

HISTORIC AND NATURAL DISTRICTS  
INVENTORY FORM

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

97SD 0273

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 103-05-0400

QUAD. \_\_\_\_\_

SERIES \_\_\_\_\_

NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

D29  
BA 1  
①

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: Sept. 10, 1979  
Town Hall  
 YOUR ADDRESS: 655 Main St., Islip TELEPHONE: 516 244-5450  
 ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning and Development

\* \* \* \* \*

1. NAME OF DISTRICT: Middle Road - Bayport  
 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bayport

3. DESCRIPTION: "The village of Bayport is situated on the south shore of Long Island... It is not only one of the most beautiful villages on the island, but it is one of the few places where the high land runs directly to the water." Bayport, once known as South Port, and as Middle Road, was the southeasterly part of the William Nicoll Grant of 1697. The east line was Mamkee Creek, and the west line was Brown's River. In 1791, the first sales from the Nicoll Grant were made. Farmhouses were built along what is now Middle Road, and many of these stand today, dating from c. 1800 to 1860. Middle Road was put through in 1834. The railroad came through in 1869. The village prospered, the early residents making a living from farming or the oyster business in the Bay. About 1890, the summer estates and houses began to dominate the area.

4. SIGNIFICANCE: In 1874, historian Richard Bayles described Bayport as a "pleasant little settlement in the extreme southeast corner of the Town (of Islip), containing two stores and six hundred inhabitants." 2 It is still a quite accurate description. The two original stores are still there though changed, and the quiet tree-lined Middle Road retains its air of small community, with relatively few new houses interrupting the row of older homes through the center of this village. "Probably no other community in Suffolk County has as many old homes dating back well over one hundred years as the cillage of Bayport." 3

5. MAP: See attached.

6. Sources: <sup>2</sup> Bayles, Richard, Historical & Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County, 1874, reprint 1962, Ira Friedman Inc. Port Washington, N.Y.
- ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>3</sup> Dickerson, Charles, History of the Sayville Community, Sayville: 1975, pp. 57-59.
- Map of Suffolk County, taken from surveys by J. Chace, Philadelphia: 1858, J. Douglass, publisher.
- Beers, F.W., Atlas of Long Island, Brooklyn: Beers, Comstock & Cline, 1874, p. 154.
- Stevenson, Charles, But As Yesterday, Sayville, 1967,
- Belcher-Hyde, Atlas of Suffolk County, Brooklyn: 1915, p. 32.
- <sup>1</sup> List of Cottages at Bayport & Vicinity to Rent Furnished, Woods Brothers, Bayport, L.I.

7. THREATS TO AREA:

BY ZONING  BY ROADS  BY DEVELOPERS

BY DETERIORATION  OTHER none known

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Difficulty in maintaining old wooden houses due to costly materials and labor.

8. LOCAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE AREA:

Area residents are concerned about and interested in their local heritage.

9. PHOTOS: see following inventory forms BA 2 - BA 47.

BAYPORT  
Middle Road - westerly half  
BA 1 - BA 26

- BA 1) Middle Road \* Bayport District
- 2) Former Ascher Estate, 344 Middle Road
- 3) Rogers house, 354 Middle Road
- 4) Carmen Seaman house, 362 Middle Road
- 5) Lamy house, 365 Middle Road
- 6) O.F. Smith house, 368 Middle Road
- 7) Grimm house, 371 Middle Road
- 8) Myers house, 376 Middle Road
- 9) Lecluse house, 377 Middle Road
- 10) Ashby house, 380 Middle Road
- 11) E. Brown house, 386 Middle Road
- 12) L'Hommedieu house, 391 Middle Road
- 13) Martin house, 394 Middle Road
- 14) Francis Melville cottage, 395 Middle Road
- 15) Bayport Hotel (formerly), 396 Middle Road
- 16) "Little Old House", (Elward Smith), 397 Middle Road
- 17) Isaac Homan home and store, 399 Middle Road
- 18) Penney house, 403 Middle Road
- 19) Dr. Rice house, 407 Middle Road
- 20) Brown farmhouse, 417 Middle Road
- 21) Edwards house, 429 Middle Road
- 22) Edwards-Bush house, 463 Middle Road
- 23) F. Smith house, 473 Middle Road
- 24) Bayport United Methodist Church, Middle Road
- 25) Methodist Manse, 482 Middle Road
- 26) Terry house, 493 Middle Road

Historic and Natural Districts Inventory Form  
Middle Road, Bayport  
Two streetscapes:

ELW X, # 7 ; from NW  
Middle Road, #s 394 (r) and 396 (l.) See BA 13 and BA 15.



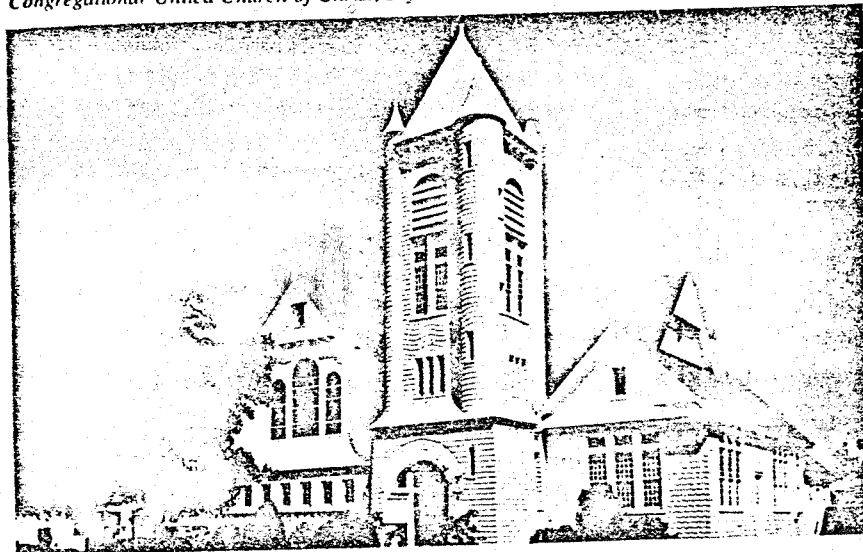
ELW X, # 8 ; from SW  
Middle Road, #s 515(l.) and 525 (r.) See BA 27 and BA 28.



*↑  
affected -  
window/  
siding*

ba 1

Congregational United Church of Christ, Sayville



**Congregational United Church of Christ** (Middle Rd. [Rte. 65], near Collins Ave., Sayville). Shingles set in curving patterns contribute to the sense of vitality imparted by this broad-fronted and towered Shingle-style church, built in 1888 by Deacon Robert Nunns.

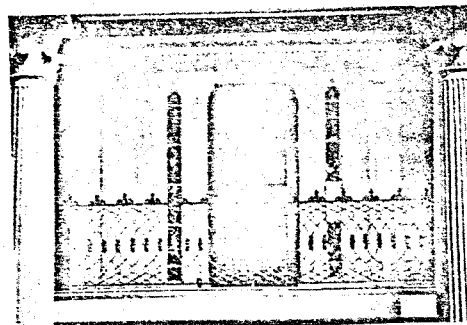
support a bracketed pediment. Italianate flourish to a portico. The second-story has a fine iron balcony and the windows have old stained and etched glass.

Seafaring vessels no longer come home to harbor in Great South Bay, bearing products from all over the world; but Middle Rd. and streets like it preserve the memory of that era in Long Island's history.

**Suffolk County News** (23 Candle Ave., just south of Main St., Sayville). Handsome Greek Revival styling distinguishes this newspaper office. Its four columns have fine carved Ionic capitals.

Edwards-Bush House

**Middle Road, Bayport.** The progression of nineteenth-century Long Island architecture, from formal Greek Revival to vigorous Victorian, is on proud display along Middle Rd. and the west side of Ocean Ave. A particularly interesting example is the Edwards-Bush House (Middle Rd., near East Lane), built in the 1850's by a sea captain who brought the wood for three houses from Barbados. Fluted columns with unfolding acanthus leaves



Rifkind and Levine, Mansions, Mills, and Main Street, 1975.

**ards Homestead  
ille Historical  
y Museum)**

ards St., at Collins Ave., Sayville  
Wed., Sat., 2-5 p.m., June-  
Labor Day; first Sun. of each  
month, 2-5 p.m., winter  
months

right country homestead be-  
several generations of the Ed-  
nily and is now the museum of  
ille Historical Society. Built in  
shingled on a low brick founda-  
original three-bay plan was ex-  
in the 1840's with a two-bay  
Only the detailing around the  
eves the simplicity of its design.  
e several outbuildings on the



Rifkind  
Levine

Mansions Mills + Main Street



**IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMER TIME, long ago. Scene is Main Road in Bayport. Photo was taken in 1912.**

Islip Town Bulletin, April 15, 1976.

OF ISLIP.

whose yard contains two sets of  
 bay constitute the chief indus-  
 of the place. Sayville has a  
 medium sized churches, be-  
 arch, which we mentioned as  
 Oakdale. A Methodist Epis-  
 he church of that denomination  
 1846. About seven years ago  
 here. The central part of  
 at where two roads from east  
 is located upon the northern  
 school building stands near it  
 commodious two story edifice,  
 built in 1859, at which time it  
 other like institution in the  
 was about \$1,500. In 1871 it  
 mbers an attendance of about  
 ree teachers. The Congrega-  
 e south branch of the "fork"  
 Cong. church of Patchogue in  
 ng. church of Sayville was or-  
 arch, Sept. 1, 1858, with forty  
 pel, belonging to St. John's  
 n the eastern part of this vil-  
 ville has a flourishing Division  
 uring about one hundred and  
 ects it justly claims the honor  
 of the county. Sayville Lodge  
 tituted with ten charter mem-



bers, May 2, 1872, and numbers at present twenty-one members.

Terry's Brook forms the dividing line between this village and Bayport, on the east. A grist-mill was once established upon this stream, but it has long since been abandoned.

Bayport is a pleasant little settlement in the extreme south-east corner of the town, containing two stores and six hundred inhabitants. Its former name was Middle Road, and until a few years past it was considered as properly a part of Sayville. A post-office has been established here, and a station on the railroad. The people are engaged principally in farming and fishing. The enterprise of canning "American sardines" was undertaken here a year or two ago but did not succeed. Fish oil factories have been established on the shore of the bay near this place.

One of the most note-worthy institutions of this place is its public school. This is a two-story building of handsome appearance and respectable dimensions pleasantly situated on the south main road, near the centre of the village. The school employs two teachers and numbers about one hundred and twenty-five scholars.

A Methodist Episcopal church was organized here a few years since, and a house of worship is about to be erected. This church is supplied with ministerial service in connection with Sayville.

Fire Island is the name given to the sand beach lying between the bay and the ocean, nearly opposite the village of Bay Shore, distant about five miles. It has become one of the most favored and popular of the seaside resorts of Long Island, even holding rank among the celebrated watering

**Bayles, Richard, Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County, 1874, reprint Ira Friedman Inc., Port Washington, N.Y., 1962.**

BAYPORT  
Middle Road - easterly half  
BA 27 - BA 47

- BA 27) Isaac Snedecor house, 515 Middle Road
- 28) L. Snedecor house, 525 Middle Road
- 29) Bayport Memorial Park Flagpole, Middle Road
- 30) John Hicks house, 558 Middle Road
- 31) Shand's Food Market, Middle Road
- 32) Flaxman house, 564 Middle Road
- 33) Urban house, 572 Middle Road
- 34) Bayport Delicatessen, 578 Middle Road
- 35) Howell Building, 599 Middle Road
- 36) Olsen house, 631 Middle Road
- 37) L. Gerard house, 634 Middle Road
- 38) Weeks house, 637 Middle Road
- 39) Pell house, 647 Middle Road
- 40) W. Smith house, 661 Middle Road
- 41) M. Owens house, 693 Middle Road
- 42) Clarke Smith farmhouse, 701 Middle Road
- 43) Breckenridge house, 708 Middle Road
- 44) Gillette house, 719 Middle Road
- 45) Mrs. Gillette house, 10 Gillette Avenue
- 46) Gillette house (c. 1851), 727 Middle Road
- 47) Zebulon Gillette house, 747 Middle Road