



GLEN COVE MANSION

HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Around the turn-of-the-last-century, scores of wealthy Americans seeking a retreat from the urban industrial life built grand estates for themselves. These magnificent mansions were surrounded by acres of landscape grounds. Often modeled after English country houses, many of these properties were the work of America's foremost architects and landscape designers. These estates are an important part of Long Island's architectural and cultural heritage, but only a few remain today. Post war inflation, the advent of property and income taxes, the expense of maintenance and large staffs, and the need for higher density use of prime land brought about the destruction of large estates during the past few years.

Originally known as The Manor, the 1910, fifty-five acre estate of John and Ruth Pratt was considered by *Country Life Magazine* as one of the "best twelve country houses in America." Designed by the noted architect Charles Adams Platt, (1861-1933) the brick Georgian mansion set in pastoral surroundings was an integral part of the many glamorous estates, which once comprised Long Island's Gold Coast.

Entering the stately two-story high columned entrance, visitors are greeted by an elegant massive double staircase, imported paneling and antique fixtures that impart a feeling of being enveloped by a wonderful bygone era.

The elegant lifestyle is still maintained because Glen Cove Mansion treats their guests in the same warm tradition set forth by the Pratt family. John Pratt, who passed away in 1927, was an attorney and an executive with Standard Oil Company. Ruth Baker Pratt was the first Republican Congresswoman from the state of New York. She represented New York City's "Silk Stocking" district. Ruth and her family maintained the estate until her death in 1965.

Since 1967, additions and conservation under skilled supervision have succeeded in creating one of the premier hotel and conference centers in the country. Since 1985, Glen Cove Mansion Hotel and Conference Center has been recognized numerous times as one of the “Ten Best Conference Centers in the United States” by the readers of *Corporate Meetings and Incentives* magazine, and has also been the recipient of *Corporate Incentive & Travel’s* annual “Award of Excellence” annually since 1985. In addition, Glen Cove Mansion Hotel and Conference Center was recently awarded its first “Gold Key” award and “Gold Platter” award for excellence in food and beverage by *Meetings & Conventions* magazine, one of the top meeting trade publications nationally..

Former bedrooms of the mansion are now designed and equipped for meetings. Servant’s rooms have been modified into a large Pub and The Garden Terrace accommodates 300 guests for a formal dinner or gala party. The excellent dining facilities and continental cuisine greatly enhance any gathering. A courteous, professional staff is always on hand to ensure any visit will be to each guest’s complete satisfaction. In 1984, Glen Cove Mansion further expanded the hotel with the addition of the Recreation and Fitness Center, and 68 deluxe guestrooms bringing the total number of rooms to 200. A day of learning can easily be enhanced by the use of the Fitness Center, indoor and outdoor pools, two indoor racquetball courts, four lighted tennis courts, whirlpool, saunas and steam rooms. A complete environment for Living, Learning and Leisure™ has been produced to effectively support business conferences and social gatherings.

Movie producers have also discovered over the years that the mansion is a delightful location to use as the setting for their films. Pictures such as *North by Northwest*, *Sabrina* and *Where’s Poppa*, were partially filmed here with a great success. The ambiance has also proven to be magnificent setting for weddings and social affairs.

The scenic area surrounding Glen Cove is delightfully scattered with former Pratt estates. John Pratt’s brothers were also his neighbors. George developed “Killenworth” a gothic Tudor mansion, which was previously the Russian consulate quarters. Frederic’s stone mansion “Poplar Hill” is now a home for the aged. Herbert’s waterfront home, “The Braes”, is now the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, and Harold’s Neo-Georgian mansion is Nassau County’s “Welwyn” preserve.

John Pratt believed that there should be “no inharmonious note to throw the whole out of tune.” His mansion and gardens formed an aesthetically well-balanced country estate. Fortunately, the property is preserved with much of the original charm and integrity that uniquely bridges the gap between great architecture, nature and time. The entire complex greets all of its visitors with a warm feeling that says, “Welcome to Glen Cove Mansion.”