

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305.000650
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

BS 21

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: December 1989

Town Hall, 655 Main St.

YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, L.I., N.Y. 11751 TELEPHONE: 516.224.5450

ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning, Housing, and Development

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Guastavino House

2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bay Shore

3. STREET LOCATION: 122 Awixa Avenue, opposite 2nd Ct.

4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private

5. PRESENT OWNER: Creamer ADDRESS: _____

6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence

7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No

Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: clay tile

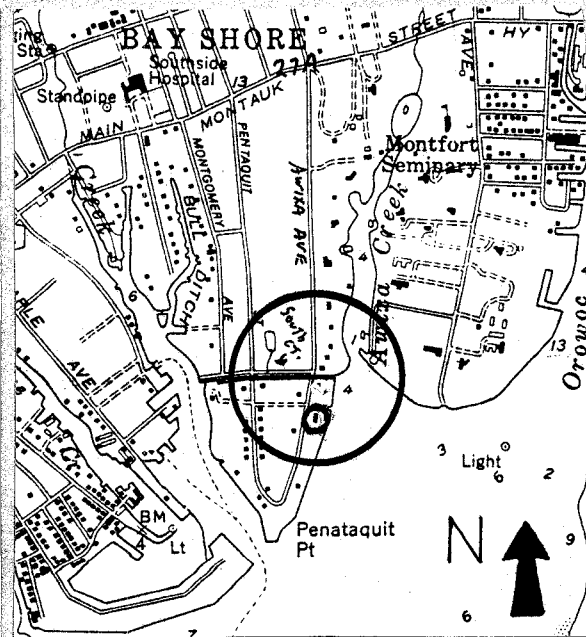
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints
(if known) b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____

10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated

11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO: Neg. KK II-18A, fm. NW

13. MAP: NYS DOT Bay Shore East Quad



- 14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
- 15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage matching
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: Awixa Creek/Great Cove to west
 j. other: circular driveway
- 16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: water to west and south

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: In Awixa Creek Area District (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)
 The Guastavino house is located on the east side of Awixa Avenue south of the canal near the mouth of Awixa Creek. Predominantly smaller, newer residences surround the house to the west and south. Residences of similiar age and different type stand to the north, towards Montauk Hwy.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
 The Guastavino house is a large, 2½ story, irregularly shaped, clay tile house with a red clay, Roman tile hip roof. A three story, hip roof tower rises near the center of the house and a 2½ story, hip roof wing extends to the north with a second story pergola porch facing Awixa Creek over an extended pergola below. Decorative colored tile surrounds the entrance under a hanging porch with iron brackets.

SIGNIFICANCE 1912

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: _____
 ARCHITECT: R. Guastavino
 BUILDER: H.H. Smith, Bay Shore

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
 This unusual mansion, completely clad in rust colored square tiles, was designed by Mr. Guastavino using the techniques he and his father had developed. The Guastavinos, father and son, had a method of building thin masonry vaulting called the "Guastavino Method of Timber Vaults," or "flat arches." Some of the major works of Guastavino on Long Island are the domes of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts & Sciences, 1901; the Brooklyn Church of St. Barbara, 1909; and the John Jermain Library in Sag Harbor, 1909. Nearby in Bay Shore Guastavino designed the old St. Joseph's Chapel and the stairs to the choir in St. Patrick's Church.
 Mr. Guastavino's daughter married Frank Gulden Jr., a third generation -refer to continuation sheet-

- 21. SOURCES:
 E. Belcher Hyde. Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk County, L.I. (west-erly section), 1915.
 "Some of Bay Shore's Beautiful Homes", Bay Shore Journal, 11/21/1914.
- 22. Interview, Mrs. Frank Gulden, 12/1989.
 Photographs, Coll. of Mrs. Frank Gulden.
Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XXVII, No. 3. October 1968, pp. 176-201.

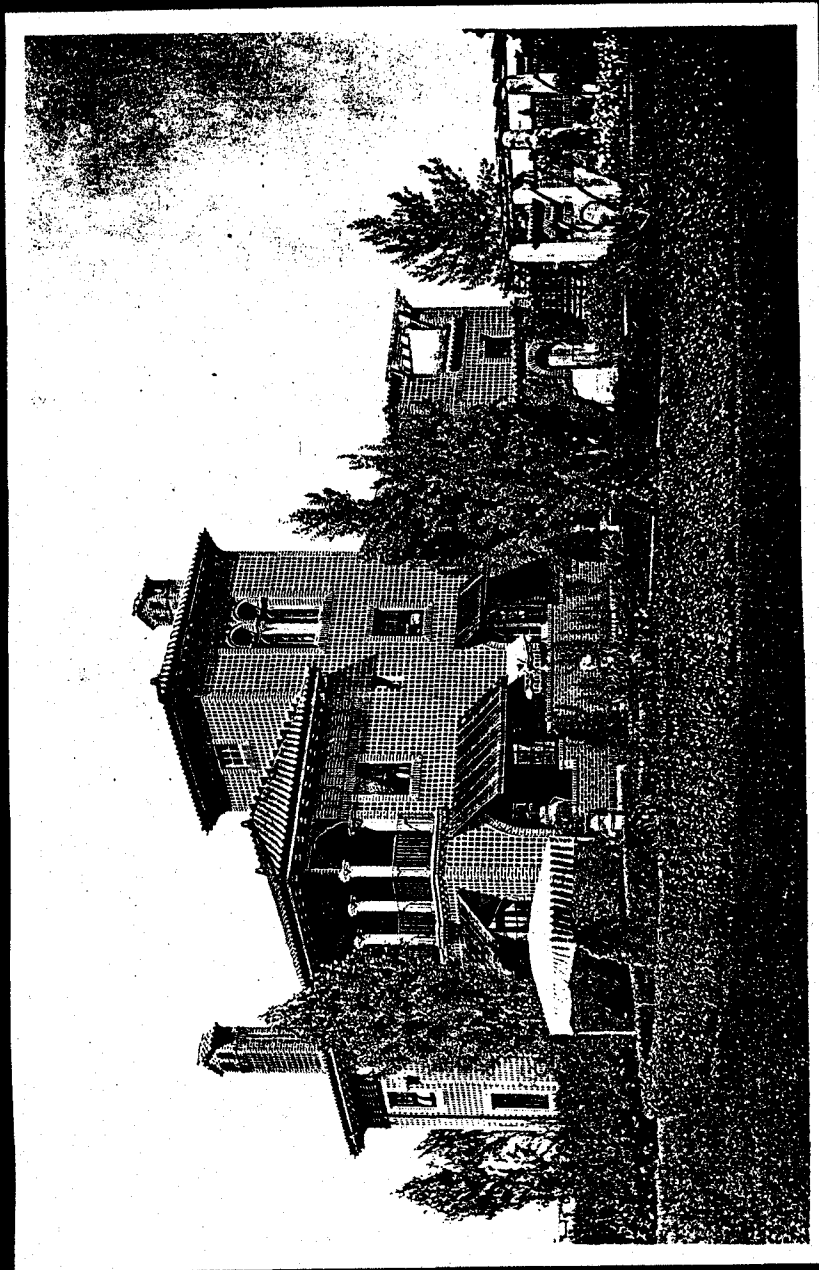
20 - (continued)

summer resident and chairman, then president, of the Gulden Mustard Company Inc. which was established by his grandfather in 1862.

The unique Guastavino house is an important component in the Awixa Creek Area District, an area established by wealthy summer residents with fortunes based mainly on Brooklyn businesses.

GUASTAVINO HOUSE

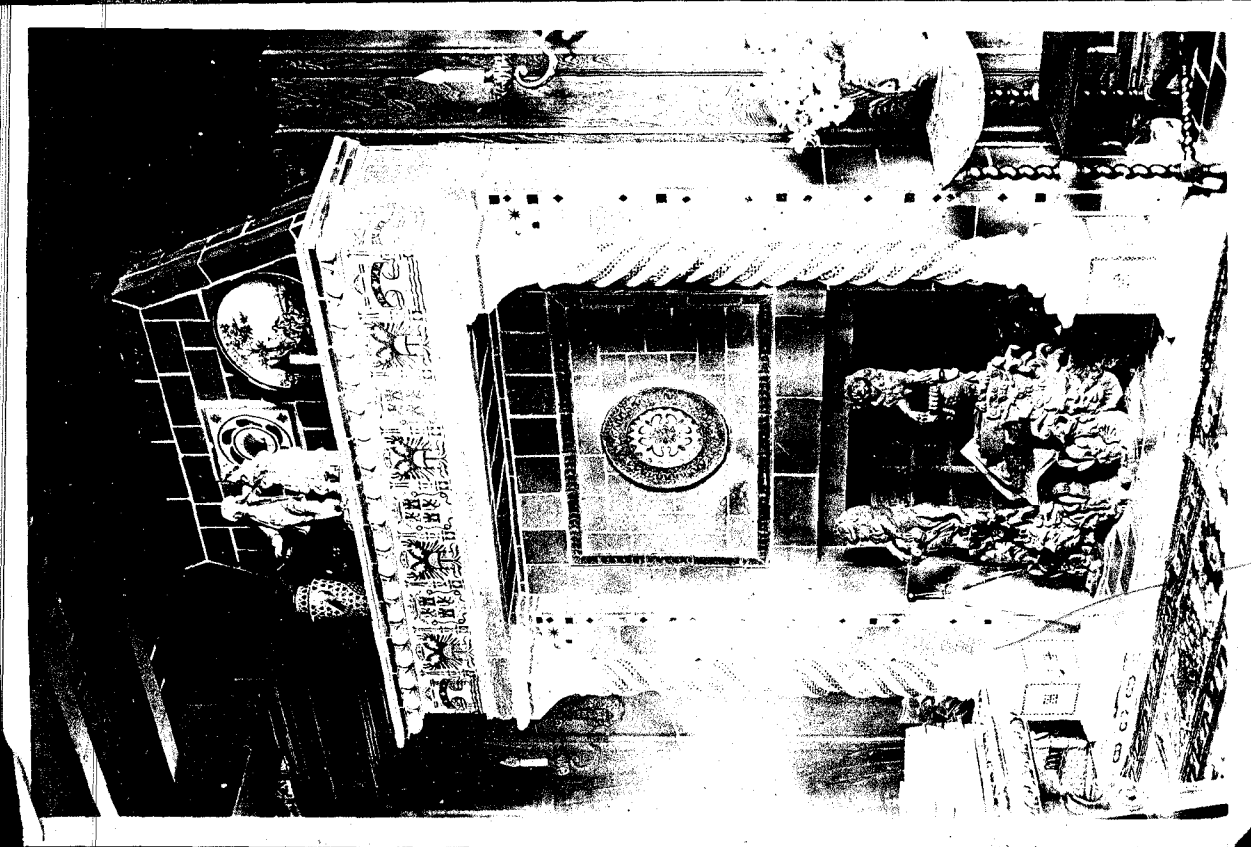
Collection Mrs. Frank Gulden

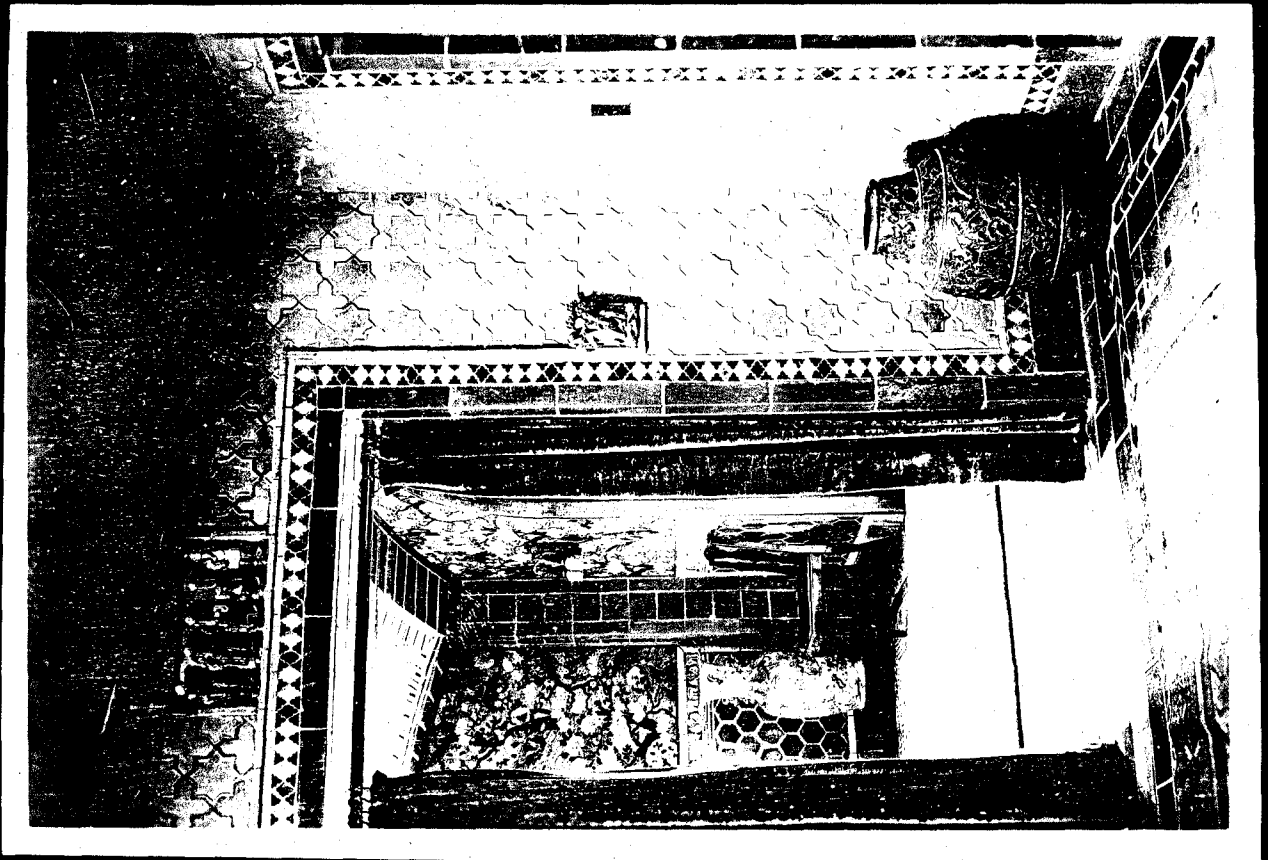




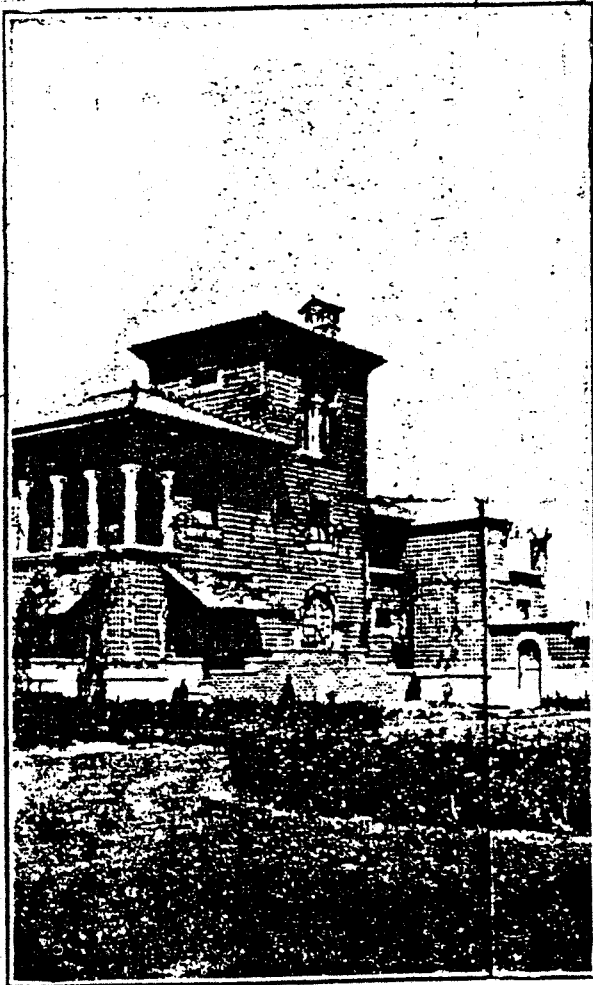
Guastavino Terrace
Coll. Mrs. Frank Gulden

Collection Mrs. Frank Gulden





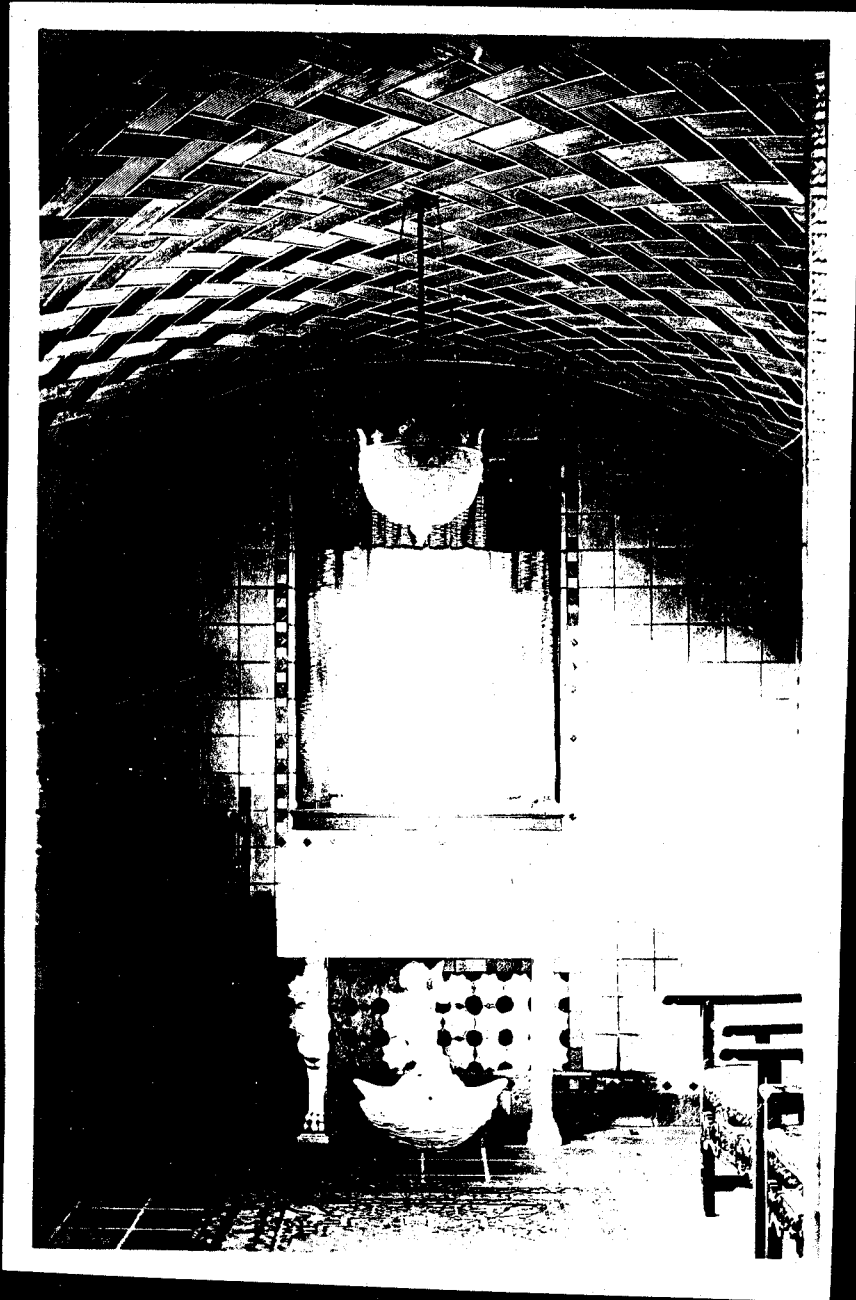
Coll. Mrs. Frank Gulden



HOME OF MR. R. GUSTAVINO, AWIXA AVENUE AND THE BAY

Bay Shore Journal, 11/21/1914, p. 11.

Entrance Hall
Coll. Mrs. Frank Gulden

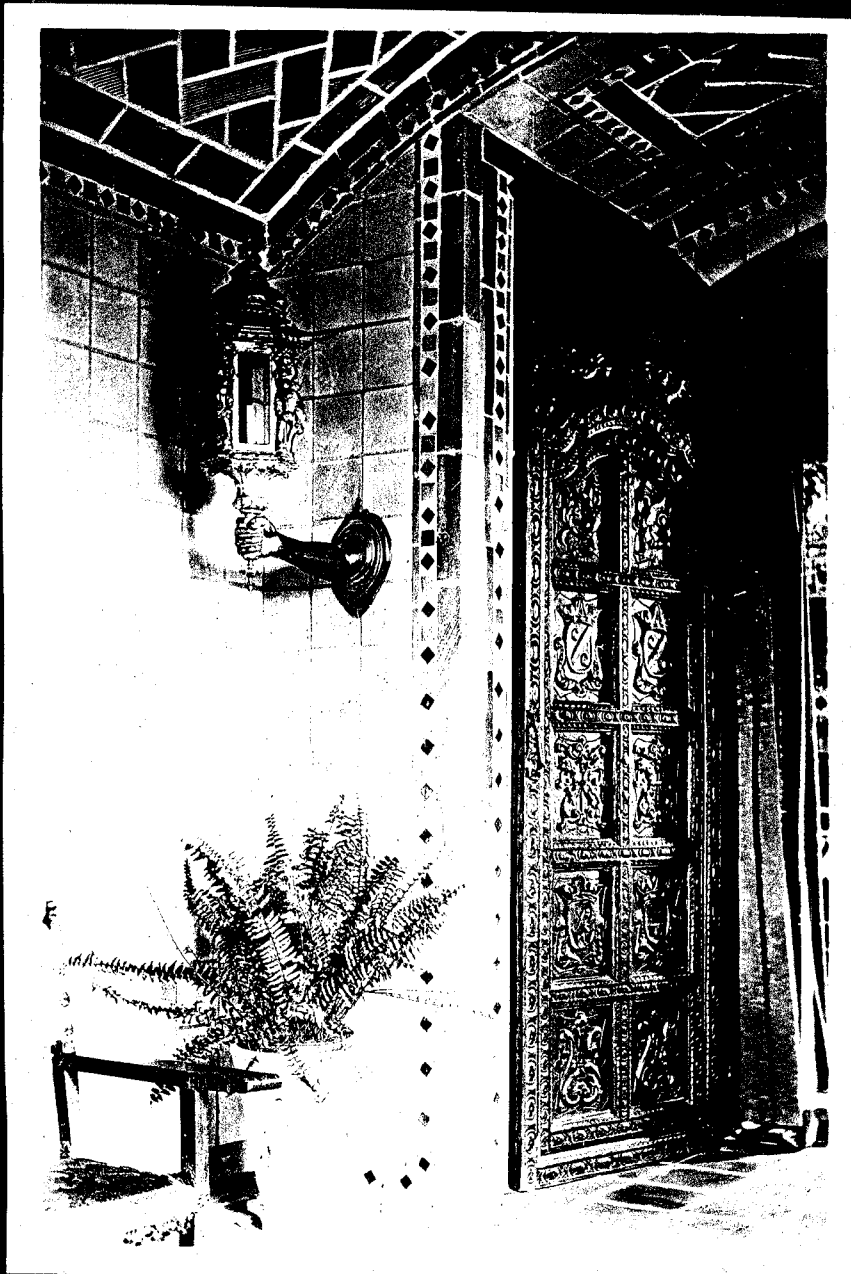




Gustavino Garden
 Coll. Mrs. Frank Gulden

FOR YOUR PATRONAGE
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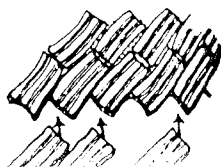
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The Guastavino vaulting in the Registry Room (below and opposite) is built of three layers of thin terra-cotta tiles set in a bed of portland cement. The technique was brought over from the Catalonia region of Spain and proved



successful in spanning great spaces. Diagrams (below) show various ways of laying the tiles other than the typical herringbone pattern. Floor tiles in the Registry Room were laid as mirror images of the vaulting tiles.



placed new tiles on dormers and other angled surfaces where the subtle difference in their color would not be noticed. For the 1904 extension known as the Railroad Ticket Office on the back of the building, the architects built a new terne-coated stainless-steel roof. New drainage and rubber membrane roofs were constructed for the building's two wings.

On the building's exterior, bricks were repointed and windows were repaired with new caulking and panes (original sashes were retained). The most troublesome task, though, proved to be cleaning the facades. After testing chemical solutions and discovering some streaking on the soft limestone, the architects used low-pressure steam instead.

An important theme of the interior restoration was re-creating the path immigrants followed through the building—from the first great room where they left their baggage, up the main stair on the east, into the Registry Room, then down a second stair on the other side of the room, and either to the Railroad Ticket Office for those going to points west or to a ferry terminal for those heading for New York. Although an exhibit called "The Peopling of America" will be installed in the Railroad Ticket Office, and some old baggage carts and luggage will be displayed in the first-floor Baggage Room, the National Park Service has wisely decided to leave the building's great spaces mostly open, to let the architecture speak for itself.

Certainly one of the most impressive rooms in all of New York, the Registry Room has been cleared of its many accretions and lovingly restored. Its Guastavino vaults, constructed of three layers of thin terra-cotta tiles set within beds of portland cement, once again command attention. After cleaning the vaults, the architects inspected each of the 28,282 tiles and discovered that only 17 needed to be repaired or replaced.

The walls on the mezzanine level of the Registry Room presented an unusual challenge. Finished with Caen stone, a type of plaster whose formula had long been forgotten, they lured the architects into the realm of materials research. After much experimentation, the architects succeeded in re-creating the material. "One of the byproducts of this project," says John Belle "has been to reaffirm the importance of doing basic research on materials and methods of construction."

When Ellis Island once again opens to the public in September, it will present a different picture than the one last seen by visitors in 1981. Nine years ago, the buildings were almost ruins—haunted by echoes of their past, but still remarkably beautiful. "The ghosts may be gone," says Ellis Island Foundation president Briganti of the landmark, "but the spirit and condition of the buildings as the immigrants knew them have been wonderfully preserved."

CLIFFORD A. PEARSON

Restoration of Ellis Island New York City

OWNER: National Park Service

CLIENT: Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation

ARCHITECTS: Beyer Blinder Belle/Notter Finegold + Alexander, Inc. Architects—John Belle, James Marston Fitch, George M. Notter, Jr., James G. Alexander, partners; Vincent Benic, Bruce Heyl, Sherman Morss, Jr., James Rhodes, project managers; Bessie Ballantine, Ralph Carmosino, Guillermo Chavarria, Richard Curran, Don Fiorino, Richard Franko, Nan Gutterman, Yves Leon, Jo