

CHAPTER THREE
DISTRICT BOUNDARY LINES

**“In the Matter of Erecting
of a New School District out
of portions of School Districts
No. 13, No. 16, and No. 24 all
of the Town of Hempstead, County
of Nassau, State of New York.**

ORDER OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

“Excluding from Common School Districts No. 13, Union Free School District No. 16 and Union Free School District No. 24, all of the Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau and State of New York, all those portions of said School Districts lying within the lines described below.

“And erecting the said excluded portions of said School District No. 13, No. 16 and No. 24 into a separate School District to be known as Common School District No. 30, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York.

“WHEREAS petitions signed by a large percentage of the resident tax payers of the above mentioned excluded portions of School Districts No. 13, No. 16 and No. 24, Town of Hempstead asking that such exclusions be made and the erection of a new School District therefrom, have been filed with Wellington C. Mephas, District Superintendent having jurisdiction, and

“WHEREAS above mentioned portions to be excluded from the School District No. 16 and No. 24 are comparatively remote from the school buildings in the respective districts, and

“WHEREAS Districts No. 13 and No. have crowded conditions in their respective school buildings, and

“WHEREAS a school building within a new district erected from the above excluded portions of School District No. 13, No. 16 and No. 24 would be easily accessible to all these sections, and

“WHEREAS the written consent of the several Boards of Education and Trustees of School District No. 13, No. 16 and No. 24 has been given to such exclusion.

“IT IS HEREBY ORDERED BY THE UNDERSIGNED DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT of the Second Supervisory District of Nassau County in which supervisory district said District No. 13, No. 16 and No. 24 of the Town of Hempstead lie, according to the authority vested in him by Art. 5, Section 121 of the

Education Law as amended to July 1, 1922, that all these portions of Common School District No. 13 and Union Free School District 16 and Union Free School District No. 24, al of the Town of Hempstead , County, of Nassau, State of New York, lying within a line described as follows:

“Beginning at the point of intersection of the line of the City of Greater New York and in the center of the stream known as the Mill Stream in a westerly part of the Town of Hempstead, New York, thence northerly to the center of said Mill Stream to the place where said brook crosses Central Ave. thence still in a northerly direction along the center line of Central Ave. to it’s intersection with the Merrick Road, thence in an easterly direction along the center line of Merrick Road to where it crosses West Miller brook, thence in a northerly section along the center line of said West Mill Brook to where it crosses East Ave. to it’s intersection of Henderson Ave., thence westerly along the center line of Central Ave., thence in a straight line in a northeasterly direction to the junction of the center of Elmont Road and Ocean Ave. and to it’s intersection with the line of the City of Greater New York thence southerly along the line of the said City of Greater New York to the point or place of beginning.

“Be and the same hereby excluded from the Common School District No. 13 and Union Free School District No. 16 and No. 24 all of the Town of Hempstead.

“IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that territory excluded by this order from Common School District No. 13 and Union Free School Districts No. 16 and No. 24 be and the same is hereby erected into a separate Common School District to be known and designated as Common School District No. 30 of the Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York.

“IT IS ALSO FURTHER ORDERED that this order shall take effect and be in force after May 14, 1923; it being understood and provided that this order shall not in any way effect the reports of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Education to be made and filed at the close of the school year, July 31, 1923, such reports to be made as if this order had not been executed.

“IT IS ALSO FURTHER ORDERED that all pupils in the respective excluded portions shall attend the schools as heretofore until August 1, 1923 as if this order had not been executed.

“AND WHEREAS the total assessed valuation of Common School District No. 13, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, as constituted prior to this order, as given by the report of the Receiver of Taxes of said Town and taken from the 1922 roll book is \$1,638,882. and the total assessed valuation of that excluded portion of said District No. 13, as reported by the Clerk of the Board of Assessors, and established as a part of a new Common School District No. 30 of the Town of Hempstead, by this order, is \$357,849. or 21.841% of the said assessed valuation of the entire district No. 13 as constituted prior to this order and

“WHEREAS the total assessed valuation of Union Free School District No. 16, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, as constituted prior to this order, as given by the report of the Receiver of Taxes of said Town and taken from the 1922 roll book is \$2,786,105. and the total assessed valuation of that excluded portion of said District No. 16, as reported by the Clerk of the Board of Assessors, and established as a part of a new Common School District No. 30 of the Town of Hempstead, by this order, \$163,125. or 5.85495% of the said assessed valuation of the entire District No. 16 as constituted prior to this order.

“AND WHEREAS the total assessed valuation of Union Free School District No. 24, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, as constituted prior to this order, as given by the report of the Receiver of Taxes of said Town and taken from the 1922 roll book is \$2,230,811. and the total assessed valuation of that excluded portion of said District No. 24 as reported by the Clerk of the Board of Assessors and established as a part of a new Common School District No. 30 of the Town of Hempstead, by this order, is \$492,554. or 22.0796% of the said assessed valuation of the entire district No. 24 as constituted prior to this order.

“THE UNDERSIGNED DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT FURTHER ORDERS AND PRESENT under the authority given him in Art. V, Sec. 121 of the Education Law as amended to July 1, 1922, that the said District No. 30 of the Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York shall assume 21.841% of the present not bonded indebtedness of said Common School District No. 13 as constituted prior to this order, and the same 21.841% of the net bond indebtedness as existing prior to this order with accruing interest, does hereby becomes a direct charge against the excluded portion of School District No. 13, No. 16 and No. 24 and erected by this order into Common School District No. 30, Town of Hempstead. It is to be construed in all cases that no bond indebtedness is that portion of the bond indebtedness remaining against each respective district after the payment of money already collected for the retirement of bonds. It further includes all bonds sold as a result of the authorization of such by the electors at a regular called meeting held to the issuance of this order.

“THE UNDERSIGNED DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT FURTHER ORDERS AND DIRECT under the authority given him in Art. V, Sec. 121 of the Education Law are amended to July 1, 1922 that the said District No. 30 of the Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York shall assume 5.85495% of the present not bonded indebtedness of said Union Free School District No. 16 as constituted prior to this order, and the same 5.85495% of said net bonded indebtedness as existing prior to this order with accruing interest, does hereby become a direct charge against the excluded portion of School District No. 30, Town of Hempstead.

“THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT FURTHER ORDERS AND DIRECTS under the authority given him in Art. V, Sec. 121 of the Education Law

as amended to July 1, 1922 that the said District No. 30 of the Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York shall assume 22.0796% of the present net bond indebtedness of said Union Free School District No. 24 as constituted prior to this order, and the same 22.0796% of said net bond indebtedness as existing prior to this order with accruing interest, does hereby become a direct charge against the excluded portions of School Districts No. 13, No. 16 and No. 24 and erected by this order into Common School District No. 30, Town of Hempstead.

“IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DIRECTED BY THE SAID SUPERINTENDENT that upon the election of a Trustee or Board of Trustees in the district created by this order, that the Board of Trustees of School District No. 13 of the Town of Hempstead and the Boards of Education of Districts No. 16 and No. 24 both of the Town of Hempstead shall respectively cause to be filed with said Trustee or Board of Trustees of District No. 30 of the Town of Hempstead, a complete statement of the present bonded indebtedness as described in this order, together with the rate of interest and due dates for both principal and interest, showing amount of principal due each year and the rate of interest thereon as now charged or authorized against the respective districts.

“IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the Trustee or Board of Trustees of School District No. 30, Town of Hempstead, as erected by this order shall cause its share of the bonded indebtedness and secured interest charged against it by this order, to be paid to the treasurers of the respective District No. 13, No. 16 and No. 24 all of the Town of Hempstead, according to the schedules filed in compliance with this order, on or before the dates such payments become due.

“In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, this 10th day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-Three.”

Wellington C. Mephram
District Superintendent,
Second District, Nassau County.¹

The land that encompasses Common School District 30, Town of Hempstead² was in one respect not totally defined by the above proclamation by Superintendent

¹ District 24 Board Minute Books, April 4, 1923.

² Nassau County - From Rural Hinterland to Suburban Metropolis, Edited by Joann P. Krieg and Natalie A. Naylor - Heart of the Lakes Publishing Interlaken, N.Y. 2000 at 58 - “The Kieft Patent of 1644, a document that granted English settlers town rights and title to lands in the eastern portion of the Dutch-held territory on Long Island, is the accepted legal base of the Town of Hempstead. Its western boundary, described as a straight line running from Matthew Garritson’s Bay to the South Sea (that is, from Little Neck Bay to the Atlantic Ocean).”

Wellington Mepham of the Second Supervisory district in Nassau County.³ Twenty-four years before the three districts - Elmont Union Free School District 16, Valley Stream Union Free School District 24, and Valley Stream Common School District 13 - ceded parts of their land to form Valley Stream Common School District 30 a boundary line was drawn that shaped the school districts in southwestern Long Island. In 1899 the formation of the new expansive municipality known as Greater New York set the new Nassau-Queens border. “When the line was set it cut through a largely homogeneous rural area, and almost no one foresaw how meaningful the placement of that boundary would become.”⁴

The portion of Queens County not consolidated into greater New York broke away to form Nassau County on January 1, 1899.⁵ The northwesterly boundary line of Nassau County corresponded to a pre-existing boundary line (the border between the Town of Flushing and the Town of North Hempstead) while in the southwest it broke new ground since it only approximated the boundary line between the Town of Jamaica and the Town of Hempstead. Suffice to state here is that initially the western border of the new county lay somewhat east of its present location. This affected the three school districts (16, 13 and 24) that eventually encompassed Common School District No. 30.

³ See also Public Education in Valley Stream, Supra note 2, Volume II District Thirteen Scrapbook, at 2,933 to 2,937.

⁴ Nassau County – From Rural Hinterland to Suburban Metropolis, Edited by Joann P. Krieg and Natalie A. Naylor – The Location of the Queens-Nassau Border by Patricia T. Cairo at 55

⁵ The Brooklyn Daily Eagle Newspaper, March 2, 1897 at 5. This article discusses “the question of the effect of division of the school districts in the town of Hempstead by the creation of greater New York.” The Brooklyn Daily Eagle Newspaper, March 8, 1897 at 4. – “Dividing Hempstead Town.” See also Public Education in Valley Stream, Supra note 2, Volume I District Thirteen History, chapter Two – Pre-Twentieth Century at 291 and Volume XVI District Thirty Scrapbook at 570.

Within a month of the creation of the new county, Assemblyman Wilbur Doughty introduced a bill in the State Legislature that would return some of the land lost by the Town of Hempstead to Greater New York. It called for the return of the area of Inwood, parts of Lawrence, and that sliver north of Inwood that encompasses the westernmost parts of what is presently Valley Stream, Elmont, and southwestern Floral Park. [Underline added.]. By April 1899, it became law and restored Hook Creek as part of the boundary (from the head of Jamaica Bay to Stephen Carman's house at the fork in Hook Creek, as well as the north-south line running from Carman's house to the southeasterly corner of the Town of Flushing).⁶

The westerly border of school district 30 thus can be traced to the Doughty bill that became law in 1899.⁷ The first meeting (May 22, 1923) of the qualified voters of the newly created Common School District 30 described its boundaries as follows:

In accordance with Article 7 Section 190 of the Education Law, the first meeting of the qualified voters of the newly created school district #30 of the Town of Hempstead, described as follows;

BEGINNING at a point of the intersection of the lines of the City of New York and in the center of the stream known as Mill Stream, in the westerly part of the Town of Hempstead, New York, thence northerly through the center of said Mill Stream to the place where the said brook crosses central Avenue, thence still in a northerly direction along the center line of central Avenue to its intersection with the Merrick Road, thence easterly along the center of the Merrick Road to where it crosses West Miller Brook, thence in a northerly direction along the center line of West Mill Brook to where it crosses East Avenue and still in a northerly direction along the center line of East Avenue to its intersection of Hendrickson

⁶ Nassau County – From Rural Hinterland to Suburban Metropolis, Edited by Joann P. Krieg and Natalie A. Naylor – The Location of the Queens-Nassau Border by Patricia T. Cairo at 70.

⁷ See also Public Education in Valley Stream, Supra note 2, Volume I District Thirteen History, Chapter One at 315 – Newspaper articles on the Public Schools and the Nassau/Queens border.

Avenue, thence westerly along the line of Hendrickson Avenue, to its intersection with the center line of Central Avenue, thence in a straight line in a northwesterly direction to the junction of the center of Elmont Road and Ocean Avenue and to its intersection with the line of the City of New York, thence southerly along the line of the City of new York to the point or place of beginning, will be held in the Show Room of the Park Inn Garage, Valley Stream, Tuesday May 22nd, 1923, at 8:30 P.M. Daylight saving time, to vote upon the following and such other question as may be properly brought up before the voters at that time:

1. Whether there shall be one or three trustees.
2. Resolution authorizing the election of a treasurer.
3. Election of Officers in accordance with the resolution #1 and number 2, to hold office until the first Tuesday in May 1924. Election of District Clerk
4. Appropriations for the Maintenance of the school for the ensuing year.

**Welington C. Mephram,
Dist. Supt. 2nd District**

Nassau County

Merrick, N.Y. May 10, 1923”

This remained the districts boundaries until in 1925 when school district 13 accepted a portion of school district 30 as follows:

Beginning 125 feet south of the intersection of East Ave. and Herikmann Ave. thence running parallel with Herikmann Ave. to West Brook thence running along West Brook to Hendrickson Ave. thence running along Hendrickson Ave. to East Ave. thence running along West Ave to a point or place of beginning.⁸

The next discussion of boundary lines occurred in 1942.

Another letter from Mr. Gross, District Superintendent, advising of a meeting of boards of education of districts 13,16,17,and 30, on Wednesday October 21st at 8:00 P.M., in the library of school #13, Valley

⁸ District 13 Board Minute Books, October 2, 1925.

Stream, for the purpose of having a preliminary discussion concerning the boundary line between Districts 13 and 30 on the south, and Districts 16 and 17 on the north, was read and filed.⁹

On January 14, 1944 “there was a short discussion about the northern boundary line of the district following which it was agreed to have [principal] Mr. White get in touch with Mr. Gross, District Superintendent and arrange for a meeting with him which time the question can be gone into more fully.”

“Chairman Beresford called the January 20th special meeting of the Board of Education to order at 8:20 P.M. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider with superintendent Gross a proposal for revision of the school district line between District 30 and adjoining Districts 16 and 13.

Superintendent Gross was asked to explain the problem. He stated that several boundary line difficulties are in the process of settlement. It is not possible to fix a satisfactory line between District 16 and 13 until a line between Districts 16 and 30 is settled. There is a triangle adjusting the three districts that is disputed in the description of the districts.

Mr. Gross’ suggestion was to follow property lines in determining a new line so that there would be no confusion as to whether a piece of property was in one district or another or both.

⁹ District 30 Board Minute Books, September 15, 1942.

After a full discussion of the problem, an estimate of what would be an acceptable proposition was given to Mr. Gross who said he would present the line to [Elmont] District 16. If they agree, the description would be sent to both Boards of Education for approval. Once approval is granted, the order will be sent to both Boards of Education stating that the line will be so set as of a date to be determined.

In reply to an inquiry by Trustee Newton, Superintendent Gross stated that the new line to be kept as close to old line as possible, but following property lines.”¹⁰

The issue was finally resolved in 1947 with the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Boundary line as it now exists between Union Free School Districts No. 30 and [Elmont] 16, both of the Town of Hempstead, is an air line between monuments, and said air line does not follow property lines nor street lines, and in some cases bisects lots, thereby causing confusion, this board of education feels that the best interests of this district would be served by adjusting a portion of the boundary line between this district and Union Free School District No. 16, of the Town of Hempstead, to follow street lines, and certain designated property lines as are necessary, and

WHEREAS, this proposed change will not materially affect the assessed valuation of this school district, and

WHEREAS, the District Superintendent of Schools of the Second Supervisory District of Nassau County, Mr. Harry W. Gross, has expressed his approval of the change and has presented to this board of education a proposed description of the new boundary line effecting the change,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this board of education of Union Free School District No. 30, of the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, does hereby give its consent and agrees to an alteration of a portion of the boundary line lying between Union Free

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, January 20, 1944.

School District No. 30 and 16, both of the Town of Hempstead, so as the same shall hereafter read and be described as follows:

Thence northwesterly along the center line of Central Avenue to its intersection with North Drive; thence southwesterly along the center line of North Drive to its intersection with the center line of Blossom Row; thence northerly and northwesterly along the center line of Blossom Row to its intersection with the center line of Lyon Street, as shown on a map of 'Valley Stream Park Gardens', filed in the Nassau County Clerk's office on July 27, 1931 case No. 850; thence southwesterly along the center line of Lyon Street to its intersection with the line of the incorporated village of Valley Stream; thence northeasterly and northwesterly along said village line and the southerly boundary line of the property, now or formerly, John Finn, to the southwesterly corner of the property of said John Finn and the easterly boundary line of the map of 'Revilo Heights, Section No. 3', filed in the Nassau County Clerk's office October 17, 1942, case 4221.

Thence southwesterly along the easterly boundary line of said map to its intersection with the center line of Sobro Avenue; thence northwesterly along the center line of Sobro Avenue and its prolongation thereof to its intersection with the Queens- Nassau County line.¹¹

All five District 30 trustees voting yes on the proposition.

It seems that this finally established the boundary line between Valley Stream District 30 and Elmont District 16 but it took some time after 1948 as the following attests.

The clerk was directed to write Mr. Harry Gross, District Superintendent, relative to the setting of the boundary line between District #30 and #16 and to the effect that plans for a new building and district survey are dependent upon settlement of this line. Would also very much like to dispose of the matter before the new assessment roll is made up.¹²

¹¹ *Ibid.*, May 20, 1947.

¹² *Ibid.*, March 16, 1948.

The last boundary line change was opposed by district 30. It was in regard to a boundary line change in Valley Stream District 13 and Malverne 12. It would adversely affect 30 in regards to the proportional share of the high school expenses.¹³ Districts 30s perspective was explained in full at the December 1948 meeting. It reads:

For the benefit of the members not on the High School Board, President Palmer gave a resume of what transpired in connection with the proposed change in the line between District #13 and #12. With the proposed change District #13 will lose approximately 2 1/2 million in assessed valuation.

The change will affect all three districts in Valley Stream as regards to our proportionate share of the High School expenses. District #24 has gone on record opposing the new line. The High School Board has gone on record opposing the change and have asked Mr. Lowe, attorney for the Board to attend the hearing to oppose for the High School.

Following a discussion, Trustee Ahrens moved that this Board go on record opposing the change in line and that our attorney, Mr. Herman representing District #30 at the hearing to enter our opposition.¹⁴

There are only two references to boundary lines in the minute book of the 1950s.

They include:

It is tentatively agreed that the 'Elmont Line' between districts 30 and 16, be set down the middle of Sobo Avenue. The east end of the District at about Central Avenue and North Drive, will be discussed at a latter date with districts 13 and 16.¹⁵

A letter from District #24 dated April 7th, regarding the changing of the boundary line between District #24 and #30 was read and referred to Council for consideration.¹⁶

¹³ See also Public Education in Valley Stream, Supra note 2, Volume I District Thirteen History, Chapter Three at 4 and 5 for district 13 perspective.

¹⁴ District Thirty Board Minute Books, December 12, 1948.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, March 11, 1951.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, April 29, 1952.