

## **Historical Society Bestows A.T. Stewart Awards**

The Garden City Historical Society announces the presentation of its Second Annual A.T. Stewart Awards to Neal and Peggy Griffin of 15 Rockaway Avenue, in the residential category, and to the property owners at 57-65 Hilton Avenue, in the non-residential category.

The award was established in 2006 at the urging of Society President Brian Pinnola, who thought that such an award might encourage property owners and tenants who construct new or renovate existing residential and non-residential properties to keep them within the historic nature and fabric of A.T. Stewart's vision for Garden City. The awards also apply to those properties that have been maintained and cared for by their owners or tenant with the same consideration. At a ceremony at the Garden City Historical Society Museum, the winners were presented with bronze plaques inscribed with their property's address, year of construction, and the year the award was presented

The Griffin home on Rockaway Avenue, built in 1872 at the cost of \$18,000, is one of nine original "Apostle" houses in Garden City. These homes were built on 250-foot-square lots, contained three floors of living space, had brick-filled walls for installation and a mansard roof. The Griffin's home was designed by John Kellum, a builder and architect from Hempstead who was a partner in the firm of Kirby & Kellum in New York City, the famed architects of the New York Court House. Kellum also designed A.T. Stewart's home, called the "Marble Palace," which was located on Fifth Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street. The Griffin's home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2004, they completed several renovations, which included installation of central heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

57-65 Hilton Avenue, built in 1873, is Garden City's first retail building. Designed by H. L'Hommedieu, the original two-story building contained five stores, including a pharmacy, butcher, general merchant and a barber. A third floor and pillared entrance were subsequently added in 1919. The Garden City Bank opened there in 1923, and the building was once the home of Hubbell Real Estate.

The Society's inaugural A.T. Stewart Award winners were, in the residential category, 109 Ninth Street, the home of Sean and Jane McCooley, and in the non-residential category, 501 Franklin Avenue, the corporate offices of Bookspan.

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