

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

BO 5

UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305.000795
 QUAD _____
 SERIES _____
 NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: March 1990
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

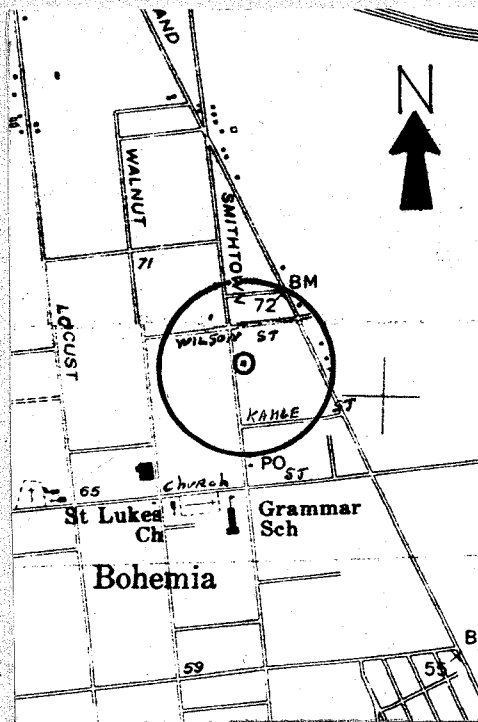
1. BUILDING NAME(S): Joseph Koula House
2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bohemia
3. STREET LOCATION: 1261 Smithtown Ave.
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
5. PRESENT OWNER: Anthony Moscata ADDRESS: _____
6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior 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: modern siding
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):
original house enlarged
modern cladding added, porch enclosed.

12. PHOTO: Neg. KK XIX-16, fm. SW

13. MAP: NYS DOT Patchogue 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
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: _____
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: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

1261 Smithtown Avenue is located on the east side of the street, set close to the street line. It is surrounded by detached residences built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, most of which are set perpendicular to the street.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

1261 Smithtown Avenue is a 1½ story, five bay, center entrance plan, rectangular, gable roof house with a center chimney.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1855/56

ARCHITECT: _____

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The rear wing of this house was one of the three original houses erected in Bohemia. Both the other dwellings have been destroyed by fire.

21. SOURCES:

A History of Bohemia, 1985, pp. 1 and 3.
 Interview, Fay Pagels, 589.5718, July 1990.

22. THEME:

Research by Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities - KEK

Chapter One

Seeking the freedom which they were unable to exercise under the rule of the Hapsburgs in Austria-Hungary, in the year 1855, three young couples set out and finally settled in what is now the village of Bohemia, Town of Islip, Long Island. John Vavra, John Kratochvil and Joseph Koula were the pioneers who arrived at the railroad station of Lakeland, on the main line of the Long Island Rail Road on March 5th of that year.

Joseph Koula, a cabinet maker, was the builder of the homes for all three families. The Koula and Kratochvil houses were erected on what is now Smithtown Avenue, while the house for John Vavra was erected on Locust Avenue. This building was but a fifteen minute walk from the Lakeland station, which then stood at the Ocean Avenue corner of the railroad. This station was destroyed by fire some time later, and the railroad then erected a building at Ronkonkoma instead of Lakeland.



This building is a part of one of the three original houses built in the community. It still stands today.

reach the sound to see if it came from some factory where they might find employment. Setting out, the men walked until finally they reached the bay, only to find that the sound they heard was the roar of the surf on Fire Island.

However, all was not lost for they had inadvertently come to the estate of Commodore William Ludlow in Oakdale. By sign language interspersed with some German words, they were able to indicate that they sought employment. The Commodore was in need of help so the pioneers were hired to work from sunrise to sunset at the munificent sum of fifty cents per day. They labored long and well and no complaints were ever heard.

Following a long day's work, the weary workers had to trudge back through the darkness to their homes. Many an evening found them in the woods with darkness closing down. Then the men would dig themselves a pitch pine torch and light their way homeward.

In 1857, Joseph Jedlicka and Mathew Wild persuaded the following families to move to the new community of Czechs on Long Island. These included Joseph Dvorak, John Rosa, Matthew Fisher, John Kohout, Thomas Buchacek, Vaclav Ryba and Vojta Spalny. They accompanied them to the settlement, but did not remain at that time. They did join the settlement at a later date.

Having lived here for several years, the settlers had no real name applied to the tiny hamlet, though at times it was referred to as "South of Lakeland" or "South of Main Line." These settlers decided in 1859 to name the community the "New Village of Tabor". This title was duly recorded in Riverhead, and today can be found in the books of record at the county clerk's office there.

New families were moving into Tabor from time to time, and in 1861 the newcomers were John and Matthew Nohowec, who came from the old country of Bohemia. In 1862 Joseph Koula decided to leave the settlement, and went to Boston. On June 11th, he met a group of immigrants who were on their way to Canada, but his persuasiveness finally convinced them to also settle at Tabor.

[4]

A History of Bohemia, 1985, p. 4

8/30/1884 - A rattlesnake 5 foot in length and provided with twelve rattles was killed near the Clubhouse.

9/6/1884 - Carloads of moss are daily shipped from the Islip depot for the use of florists on the west end of the Island. The moss is taken from the swamp near Stellenwerfs Brook.

9/13/1884 - A horse belonging to Robert Fulton Cutting became unmanageable one day last week and ran away damaging the picket fence in front of John Vail's breaking the vehicle and injuring the coachman. Mrs. Cutting, who was in the wagon, foresaw the difficulty, coolly alighted and took her place on the sidewalk where she could view the catastrophe unharmed.

9/20/1884 - Possibly no other place on Long Island has seen such a building boom as Bay Shore. Lying between Babylon and Islip, it was originally known by the singular name of Gomorrah, Islip being Sodom. Later the people called it Mechanicsville. This, in turn, became Penatquit, and 1867 when the South Shore Railroad came thru, became Bay Shore. This village still has no fire department or newspaper. In fact, the whole town of Islip can say the same. There are four churches, two schools, four large hotels for summer visitors, and a steam saw and planing mill and a grist mill run by water power.

9/27/1884 - Mr. A.A. Fraser's house in West Sayville, just contracted for, cost \$10,000.

10/4/1884 - Mr. Lorillard has sold West Brook Farms with all appurtenances to Mr. W. Bayard Cutting at the price of about \$125,000. A new handsome residence will be erected on the south side of the property overlooking the river.

10/25/1884 - Mr. Shannon, formerly in H. Duncan Woods' employ, will have charge of Cutting farm work and Egbert Duryea will lose his place. A man like Duryea will not long be idle.

William Carr, the shoemaker, who lives on the east corner of Nicoll's Post Office Road, has left awl and last and is engaged by the year to supervise the trout department at W. Bayard Cutting's, recently purchased from Mr. Lorillard.

Ad placed by South Side Sportsmen's Club of Long Island - Oakdale - 10/16/1884 - "In conformity to the game laws of New York State, the public is respectfully notified that trespassers, shooting and fishing on the premises is unlawful and subject to severe penalty. Dogs found running deer on the property will be subject to action under law. Roland Redman, President.

11/14/1884 - Louis Lorillard's steam yacht is laid up in Doxsee's Creek.

12/22/1884 - Death of Wm. G. Barnes, who preached in Islip as a candidate for the pulpit, having been sent here by Robert L. Maitland. It was through the liberal donations of Mr. Maitland, one of the earliest members of the South Side Club and owner of West Brook farms in Great River, that the new church was begun.

1/24/1885 - The school house in Great River, located near Wm. Nicoll's house burned very mysteriously last week. It seemed to take fire in the second story. It was unoccupied at the time with insurance of \$1,000.

2/14/1885 - Matthew Koula, first settler of Bohemiaville died in Massachusetts last week, 91 years old.

2/21/1885 - The Sayville ice crop has been harvested. Most residents here secured their supply of ice from the ponds of Robert B. Roosevelt. Other gentlemen have been charging from \$3.00 to \$5.00.

George Howell has taken a contract to build three cottages for George Taylor of East Islip.

2/28/1885 - George Taylor who has purchased the farm adjoining Deer Range is the son of Richard Moses Taylor, well known in New York City. Mr. Taylor will build probably the finest house in Suffolk County. It will cost \$100,000. Some of the mantels are \$1500 each and the floors will be laid with the finest costly mosaic.

4/4/1885 - A steeplechase on Saturday excited considerable interest. In England such events are commonplace but as the cavalcade passed through the village, there was great notice of the scarlet coats and gray trappings. They came up on a train from Garden City, took dinner at the South Side Sportsmen's Club and made the train in the afternoon at Bay Shore.

4/11/1885 - The house of H. Duncan Wood burned to the ground at 2:00 am. Mr. Wood was awakened by a choking sensation in his throat and had barely time to arouse the family and get them out of the house. They