

# Old Westbury Gardens Report

Fall 2025 ARC100  
Introduction to Architecture and  
Culture

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<https://earth.google.com/web/search/Old+Westbury+Gardens,+Old+Westbury+Road,+Old+Westbury,+NY/@40.77384139,-73.59678124,47.4m/data=!3m1!1e3!3m2!1s0x8901a1043739216990:35v0n0f0r/data=CiwJgokCSjIyOvJb0RAETFWVdGTb0RAGd8vVP5YVLAIRh0C86yYLAQpIAtIhCickIQohMU0wUDroUkVkb1BoN2fZcFpgUmh0CUMUGhe6gBTER6IA66AocBMFI0CCABKCAIjmISaAvB8?authuser=0>

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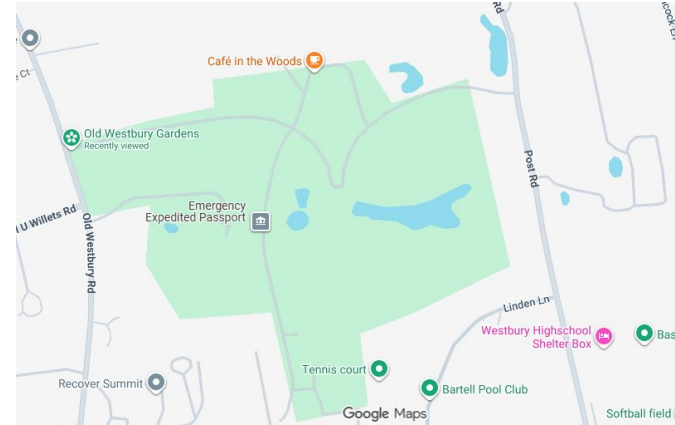
<https://longisland.kidsoutandabout.com/content/old-westbury-gardens-new-york>



<https://www.timeout.com/newyork/attractions/old-westbury-gardens>

# Building Information

- Building Style - Carolean Revival
- Address - 71 Old Westbury Road, Old Westbury, NY 11568
- Architect - George A. Crawley and Grosvenor Atterbury
- Date Completed - 1906
- Area of Home - 65,000 sq ft
- Total Cost - Original Cost not available restoration cost around 6 million
- Cost per sq ft. - N/A



[https://www.google.com/maps/place/Old+Westbury+Gardens/@40.7746254,-73.6044034,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x89c287010f86c64f:0x825e2839f83f38f1!8m2!3d40.7746254!4d-73.6018285!16zL20vMGgzMH!m?entry=ttu&g\\_ep=EgoyMDI1MTAyNy4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Old+Westbury+Gardens/@40.7746254,-73.6044034,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x89c287010f86c64f:0x825e2839f83f38f1!8m2!3d40.7746254!4d-73.6018285!16zL20vMGgzMH!m?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MTAyNy4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D)



## **Brief History**

Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Road, Old Westbury, Long Island, was owned by John Shaffer Phipps, heir to a U.S. steel empire. The Charles II-style house was designed by George A. Crawley and Grosvenor Atterbury and completed in 1906 as a wedding gift for Margarita Grace. Built on 200 acres of gardens, ponds, and woodlands inspired by English estates, it opened to the public in 1959 after Phipps's death. It is presently listed as a museum and cultural site on the National Register of Historic Places.



<https://www.oldwestburygardens.org/>

# 1. A Wedding Gift

The estate was built by John Shaffer Phipps as a *wedding gift* for his fiancée, Margarita Grace, after he promised her an English-style home like the one she grew up in.



<https://classicnewyorkhistory.com/history-of-old-westbury-gardens/>

## 2. English Inspiration

The mansion, known as Westbury House, was designed in the Charles II–style by English designer George A. Crawley, giving it the charm of an English country estate right on Long Island.



<https://www.emixpix.com/New-York/Old-Westbury-NY-11568-AERIAL>

### 3. Famous Film Location

Old Westbury Gardens has appeared in numerous movies and TV shows, including *Love Story* (1970), *Cruel Intentions* (1999), *American Gangster* (2007), and *The Age of Innocence* (1993).



<https://www.instagram.com/p/DNDe5UBMb4m/>



## 4. Expansive Gardens

The property covers about 200 acres of formal gardens, woodlands, and ponds, featuring over 100 varieties of trees and plants, carefully maintained to preserve the estate's historic design.





## 5. Historic Landmark

After John S. Phipps death in 1958, the estate opened to the public in 1959 and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, attracting thousands of visitors each year.



<https://www.archisyllogy.com/old-westbury-estate-gardens>

# Reflection

The most interesting thing about Old Westbury Gardens is how it was built as a wedding gift from John Shaffer Phipps to his wife, Margarita Grace. The idea that a beautiful mansion and its amazing gardens were created out of the love that he had for his fiancée which makes it more personal and meaningful. It's also amazing how such a big house has been preserved so well over the years and allows for people to experience its beauty and history



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/old-westbury-gardens-aerial-view-mansion--94434923413654784/>