

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. 103-05-0259  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

JUN 21 1977

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: 2 September 1976  
Town Hall  
YOUR ADDRESS: 655 Main Street TELEPHONE: 516 581-2000  
Islip, L.I., N.Y. 11571  
ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning, Housing & Development

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IDENTIFICATION

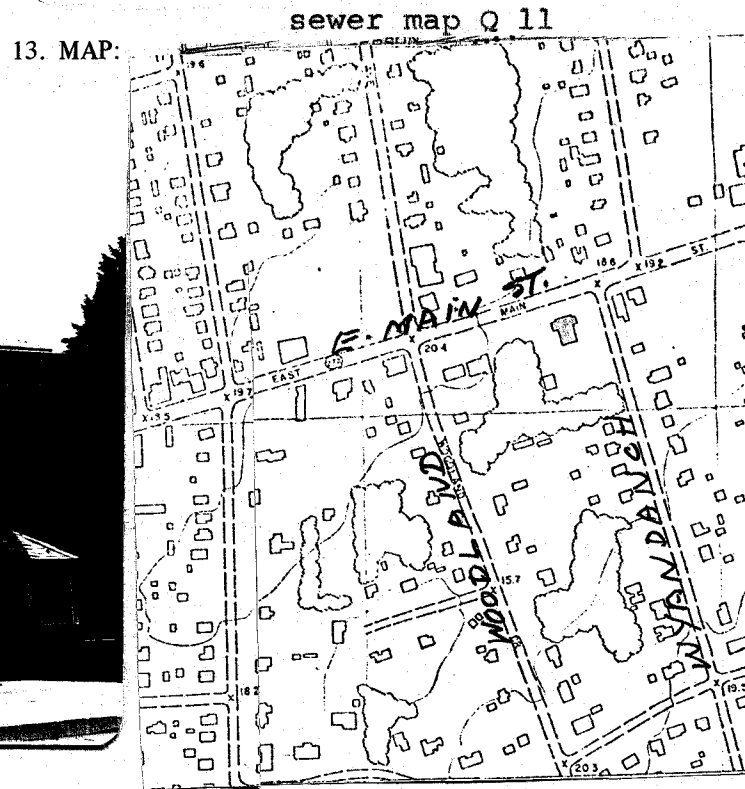
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): East Islip Fire Department
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: East Islip
- 3. STREET LOCATION: E. Main Street; south side; at Wyandanch Ave.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. USE: Original: Firehouse Present: Firehouse
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard  b. stone  c. brick  d. board and batten   
e. cobblestone  f. shingles  g. stucco  other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Dispatcher's booth added 1975; preserves integrity of structure  
ROLL ISL-BAN-II-12  
NEGATIVE II-14

12. PHOTO: LOOKING SW



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L. I. ANTIQUITIES

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)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):  
 Flemish bond brickwork; 3 arches with voussoirs; frieze; bell tower.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1927-28  
 ARCHITECT: Van-Orden  
 BUILDER: " "

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:  
 This firehouse, built in 1928, had the old bell given in 1891 by George Taylor, former owner of the Heckscher State Park property. The building was dedicated on August 3, 1928. Van Orden also built the Riverhead Firehouse. He lived in Great River, (see form VI-2).

21. SOURCES:  
East of Islip-An Early History. Friends of the East Islip Library.  
 1969. p. 17.

22. THEME:  
 Research by: Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities  
 Barbara Nadel, Research Assistant

One of the old-time institutions of Islip was the Olympic Club, located at the foot of Saxon Avenue. It was organized in 1854 by volunteer firemen of New York City and by 1874 owned seventeen and a half acres with five buildings. It was disbanded in 1909 and in the 1920s the main building burned down.

The first newspaper in Islip was the *Index*, started in 1875. It was followed in 1900 by the *Islip Herald* which was finally absorbed by the *Bay Shore Journal*. The *Press* was first printed in 1912 by Edward Gorton. It was owned and controlled by him and his family until it was sold in 1925 to the *Consolidated Press*.

East Islip was considered a part of Islip village until 1896 when its own post office was established. Its growth was long retarded by the large acreages held by the Taylors, the Johnsons and the Nicolls. The principal business enterprises were three large hotels which were the summer havens of wealthy people. They were located on Main Street, the Pavilion on the corner of Suffolk Lane; across the way, the Lake House, and farther east, the Somerset House. The swankiest of these was the three-story Pavilion which accommodated 125 guests and had stables for fifty horses. The guests owned their own horses and coaches. The Lake House began its existence in 1856. It was more old fashioned and depended upon good cooking to draw its clientele. It had bath houses on the lake for guests. When the Pavilion burned down and the Lake House was moved to make a store, many of their wealthy patrons built summer homes near at hand.

The youth of East Islip at first had to walk two miles to a one-room school near Great River. In 1858, it became a two-room school. In 1872, there were 101 students. The teachers' wages were \$614.64 and the value of the building was \$1500. In 1883, the school burned down and a three-room building was built on the present site of the East Islip High School. The present High School was erected in 1926.

A hook and ladder company was organized in East Islip in 1889. Its apparatus was a hand-drawn truck which was housed in a little building just west of St. Mary's Hall. The department began its existence in 1892. The fine firehouse which was built in 1928 still has the old bell which was given in 1891 by George Taylor.

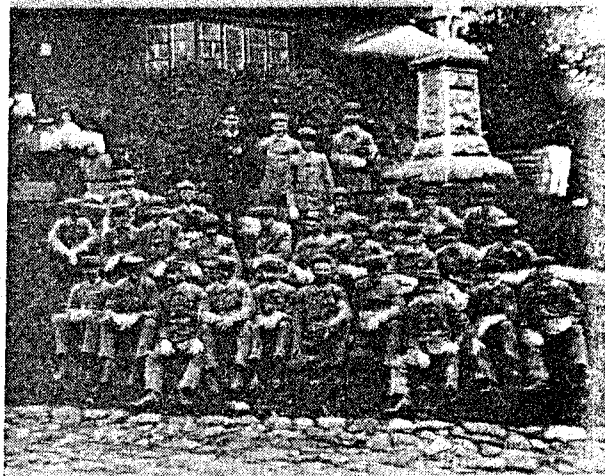
St. Mary's Roman Catholic is the only church building in East Islip. It was built in 1898 by the Rev. Edward H. Duffy, the first resident priest. Erected since are the rectory, the school and the Sisters' home.

Snyville, a thriving village of 3950 people, the second largest in Islip Town, was until 1795 a part of the Nicoll estate. At that time, Willett Green and John Edwards purchased the land which the village occupies. John Edwards took the eastern part because he and his brother were already living there, having had some arrangement with the Nicoll family. John Edwards built his house in 1761. It stood on the corner of Edwards Street and Foster Avenue. Willett Green came from Huntington. These tracts of land were divided and sub-divided.

## EAST ISLIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

There were thirty-one members of the original East Islip Hook and Ladder Company, organized on April 5, 1889. In the 1890's the population of East Islip was in the hundreds and these men were alerted by one bell. The first firehouse in 1890 cost less than \$1000, and the first ladder truck in 1889 cost \$450. Most fires were fought with water from pitcher pumps, each delivering less than five gallons a minute.

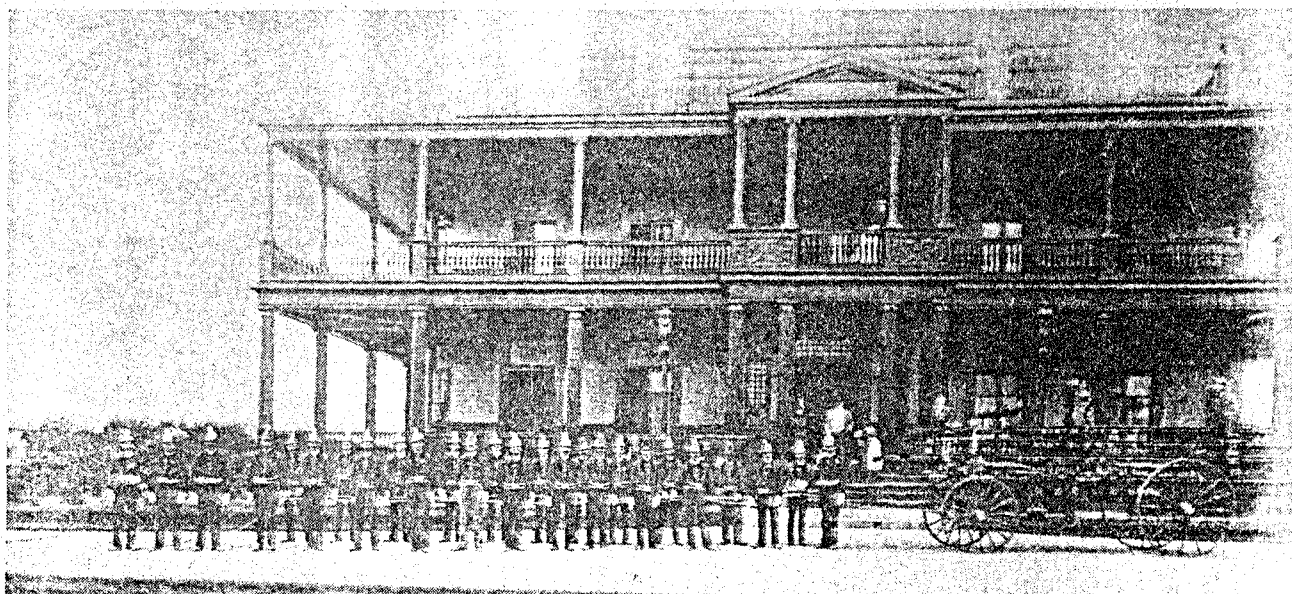
By 1912 the budget of the East Islip Fire Department District was only \$600. In 1964 the budget exceeded \$6,000.



*East Islip Fire Department at tournament. Taken in front of old library in Huntington.*

The fine firehouse built in 1928 had the old bell given in 1891 by George Taylor, former owner of the Heckscher State Park property. This firehouse was dedicated on August 3, 1928 and still stands on Montauk Highway near Carleton Avenue. Edward Newman of East Islip was the Fire Chief when the new firehouse was erected. In February 1964 Mr. Newman dedicated a history of the East Islip Fire Department to Frank A. Nowak, only surviving member of the first gallant thirty-one.

The one-hand drawn ladder and bucket truck have been replaced by nine pieces of modern apparatus. Today four sirens and over one hundred radios alert over one hundred men, and these brave men may be called to serve more than one hundred times a year, on a volunteer basis.



*East Islip Fire Department—in front of Taylor Mansion (now Heckscher State Park)*