II-13

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip Town Hall   DATE: 2 September 1976

YOUR ADDRESS: 655 Main Street   TELEPHONE: 516 581-2000
Islip, L.I., N.Y. 11751

ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning, Housing & Development

* *

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME(S): East Islip Junior High School
2. COUNTY: Suffolk   TOWN/CITY: Islip   VILLAGE: East Islip
3. STREET LOCATION: Main Street, North side, at Meroke Ln.
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☒   b. private ☐
5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
6. USE: Original: School   Present: Junior High School
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒   No ☐
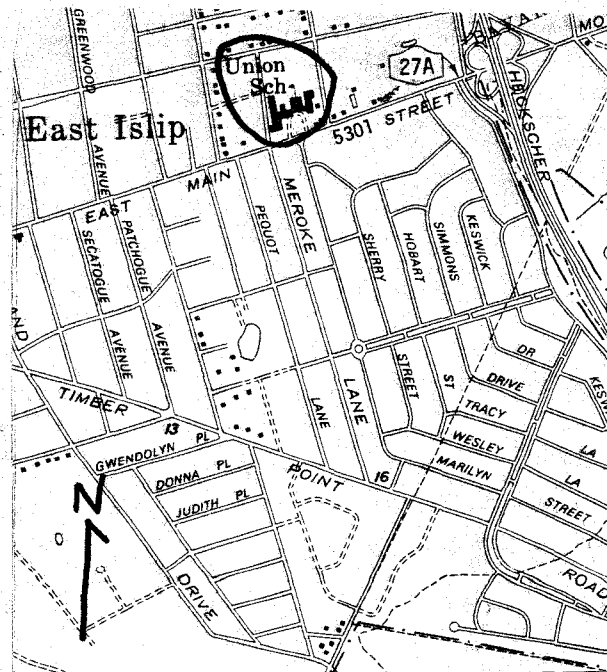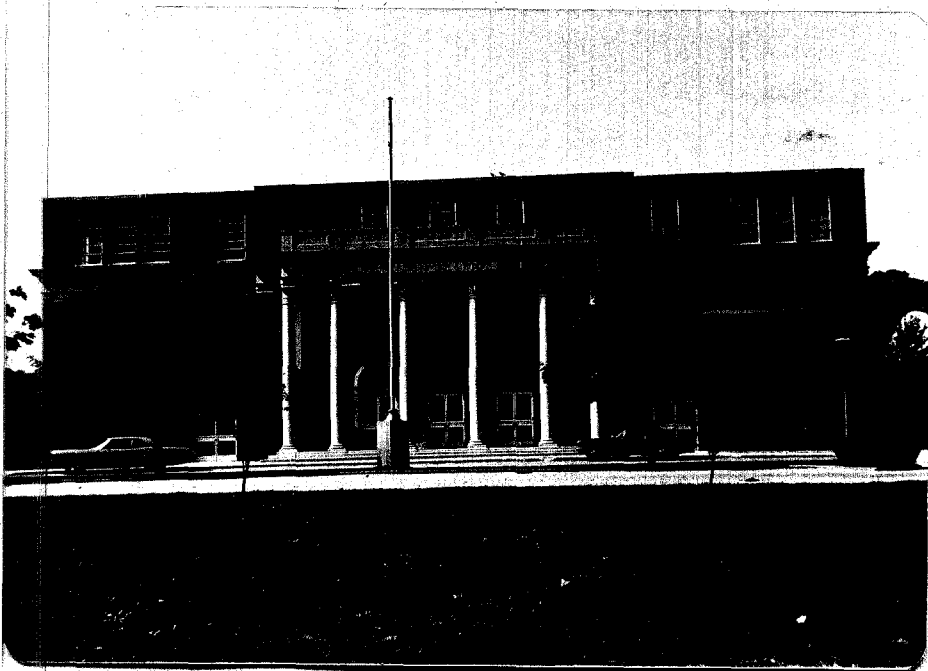   Interior accessible: Explain _____

DESCRIPTION
8. BUILDING   a. clapboard ☐   b. stone ☐   c. brick ☒   d. board and batten ☐
   MATERIAL: e. cobblestone ☐   f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐   other: _____

9. STRUCTURAL   a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
   SYSTEM: b. wood frame with light members ☐
   (if known)   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):

windows modernized   NYS DOT

ROLL ISL-BAN-II-13
NEGATIVE II-15
12. PHOTO: LOOKING NORTH   13. MAP:

HP-1

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: __playing fields_____

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)
School is on a parcel of land donated by William Nicoll the seventh.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
Giant order Corinthian columns; portico over entrance; frieze;
entrance with 3 arches; common bond brickwork.

SIGNIFICANCE
19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: ___1924 - 1927_____

    ARCHITECT: _____

    BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
For many years, William Nicoll seventh was School Commissioner of East
Islip and donated part of the land on which the East Islip Junior
High School now stands.

Bailey, Paul, Long Island, A History of Two Great Counties, Nassau and
21. SOURCES: Suffolk, vol.I, 1949, p.330.
East of Islip-An Early History. Friends of the East Islip Library.
1969, p. 6.

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

A BRIEF HISTORY OF EAST ISLIP

"...ide sed cum vide" (Trust but look out in whom) is the motto on the Nicoll ...nt of arms and crest. This was bestowed in 1467 and confirmed in 1601 in the "raigne of souveraigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith"...

The Nicoll family were of English ancestry, influential men who participated in the early Colonial history of New York. Matthias Nicoll was the first Secretary of the Province of New York, lawyer, judge and compiler of the famous "Duke's Laws" of the Province of New York. His only surviving son, William Nicoll was granted the first patent for land within the Town of Islip. He was a successful lawyer who entered a career in public service when he was appointed Register of Admiralty in 1683. In 1687 he was commissioned Attorney General of New York by Governor Dongan. On November 29, 1683, Winnequaheagh, Sachem of the Conetquot Indians sold to William Nicolls of the City of New York, Gent." the neck west of the river Conetquot (now more generally known as Great River) on which Nicoll and his descendants made their home. Altogether William Nicoll secured four patents - the last purchased on October 20, 1697. He built his home Islip Grange, named for the Nicoll ancestral home in Northamptonshire, England, when he was offered a seat as a non-resident representative of Suffolk County to the Colonial Assembly in 1701. From October 20, 1702 until his death he represented Suffolk County in the Colonial Assembly, serving as speaker of the house for many years. It is probable that the earliest Nicoll residence stood on the large neck of land known as Nicolls Neck on the grounds of Heckscher State Park. The original Nicoll grant was about 51,000 acres and was larger than any of the patents on Long Island. It was situated on the south side of Long Island between Islip and Patchogue and extended inland to the center of the Island embracing Lake Ronkonkoma and the present villages of Bayport, Sayville, Oakdale, Great River and East Islip - but not the village of Islip. Andrew Gibb, a gentleman, and originally a tenant farmer and friend of William Nicoll became patentee of the present village of Islip on March 2, 1692. Perhaps their friendship developed when Andrew Gibb succeeded William Nicoll as Clerk of Queens County - Nicoll was Clerk in 1683. On February 4, 1701 William Nicoll and Andrew Gibb drew up an agreement concerning their equal ownership and expense in a grist mill and other mill that they had built on the Winnequapogue River (on Gibb's side), each being entitled to buy out the other for $200.

For 223 years, the Nicoll family owned property in the Islip area. In the nineteenth century the estate was partitioned between William Nicoll, seventh and last owner of the Islip estate and Frances Louisa Nicoll, wife of

General William H. Ludlow The Conetquot (or Great River) formed the line of division. By 1849 the Nicoll property had dwindled to 40,000 acres and by 1906 the executors of Mr. Nicoll's estate sold the last 1100 acres. This terminated the entailment of seven generations of a family outstanding for their service to their town, to their country and to their church.

Community Needs

In the course of time the community expanded. The East Islip Postoffice, established on January 16, 1890 gave East Islip its official name. Formerly it had been called "east of Islip."

From the original one-room school, the East Islip school enrollment increased through the years. In 1885, $8100 was appropriated for a three room building and $500 for two acres of land on South Country Road (today's Main Street). Between 1892 to 1902 additional rooms were added so that by 1905 it had grown to a nine room school. In 1924 the district approved the construction of the present three story building. It was with these new facilities that East Islip began to offer a full four year high school program. The impact of home development caught up with East Islip and this increase in population resulted in further school construction. The District at present consists of a Senior High School, a Junior High School and five elementary schools.

There are two private schools in East Islip. St. Mary's School was opened in September 1914 under the tutelage of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Recently the Parish built a new 24 classroom school to accommodate the 1100 students enrolled. In 1941 the Hewlett Park School moved from Hewlett Park, Long Island to "Woodland" the Aymar Johnson estate on Suffolk Lane in East Islip. The original purpose of the school was to educate young ladies to take their place in society. Today students are educated from pre-school through high school

Places of Worship

St. John's Episcopal Church in Oakdale is included in this history of East Islip because it was built in 1765 on the property of "Lawyer" or "Clerk" William Nicoll, grandson of the Patentee. This is the oldest church on the south shore of Long Island. William Nicoll, the seventh and last owner of Islip Grange gave the land on which the Emanual Episcopal Church in Great River was founded in 1862. He is buried in the cemetery close to the Church. On November 5, 1879, a small group of East Islip and Islip Roman Catholics purchased the old St. Mark's Episcopal Church building for $510.00 and moved it to its present site on the Main Street of East Islip. This is now St. Mary's Hall. The cornerstone of St. Mary's Church was laid on March 25, 1901. There are 3500 families in St. Mary's parish today. The Christ Lutheran Church in Islip Terrace was organized by 20 persons who signed the charter in February 1915. Services (in German) were held each Sunday afternoon in a building which was a reconverted chicken coop on the property donated by Richard Wolpert, Sr. The first Sunday school was organized in Febrary 1915. There are now four additional places of worship in the East Islip area. They are: The East Islip Christian Reformed Church, the Full Gospel Assembly, the Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses and B'nai Israel Temple.

Expansion

Whether the accumulation of large tracts of land by a few owners was responsible for the slow increase in the population of Islip is not known. There were only 31 freeholders at the first Town Meeting held the first Tuesday in April 1720. By 1790 the population of Islip was 609 however, it rose from 1909 in 1840 to 11,073 in 1890. The Southside Railroad reached Islip in 1868, and this convenience, together with the new resort hotels no doubt attracted many new people to the Great South Bay. Prior to the 1860's, Eliphalet Snedecor was the proprietor of Snedecor's Inn - on the grounds of the well-

known South Side Sportsman Club in Oakdale. There were three prominent hotels in East Islip - The Pavilion, with accomodations for 125 guests and stable room for 50 horses, the Lake House, built in 1856 and known for its fine cuisine, and the Somerset House, opened about 1841.

It was at a meeting in the Somerset House on October 31, 1887 that 77 citizens of East Islip met to request a charter for a local bank. On January 29, 1923, the First National Bank of East Islip commenced operations with two officers and one book... in a small rented store on the corner of Harrison Avenue and Main Street. This property now is part of St. Mary's School. In 1925 the Bank moved across the street to the opposite corner. In 1960 a spacious modern building with ample parking was constructed. It is located on the north side of Main Street near the Junior High School on land formerly known as the Silver Fox Farm. Today the Bank is one of the fastest growing independent country banks.

In 1960 the East Islip Public Library opened its doors for the first time in the old East Islip Bank building at Harrison Avenue and Main Street.

East Islip Schools

From a one-room schoolhouse to a modern educational complex - that has been the growth story of the East Islip Union Free School District #3. This district's history begins prior to 1857, the last year that it could house all of its student body in one room. The need for expansion arose early for this community, located off the Great South Bay on Suffolk County's south shore; and so, in 1858, a two-story building containing two rooms was constructed.

Today's citizens who complain about increased taxes caused by additions to their schools are probably echoing the voices of their forefathers, for school additions are nothing new, especially to East Islip's residents.

When the two-room schoolhouse was destroyed by fire in 1885, a new structure was erected on South Country Road (today's Main Street). Additions to this building over the next twenty years resulted in a nine-room operational plant, not huge by today's standards, but quite a structure to grandfather when he entered Kindergarten.

The nine-room schoolhouse saw service for the next twenty years until sold to Mr. Frank Buchacek, who had the building cut into sections and moved to Laurel Avenue north of New Street, East Islip, where the sections were made into homes. Some of these houses are still situated at this location and show the "gingerbread" effect which was an architectural feature of the building.

This sale to Mr. Buchacek was made possible by the opening in 1927 of a three-story building on Main Street, East Islip, which housed the entire student body of the district, grades K-12. It was with the opening of these facilities that East Islip began to offer a full four-year high school program.

This structure, with necessary additions, was sufficient to meet East Islip's needs until the mid-1950's. But, as the district felt the population explosion of the

1950's and 1960's, new buildings appeared on the scene. In September, 1957, the Islip Terrace Elementary School opened its doors for the first time, quickly followed in December, 1959, by the Timber Point Elementary School. A third elementary school, the Connetquot, was completed and ready for occupancy in September, 1962.

A fourth elementary school? Yes, for the Main Street building, in addition to containing students in grades 7 - 12, also housed an elementary student body, children who eventually would attend the John F. Kennedy Elementary School when it was readied in September of 1964.

It soon became apparent that on a day soon to come the elementary school children would descend upon the old structure on Main Street. Consequently, land was purchased for a new senior high school in Islip Terrace and plans were made to renovate the existing structure as a junior high school.

As students returned from Spring Vacation in April, 1962, they found themselves in completely new surroundings. Instead of the Main Street building, students of grades 7 - 12 were now being taught in the new East Islip Senior High School on Redmen Road, Islip Terrace. This building has a capacity of 1,200 students, but citizen advisory committees late in 1966 studied provisions for additions to be made on the existing structure.

Hewlett School In East Islip Since 1915

The Hewlett School of East school formerly owned and operated by Miss Eugenia G. Coope under the name of Hewlett School. Miss Coope established The Hewlett School at Hewlett Park, Long Island, New York, in 1915 and later moved the school to its present location in East Islip.

In 1952, Miss Coope, desiring to place the school on an even firmer basis than had theretofore existed and to assure the continuation of the school in the event of her disability or death, called upon certain prominent members of the community for advice and assistance. After considerable research and discussion, it was decided that incorporation of the school was desirable.

Hewlett School

Accordingly, in 1952, Ann Cutter Whitney, Elizabeth Bacon Macy, Eugenia G. Coope, William T. Gregory, Jr., W. Huntting Howell, Ann C. Thorne, Jeanette M. Sullivan, Gerard Hallock and Robert E. Thornhill, applied to the Regents of the University of the State of New York for a provisional charter under Section 216 of the Education Law, for the present Corporation, The Hewlett School of East Islip.

On October 23, 1952, the Board of Regents granted a provisional charter.

Since the provisional charter was granted, the corporation has conducted a school for the education of children from pre-school through Grade 12. An absolute charter was granted December 18, 1959. The school is divided into three divisions, Lower School, Middle School and Upper School.

In 1953, the School was incorporated as a non-profit organization and, in 1955, Miss Jeanette M. Sullivan became Headmistress upon the death of Miss Coope. In 1964, James B. Webster, Assistant Headmaster of The Allendale School of Rochester, New York, succeeded Miss Sullivan who retired.

The school property is a fine old estate comprising approximately 18 acres of landscaped grounds on a salt water inlet of Great South Bay. There are four buildings on the campus:

Woodland, familiarly called the Main House, was formerly the private home of one of the community's leading families. It is a spacious building expressing the dignity of the early 19th century. Dana House is a delightful residence for some of the boarders. Frederick Hall is the main classroom building with library, study hall, and classrooms on the first floor.

The Gym, the newest building, provides facilities for indoor basketball, badminton and other sports.

Hewlett, just this past June 9th, held its 52nd commencement program for 16 members of the senior Class.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH EAST ISLIP

St. Mary's Church, East Islip traces its beginnings back to 1878. The Bay Shore-Islip area was then a mission of St. Patrick's in Huntington and the famous pioneer priest, Rev. J. Crawley, used to drive a team of horses down to the south shore from Huntington to say Mass in Bay Shore.

In 1878, the Catholic families in East Islip raised $500 and bought the old St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Islip. They moved the building to a lot in East Islip donated to the Catholics and this building still stands, renovated and useful, accommodating 30 for Mass.

By 1883, Bishop John Loughlin sent the Rev. James Bobic to Bay Shore as pastor and East Islip became a mission of Bay Shore until 1898 when St. Mary's was assigned a resident pastor, the Rev. Edward A. Duffy.

In the next four years, by 1902 Father Duffy had built the church big enough to hold 550 and the rectory. The Rev. Joseph Sinlmaier succeeded him (1902-1917). He built the school, using much of his own personal fund.

Next came, The Rev. Thomas Connolly, who was pastor from 1918 to 1935. The pastors who followed him were: Rev. Charles A. Rohr (1935-40); Rev. Charles J. Hughes (1940-41); Rev. Andrew J. Heany (1941-51); Rev. Thomas Cody (1951-54); Rev. Joseph Klein who died in 1961. He was succeeded by Rev. James P. McKelvey (1961-63) and Rev. William H. Govern from 1961 to the present.

Fr. Govern is somewhat of a pioneer. He started St. Mary's Band of East Islip which has won top trophies in fife, drum and bugle. He and his former curate, Rev. Michael F. Guinan organized the Barber Shop Quartet which is gaining fame all over the United States.

The parish publishes a monthly newspaper for its parishioners, The Crusade, which was begun nearly 10 years ago by Lawrence Butler under the sponsorship of the Holy Name Society.

The original school was on the corner of Main Street next to the church and rectory. It was built in 1912 and was originally called St. Mary's Academy. The building was recently cleared to make way for a massive parking lot to accommodate the more than 5,000 parishioners.

The children have been taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame