Below the profile picture, the text "VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE" is visible. Further down the sidebar, there is a section titled "THE ESTATES" with the text: "The core of *Old Long Island* is based around [the estates](#) (over 500 at the moment). Click [HERE](#) for all of the demolished estates featured on *Old Long Island* (over 175 at the moment)." At the bottom of the sidebar, another link is provided: "Click [HERE](#) to visit my other blog *Beyond the Gilded Age*."

'Myhome' was built for [Francis S. Smithers](#), founder and partner of the investment banking firm of [F.S. Smithers & Co.](#), on Red Spring Lane in Glen Cove. [Ellen Biddle Shipman](#) was responsible for the landscaping, but other than that not much is known on the house. Smithers died in 1919.

Source: <http://www.oldlongisland.com/2009/02/myhome.html>



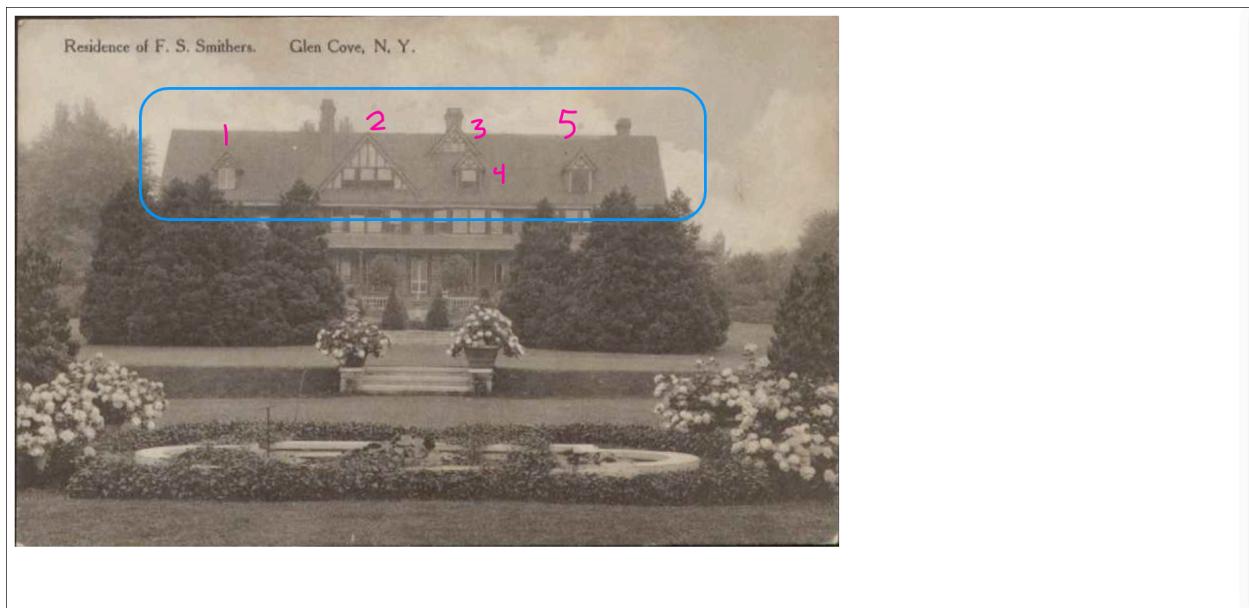
Source: Screenshot of photo found in <https://n2t.net/ark:/65665/kb6512d4af1-7a5a-497b-9cb5-00ba7c16bc78>



Source: Screenshot of photo found in <http://www.oldlongisland.com/2009/02/myhome.html>



Source: Screenshot of photo found in <https://n2t.net/ark:/65665/kb6512d4af1-7a5a-497b-9cb5-00ba7c16bc78>



Source: Screenshot of photo found in <http://www.oldlongisland.com/2009/02/myhome.html>

| | |
|--|--|
| Smithers Francis S. (1848-1919) | |
| Occupation(s): | financier - a founder and partner with his brother, F. S. Smithers and Co. (investment banking firm); president, Bank of Montreal; director, American Bank Note Co. |
| | capitalist - director, Detroit Edison Co.; director, United Railways of San Francisco |
| Marriage(s): | M/1 - Louisa M. Bancroft (d. 1895) M/2 - 1898-1919 - Mabel Stevens (1869-1952) |
| Listed in <i>Long Island Society Register</i> , 1929: yes | |
| Address: | Red Spring Lane, Glen Cove |
| Acreage / map sources: | 1927 map illegible; not on 1932 or 1946 maps |
| Name of estate: | <i>Myhome</i> |
| Year of construction: | |
| Style of architecture: | Colonial Revival |
| Architect(s): | |
| Landscape architect(s): | Ellen Biddle Shipman (for F. S. Smithers) |
| House extant: unconfirmed | |
| Historical notes: | <p>The <i>Long Island Society Register</i>, 1929 lists Mabel Stevens Smithers as residing at <i>Myhome</i> on Red Springs Lane, Glen Cove.</p> <p>Francis S. Smithers's brother Christopher Dunkin Smithers Sr. resided at <i>Dunrobin</i> in Lattingtown.</p> |
|  | |
| rear facade, c. 1917 | |

VERIFICATION PROCESS

a. Finding the first piece of evidence (2024-07-27)

1.1 An image search of SG-NY657_MAR001 on Google Images yielded a promising lead (see Figure 1).

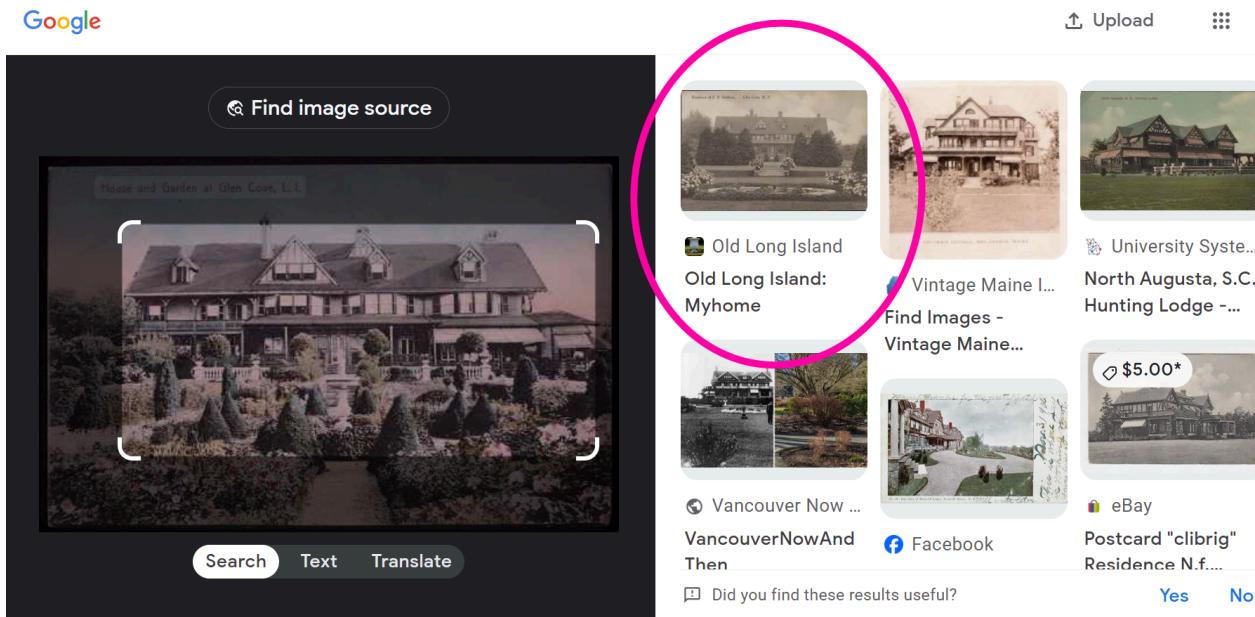


Figure 1: Results from Google Images after uploading SG-NY657_MAR001

1.2 The search result linked to:

<http://www.oldlongisland.com/2009/02/myhome.html> (see Figure 2).

A screenshot of a webpage from "Old Long Island". The header features the text "DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF LONG ISLAND'S 'GOLD COAST' ESTATES AND OTHER THINGS OLD.". Below the header is a date "FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009". The main content area is titled "Myhome" and contains a large thumbnail image of a house with a lawn and trees. Below the thumbnail is a caption: "'Myhome' was built for Francis S. Smithers, founder and partner of the investment banking firm of F.S. Smithers & Co., on Red Spring Lane in Glen Cove. Ellen Biddle Shipman was responsible for the landscaping, but other than that not much is known on the house. Smithers died in 1919." At the bottom of the main content area are "POSTED BY ZACH L. AT 8:28 AM" and "LABELS: ELLEN BIDDLE SHIPMAN, ESTATE, GLEN COVE". To the right of the main content is a sidebar titled "MY DEAL" featuring a profile picture and a link to "VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE". Below the sidebar is a section titled "THE ESTATES" with text about the core of "Old Long Island". Further down are links to "Contact Me" and a "Pinterest" button.

Figure 2: Screenshot of the webpage showcasing another photo of the property in SG-NY657_MAR001

1.3 Upon closer examination, the photo exhibited identical attributes to SG-NY657_MAR001 (see Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6).



Figure 3: In SG-NY657_MAR001 the biggest dormer has three windows

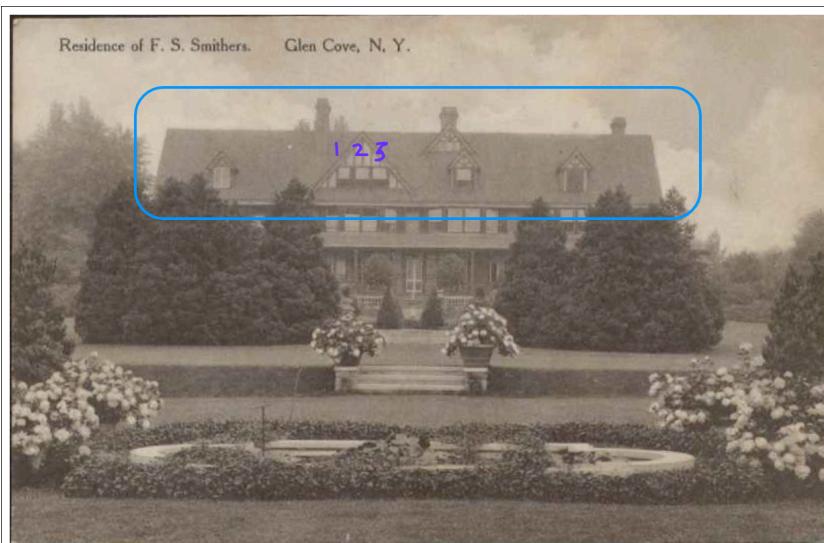


Figure 4: In this photo the biggest dormer also has three windows



Figure 5: In SG-NY657_MAR001 there are five dormers

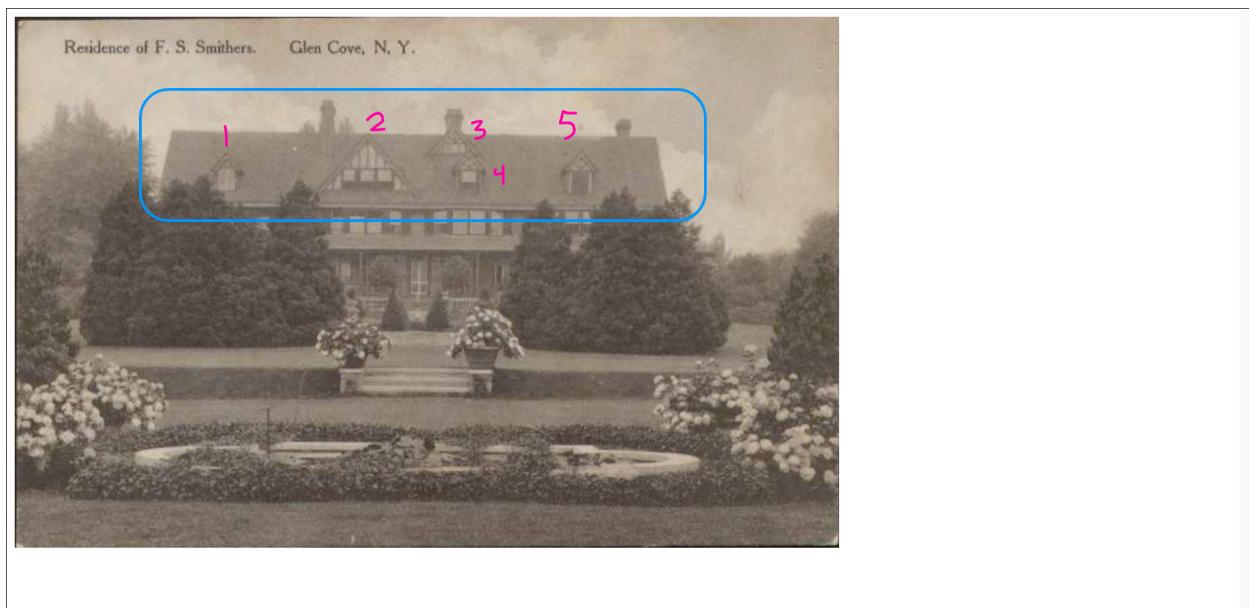


Figure 6: In this photo there are also five dormers

1.4 While the house was partially obscured, the roof was clearly visible, displaying the same number of windows on the largest dormer (Figure 4) and an identical number of dormers overall (Figure 5).

1.5 The architectural style of both houses appeared to be consistent.

1.6 Therefore, the image found appears to be of the same property as SG-NY657_MAR001, albeit from a more distant perspective.

1.7 However, locating an alternative photograph of the same property does not

equal complete verification.

1.8 At this stage, a specific location remained unidentified and/or unconfirmed.

1.9 The webpage (<http://www.oldlongisland.com/2009/02/myhome.html>) provided several potential leads, including a street name: Red Spring Lane.

1.10 Searches for "Francis S. Smithers," "Francis S. Smithers Red Spring Lane Glen Cove," and "My Home Red Spring Lane Glen Cove" hit dead ends, all being either overly specific or not precise enough.

1.11 An extensive search using Google Street View of Red Spring Lane road failed to locate a property matching the exterior of SG-NY657_MAR001.

1.12 An email was sent to the creator of *oldlongisland.com* to find the source(s) they used to reference the address of the property.

b. Finding the second piece of evidence (2024-07-29)

2.1 The responding email revealed that the Red Spring Lane 'Myhome' photo originated from one of Ray Spinzia's publications.

2.2 A Google search for "Ray Spinzia" led to a website titled 'Spinzia Long Island Estates' (<https://spinzialongislandestates.com>) (see Figure 7).

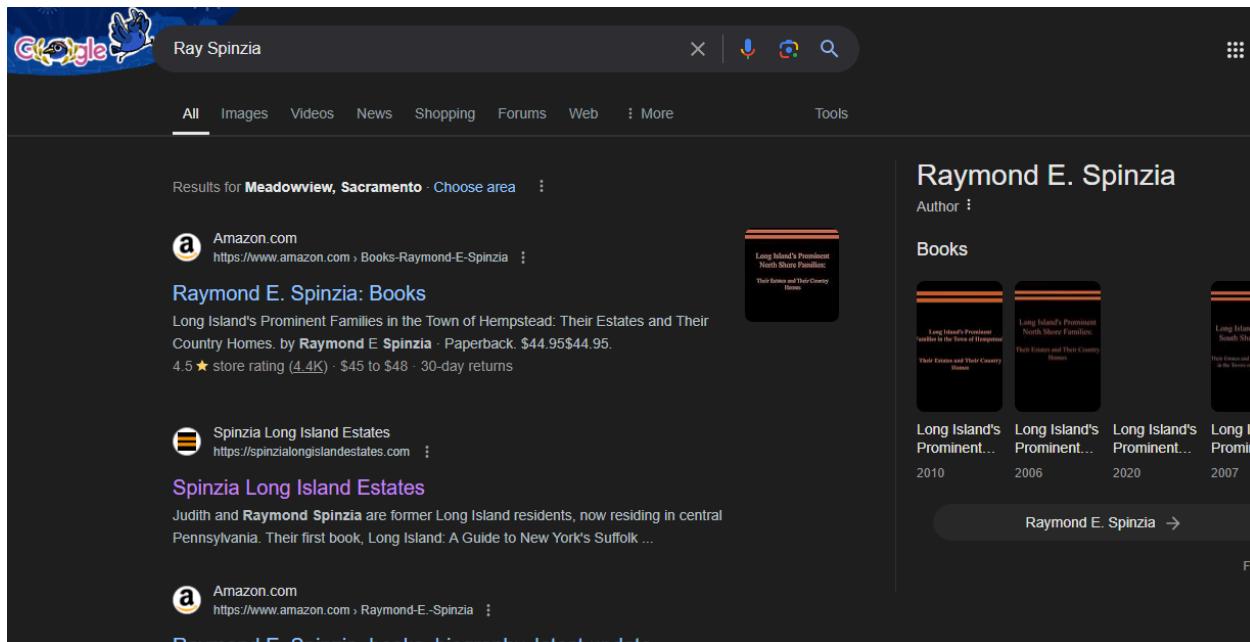


Figure 7: Google results from searching "Ray Spinzia"

2.3 The 'North Shore Sample' PDF, found in the website,

(<https://spinzialongislandestates.com/longislandsample.pdf>) was examined for references to "Smithers." (see Figure 8)

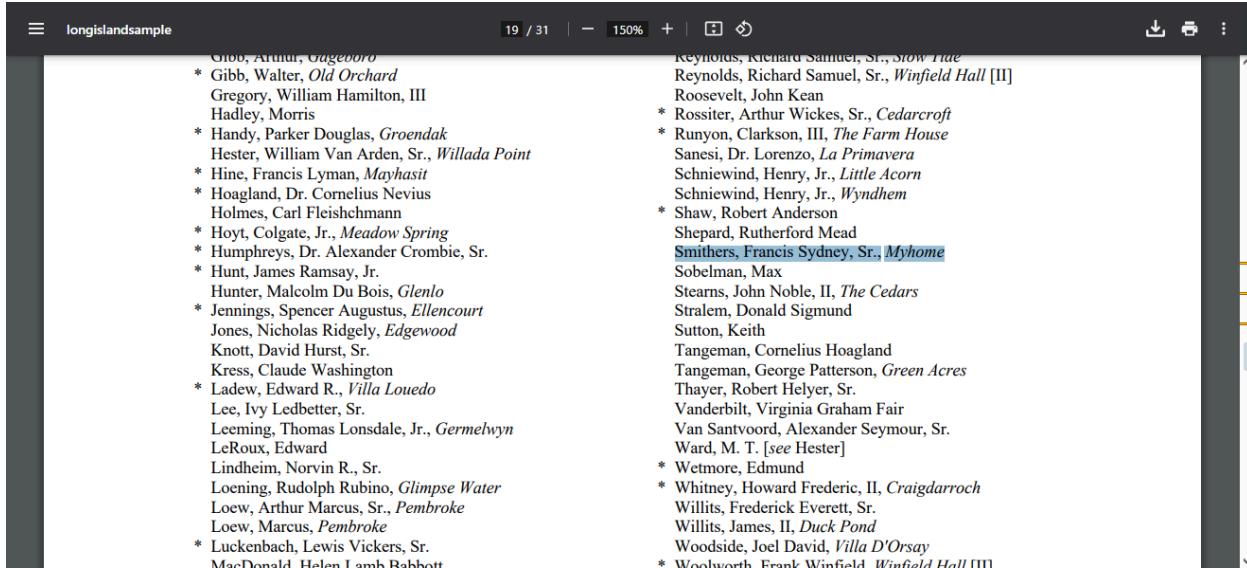


Figure 8: Entry of Smithers, Francis Sydney, Sr., *Myhome* found in North Shore Sample PDF

2.4 An entry under Glen Cove for "Smithers, Francis Sydney, Sr., *Myhome*" was identified, establishing a connection between Spinzia's work and the *oldlongisland.com* blog post (see Figure 9).

The screenshot shows a Google Books search results page for 'Smithers'. A pink circle highlights the entry for 'Smithers, Francis S. (1848-1919)'. The page number is 741. The search results show several entries for different Smithers individuals, including Francis Sydney Smithers, who is associated with 'Myhome' in Glen Cove.

Figure 9: Using the 'Search Inside' feature to find all entries of Smithers

2.5 While this corroborates the blog post's credibility, it does not sufficiently confirm that SG-NY657_MAR001 is located in Red Spring Lane, Glen Cove, New York.

2.6 Archive.org provided access to *Long Island: A Guide to New York's Suffolk and Nassau Counties* by Raymond E. Spinzia and Judith A. Spinzia (https://archive.org/details/longislandspro0000spin_g2b0).

2.7 Page 740 of this publication contains an entry for both Smithers, Francis Sydney, Sr. and the property 'Myhome,' listing the address as Red Spring Lane, Glen Cove (see Figure 10).

Smithers Francis S. (1848-1919)

Occupation(s): financier - a founder and partner with his brother, F. S. **Smithers** and Co.
(investment banking firm);
president, Bank of Montreal;
director, American Bank Note Co.

capitalist - director, Detroit Edison Co.;
director, United Railways of San Francisco

Marriage(s): M/1 - Louisa M. Bancroft (d. 1895)
M/2 - 1898-1919 - Mabel Stevens (1869-1952)

Listed in *Long Island Society Register*, 1929: yes

Address: Red Spring Lane, Glen Cove

Acreage / map sources: 1927 map illegible; not on 1932 or 1946 maps

Name of estate: Myhome

Year of construction:

Style of architecture: Colonial Revival

Architect(s): Ellen Biddle Shipman

Landscape architect(s): (for F. S. **Smithers**)

House extant: unconfirmed

Historical notes:

The *Long Island Society Register*, 1929 lists Mabel Stevens **Smithers** as residing at Myhome on Red Springs Lane, Glen Cove.

Francis S. Smithers's brother Christopher Dunkin **Smithers** Sr. resided at Dunrobin in Lattingtown.

rear facade, c. 1917

Navigation: < 1 / 44 >

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Figure 10: Smithers, Francis, S. entry

CONCLUSION

Two key pieces of evidence support the location of SG-NY657_MAR001 at Red Spring Lane, Glen Cove, New York:

1. Photographic Comparison

A photograph in *oldlongisland.com* depicts the same property as SG-NY657_MAR001, albeit from a different perspective. Verification was conducted through an architectural comparison between the two images, revealing consistent features and design elements.

2. Historical Documentation

The book *Long Island: A Guide to New York's Suffolk and Nassau Counties* by Raymond E. Spinzia and Judith A. Spinzia contains a record of the property. This entry includes:

- Family ownership details
- The property's address
- A reproduction of the photograph found on *oldlongisland.com*

This documentation corroborates the information initially discovered on the *oldlongisland.com* website, providing independent validation of the property's address and ownership history.

The combination of these two sources—a visual match from an alternative perspective and a historical record—provides corroborating evidence for the location of the property depicted in SG-NY657_MAR001.

RECOMMENDATIONS

'Myhome' is listed in the *Long Island Society Register, 1929*, according to the book *Long Island: A Guide to New York's Suffolk and Nassau Counties*. This resource can be used to further verify the garden's location, if needed. While further online investigation into *Long Island Society Register, 1929* resulted in dead ends, this may require access to archives and collections that are not readily available to online public searches.

Moreover, exploring Ellen Biddle Shipman's career could possibly yield results that provide more context or verification of this garden.

POST-ANALYSIS CAVEATS

On 2024-07-31, I realized a slight gap in part of my analysis which was that I failed to search for "Francis S. Smithers Glen Cove". In doing so, I discovered more background information about Francis S. Smithers. He owned paintings that were later donated to the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian by his wife, Mabel Stevens Smithers, who inherited the collection. I did not include this information into the section of the verification process because it was not relevant to the analysis.

Links to the art pieces:

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20221210032459/https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.195010.html#provenance>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20221225015053/https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.178273.html#provenance>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20230202144339/https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/stable-114097>

APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Tools Used

- Google Images (<https://images.google.com>)
- Google search engine (<https://www.google.com>)

Appendix 2: Relevant URLs

Please note that some links are ones taken from archive.org so that they will be still accessible if the URL or webpage changes or gets taken down.

- <https://n2t.net/ark:/65665/kb6512d4af1-7a5a-497b-9cb5-00ba7c16bc78>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240521162611/http://www.oldlongisland.com/2009/02/myhome.html>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240723164337/https://spinzialongislandestates.com/>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240127143549/http://spinzialongislandestates.com/longislandsample.pdf>
- https://archive.org/details/longislandsromi0000spin_g2b0