APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Landmark Preservation Commission
Incorporated Village of Freeport
46 North Ocean Avenue
Freeport, NY 11520

Application No.________
Sec. 55 Block 475 Lot 14

NAME: Northwest Civic Association c/o Marcia Rochester (Recording Secretary)

DATE: April 2013

ADDRESS: 143 Wallace Street TELEPHONE: 516-223-4547

ORGANIZATION (if any): Civic Association

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAMES(S): Stone House; Gabriel Heatter House; Olive Post Smith House; 92 West Lena Avenue

2. COUNTY: Nassau County TOWN/CITY: Town of Hempstead VILLAGE: Village of Freeport

3. STREET LOCATION: 92 West Lena Avenue

4. OWNERSHIP: Private

5. PRESENT OWNER: Omar Persaud and Ferzeena Alli Persaud ADDRESS: N/A

6. USE: Private residence

7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
   Exterior visible from public road: Yes

DESCRIPTION:

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: Fieldstone; leaded glass windows; slate roof

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS: N/A

10. CONDITION: Fair

11. INTEGRITY: Original site
12. PHOTO: see attachments 1 and 2

13. MAP: see attachment 1

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: Owner/developer; see attachment 2

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY: Beautiful landscaping

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING: Residential

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
   This home is not located in a designated historic district

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF THE BUILDING AND SITE:
   The home has two large fireplaces; leaded glass windows; wood beams; oak doors; walled paneling; stucco and exposed wood-beamed ceilings; and a slate roof with copper gutters.

19. SIGNIFICANCE:
   DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: Late 1920s
   ARCHITECT: Unknown
   BUILDER: Unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

92 West Lena Avenue is located on the northwest corner West Lena Avenue and West Woodbine Drive. This area of Freeport was developed in the late 1800s by Brooklyn businessman John J. Randall. Randall built the mansion "Woodbine" on property he bought from Elbert Bedell. His estate included 80 acres in northwest Freeport which he called "Randall Park". After his death in 1924, Randall Park was divided into housing lots. His home was split into two parts one on East Woodbine Drive the other onto West Woodbine Drive.

According to the 1928 Sanborn Map, there was no structure on the northwest corner of West Lena Avenue and West Woodbine Drive. 92 West Lena Avenue was most likely constructed between 1929 and 1930. Nassau County Department of Assessment dates the house to 1930.

92 West Lena Avenue is a fieldstone French style house with a slate roof was once owned by the famed World War II radio commentator Gabriel Heatter who broadcast from the rustic living room. This house was built in the late 1920s by Jacob Post, a prominent Freeport businessman, as a wedding present for his daughter Olive Post, who married George Porter Smith.
The house is set on a large parcel of land that until recently was known for its beautiful gardens and landscaping. The interior features oak doors, 64 paned leaded windows, two large stone fireplaces, oak wooden pegged floors, dark half walled paneling, and stucco and exposed wood-beam ceilings. French doors in the living room open into the garden.

Due to the history and beauty of this home, 92 West Lena Avenue has been featured several times on the Freeport Historical Society’s annual house tour.

Notable Residents:

**Olive Post Smith (1903-1993):** Olive Post Smith was the daughter of Jacob Post who was an early developer of Freeport and president of three local banks. The "Olive Building" on Sunrise Highway and Main Street is named for her. In 1912, the Village of Freeport voted to name the road that eventually became Sunrise Highway "Olive Boulevard." Miss Post was a graduate of Adelphi College, where she was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She had studied law at Cornell University and taught kindergarten, mostly at the Grove Street and Bayview Avenue schools. When she married George Porter Smith, a concert violinist and a founder and conductor of the Nassau Philharmonic, her father gave her a fieldstone French style house on Lena and West Woodbine Avenues as a wedding present. Mrs. Smith took over the Jacob Post Real Estate firm after her father’s death in 1964. She had a summer home in Lake George, belonged to the Lake George Association, and worked on behalf of preservation of the Adirondacks. She died at the age of 90 in 1993 and is buried in Greenfield Cemetery.

**Gabriel Heatter (1890-1972):** Gabriel Heatter, radio Commentator and journalist was born in New York City. Known for his catch phrase “Ah-there’s good news tonight!”; Heatter’s radio career spanned the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, and the cold war. He was known for his ability to dramatize events and present a sentimental view of the world. Heatter lived in four homes in Freeport including: 92 West Lena Avenue, 470 Pennsylvania Avenue and 257 Mount Joy Avenue. In 1949, Heatter’s daughter Maida married Gimbel Department Store heir, Ellis Gimbel in a civil ceremony at 92 West Lena Avenue. The ceremony took place 45 minutes after Gabriel Heatter finished his nightly radio commentary.

21. SOURCES:


