

**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. 10305.000785  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RK 5

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: April 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): Hungarian Liberty Hall
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Lake Ronkonkoma/Lakeland
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 2784 Ocean Avenue
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. USE: Original: meeting hall Present: meeting hall
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain by app't.

**DESCRIPTION**

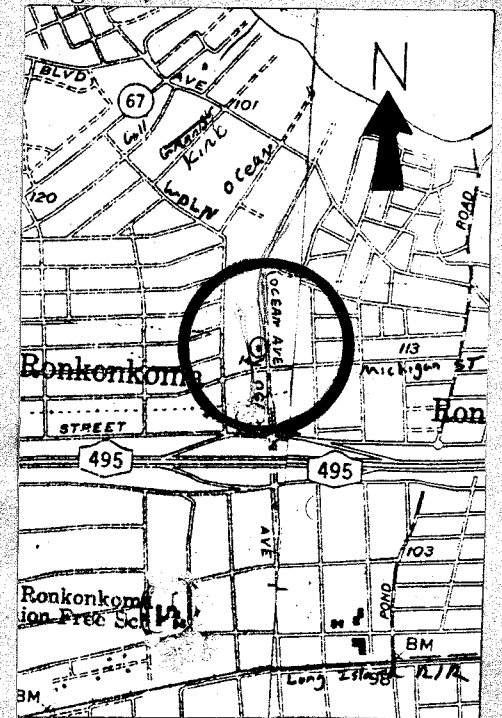
- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard  b. stone  c. brick  d. board and batten   
e. cobblestone  f. shingles  g. stucco  other: aluminum siding
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints   
b. wood frame with light members   
c. masonry load bearing walls   
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
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):  
modern cladding added

12. PHOTO: Neg. KK XVII-21, fm. NE

13. MAP: NYS DOT Composite Central Islip and Patchogue Quads



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: large pines at street front  
 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)

2784 Ocean Avenue is located on the west side of the street, set close to the curb line facing east. The building is surrounded by residences of predominantly later date.

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

2784 Ocean Avenue is a 1½ story, three bay, gable roof building set perpendicular to the street on a rusticated block foundation. The center entrance contains double leaf panelled doors.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1928

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

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

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This building is a locally significant structure despite the modern cladding. It began as the meeting hall for Hungarian-Americans who came from various parts of the country to settle permanently in Ronkonkoma.

21. SOURCES:  
Suffolk County News, 10/25/1984.  
NY Herald Tribune, 12/20/1964.

22. THEME:  
 Research by Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities - KEK

## BIRDSALL LEGEND

A poem, "Ronkonkoma" by J. Hooker Hammersley, appeared in the official guide for Lake Ronkonkoma as issued by the 1928 Chamber of Commerce that is similar in content to the Tuskawanta Legend. It refers to an Indian girl named Ronkonkoma whose father was a Setauket Sachem. She loved a paleface boy by the name of Hugh Birdsall. Her father would not allow her to marry "a foe of her race" and banned him from Lake Ronkonkoma. Hugh lived on Connetquot's bank in his "log built cot" for seven years. The Lake (according to this legend) had a path underground to Connetquot stream and scrolls dropped in the lake would float through the passage to Hugh. One evening on the river a scroll floated through stating that the Indian girl would join him. The next morning a "bark" was seen on the tide and in it was seated his "beautiful bride" dead and surrounded by hemlock and pine. Hugh leaped into the craft and together they swept out to the sea so that they could be together "beyond the grave". The lake still weeps, "year seven it rises, year seven it falls, for the martyred maid by the sire slain".

## LIBERTY HALL IN LAKELAND

Alex Sipos is a familiar name not only in Lakeland, but Holtsville, Medford and Patchogue as well. He came to this country when he was a lad of fourteen and still remembers the Grape Festivals that were held in the Beer Gardens near his home in Budapest. In 1928, he was one of the original crew that broke ground for the Liberty Hall that housed the American-Hungarian Literary Society. Many of that group have passed away since that time. The president of the Society at the present time is Frank Horway of Lakeland.

Mr. Sipos has many interesting memories of the early days. For some years he lived in a house on Portion Road in Farmingville that was originally a Terry house. It had five fireplaces, one in each room and a dutch oven. Those were the days when Portion Road was only a wagon road.

Regarding memories of the Lake, Mr. Sipos recalled having seen a sight-seeing boat on Lake Ronkonkoma with a canopy type top that cruised around the lake with its tourists.

The Sipos have two daughters and one son and Mrs. Sipos has a colorful hobby of collecting roosters. To this date she has 140 different-hued specimens adorning her knick-knack shelves.

A FOOTPRINT thanks to Alex Sipos for the information on the historical background of the Liberty Hall. The word "Liberty" has a special meaning for many Hungarians who have fought so gallantly for its privileges.



Liberty Hall

Lakeland, N. Y.

## LIBERTY HALL

The Hall of Lakeland sits upon a lonely  
hillside throne.  
A man named Feurisen bought some land and  
then he made it known  
By ads in Hungarian papers for those people buying  
plots  
To see Long Island's Lakeland and to choose their  
building lots.  
From Cleveland came mechanics and some  
carpenters as well  
Then Pennsylvania miners too caught up the  
buying spell.  
From Greenpoint came some workers and new  
houses soon were made.  
Wide streets gave them a spaciousness big cities had  
forbade.  
Then good friends joined together while they  
cleared away the land