

**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.	<u>103-05-0361-024</u>
QUAD	_____
SERIES	_____
NEG. NO.	_____

Oa 5  
green

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip Town Hall DATE: 5/21/79  
655 Main Street  
 YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, N.Y. TELEPHONE: (516) 224-5450  
 ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning and Development

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**IDENTIFICATION**

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Vanderbilt Powerhouse  
 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Oakdale  
 3. STREET LOCATION: Central Blvd.; West side; at Elsmere Ave.  
 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private   
 5. PRESENT OWNER: Dowling College ADDRESS: Idlehour Blvd., Oakdale  
 6. USE: Original: Coal-burning powerhouse Present: Performing Arts Center  
 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: \_\_\_\_\_

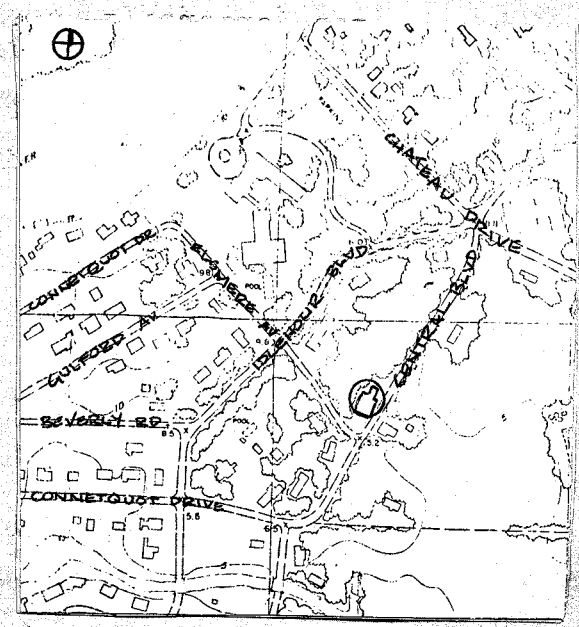
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints   
 b. wood frame with light members   
 c. masonry load bearing walls   
 d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. other \_\_\_\_\_

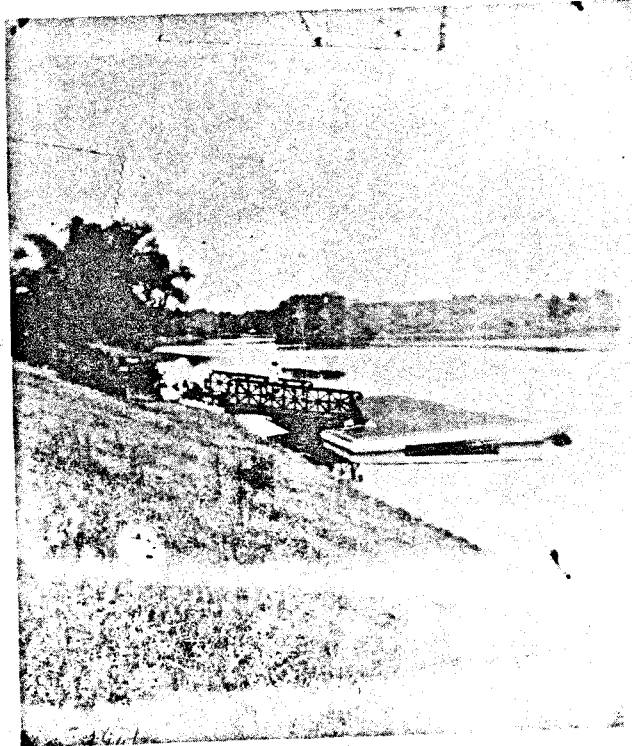
10. CONDITION: a. excellent  b. good  c. fair  d. deteriorated

11. INTEGRITY: a. original site  b. moved  if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. list major alterations and dates (if known):  
Door and window openings altered for adaptive reuse.  
High chimney removed.

12. PHOTO: Neg. 6, east facade and north elevation  
 NJM-1

13. MAP: Bowe-Anderson Composite

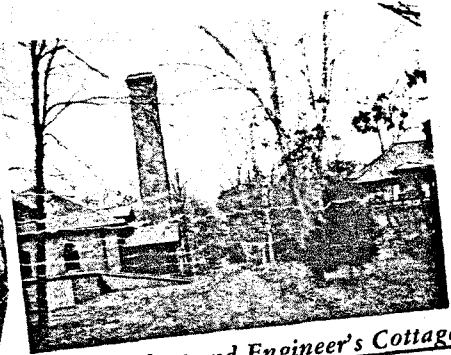




*Mahogany Floating Dock at Mansion*



*The Palm House*



*Power Plant and Engineer's Cottage*

Pamphlet, "The Story of Idle Hour, Oakdale, Long Island,"  
Dowling College Press, Alice McGorty, Editor.

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)

The Powerhouse is situated adjacent to the Vanderbilt Mansion, and was connected to it by an underground tunnel to supply heat and light to the Mansion.

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

1½ story brick structure with buttresses. There are segmental arches above window and door openings, including those which have been altered.

**SIGNIFICANCE**19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1900

ARCHITECT: \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDER: \_\_\_\_\_

## 20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This building was the source of power to the major residence, the Vanderbilt Mansion, of the Vanderbilt estate.

This building was started in 1900 to supply light and heat to the new Vanderbilt mansion by indirect radiation. There was a tunnel connecting it that was dug with a team of horses and a scoop.