

Suydam Homestead (c. 1730)

One Fort Salonga Road, Centerport, NY

The Suydam Homestead is a vernacular farmhouse representing the 18th and 19th century construction period. It is located in the unincorporated village of Centerport at the crossroads of Route 25A and Centerport Road. No other documented 18th century house survives in the vicinity, which historically was sparsely populated by seafaring people and farmers.



The Homestead is unique because it is one of the few remaining 18th century houses on Long Island which was lived in continuously by one family and their descendants from the late 1700s until 1957. Records show that the Suydams were a representative Long Island working class family who supported themselves by farming, oystering, boat building and carpentry. They were active in school and church affairs, fought in national wars, and were solid citizens with a respected place in the community.

In 1987, the Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association succeeded in renting the house with an option to buy when the proper permits were obtained to subdivide the property. Closing took place in January of 1989. By this time the Suydam Homestead had also been placed on the Local, State and National Registers of Historical Places.

Before the Suydam descendants sold the house, documents, letters, recollections, furniture, etc. had been given to various family members. Ethel Suydam Witting, vitally interested in her family's history, was the keeper of many family documents and memorabilia. As soon as the Historical Association obtained the Homestead, Ethel started donating papers that were valuable to the collection. Through her efforts, other members of the family also became involved, thus ensuring preservation, public access, and interpretation of these historical materials documenting the lives of a typical working class family from the late-18th to the mid-20th Century.

(Information taken from materials in the Museum Archives.)

For more information contact the
Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association
P.O. Box 354, Greenlawn, NY 11740
Phone & Fax: (631) 754-1180, E-mail gcha-info@usa.net