

**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. 103-05-0552  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Sa 39

RED  
green  
cross hatch

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip Town Hall DATE: 8/10/79

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): Edwards Homestead Museum
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Sayville
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Edwards St; north side; Collins Ave; east side
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private  at
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Sayville Hist. Soc. ADDRESS: Sayville, N.Y.
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION**

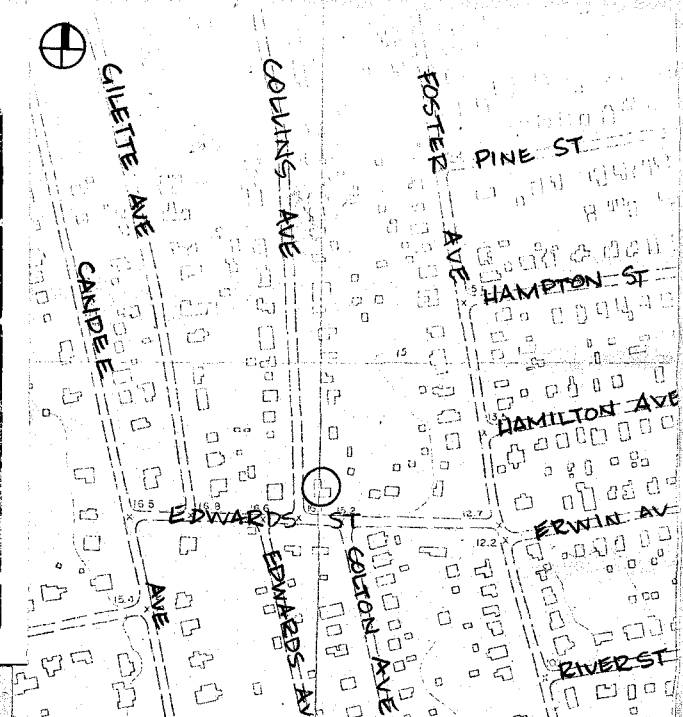
- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard  b. stone  c. brick  d. board and batten   
e. cobblestone  f. shingles  g. stucco  other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints   
(if known) b. wood frame with light members   
c. masonry load bearing walls   
d. metal (explain)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

12. PHOTO: NJM-6 neg 7a

13. MAP: Bowe-Anderson



HP-1 view from southwest



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: privy moved from Middle Rd. in 1974.  
 j. other: milkhouse and general store

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 Edwards Homestead and Museum is located on the Northeast corner of Edwards Street and Collins Avenue, and shares its site with other recent Historical Society acquisitions, such as the privy, milkhouse, general store, and marine museum.

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

1 1/2 story 5 bay gable roof house with high roof plate, transomed entrance, shingled exterior of original shingles with nail-heads that catch the light, and 9/6 windows.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1785

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

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

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The 1785 Edwards Homestead is the oldest house built in Sayville and the plot upon which it stands is the last vestige of the large original farmlands John and Sarah Edwards purchased from the William Nicholl Grant in 1786, for approximately three dollars an acre, and it encompassed the whole of that which is today known as "old south Sayville." The Edwards Homestead is a Designated Town Landmark.

21. SOURCES:

"Part of History is Preserved," Suffolk County News, March 28, 1974.

J. Chace, Map of Suffolk County, Long Island, New York, Philadelphia, 1858.

22. THEME:  
 Prepared by: Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities  
 Setauket, New York 11733  
 Nina Monastero, Research Assistant  
 August, 1979

Rebecca Everett News



**THE NECESSARY HOUSE**, seen in the top photo in its original setting in back of the former Nettie Crosby home on Middle Road, Sayville, long unused, neglected and forgotten. In the middle left photo, the small building is loaded onto a truck to be transported to its new location at the Edwards Homestead and Museum, a vine growing out its chimney. Historical experts report this was a "family model" and is in excellent condition. Clark Minardi and George Morrell, members of the "Necessary House Committee" at the Historical Society will build a foundation at its new site. They are joined here in an inspection of the "facility" by Mrs. John Edwards and Mrs. F. Palmer Haff. After the move, bottom left, the volunteers pose for photo.

## Part of History Is Preserved!

It goes by a number of different names, but the Sayville Garden Club, who got the project underway, has chosen the one of "Necessary House", and, of course, one was necessary for every home before the days of running water and indoor plumbing.

For several years, the Sayville Historical Society has felt the need for one to carry out the by-gone era the Edwards Homestead represents. The "necessary house" that once really did function there disappeared like most of these small edifices did when the comfort of indoor plumbing became available and stylish. But this one is being re-located to take its place. It comes from the former Nettie Crosby home on Middle Road, presently owned by Mr.

and Mrs. Alan Hoost, who have given the "out-house" to the historical society so that it will be preserved. It was a rare one with a chimney, and it is supposed to have also boasted a stove in the years it was well-kept, while a vine-covered arbor enhanced its entrance.

Mrs. Neil Esposito, representing the Sayville Garden Club, who two years ago took over the responsibility of restoring and maintaining the gardens of the Edwards Homestead, and has since been joined in the project by the Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, prevailed upon the Sayville Fire Department for assistance in moving the small building. The move took place Sunday morning, under the direction of Chief

Bob Wines. The 1785 Edwards Homestead is the oldest house built in Sayville and the plot upon which it stands is the last vestige of the large original farmlands. John and Sarah Edwards purchased from the Wm. Nicoll Grant in 1786 for approximately three dollars an acre, and it encompassed the whole of that which is today known as "old south Sayville."

The Homestead and its adjoining buildings are maintained by the Sayville Historical Society for the community, and it welcomes interested persons to become members. It meets the third Wednesday evening of each month, has a "work night" every Monday evening, and is open for visitors to browse the first Sunday afternoon of each month.

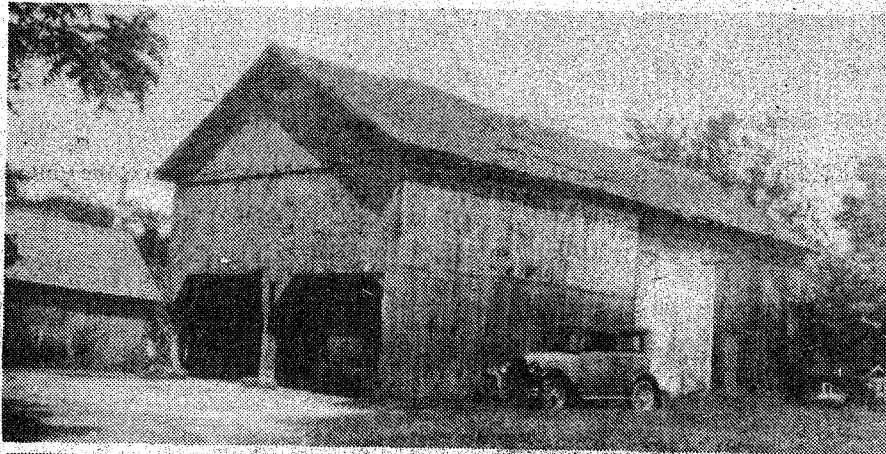
*"It goes by a number of different names, but the Sayville Garden Club has chosen the one of 'necessary house'."*

5/28/74

Suffolk County News, 11/15/79  
Edwards Homestead

# reflections of the past

by Ruth Dougherty



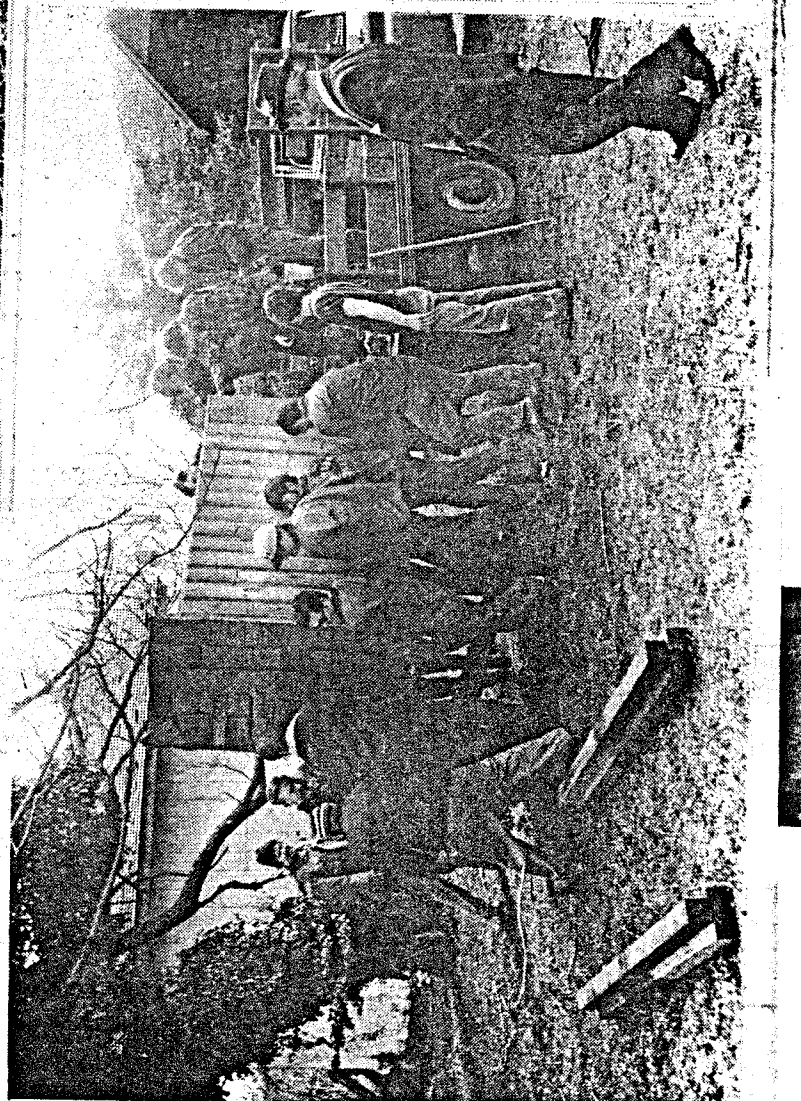
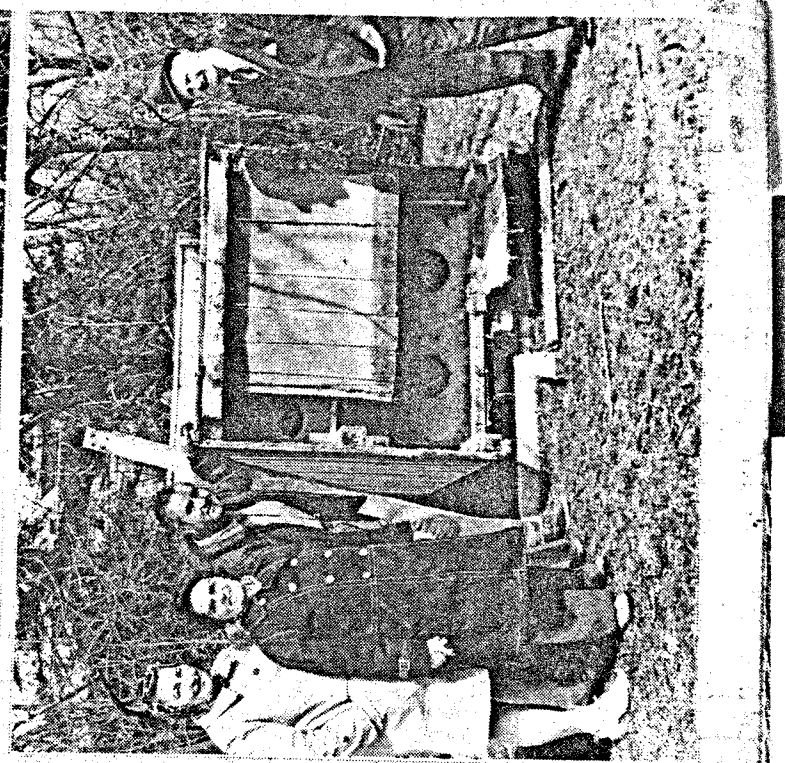
Suffolk County News 11/15/79

The 1785 Edwards Homestead and adjoining buildings, now maintained as a museum by Sayville Historical Society, once looked like this (top) in the early 1920's, when it was still a farm and the Edwards brothers, Charles and William, also were housemovers. Their sign is painted on the side of one of the barns. The barns pictured faced Collins Avenue.

The farmhouse faced Edwards Street as it still does today. The original Edwards land, purchased in 1786 from the Nicoll grant, encompassed what is today the south part of Sayville, running from Browns River west to between Candee and Green Avenues, from the Bay north to approximately Tariff Street. Edwards Family Album



*Necessary House,  
Symbol of Past,  
Is Moved To  
A New Site!*



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Suffolk County News 3/28/74

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103-05-0008

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NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST  
STATEWIDE SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

- 1. Name (Common and Historic) Sayville Historical Soc., Edwards Homestead
- Location 2. Suffolk County      3. Islip Town      4. SAYVILLE Village or City
- 5. Address or Location 38 Edwards St., Sayville, L. I.  
(NE. CORNER EDWARDS & COLLINS STS)
- 6. Type Federal      7. Subject or Theme Arch.
- 8. Date of Construction 1785      9. Architect (If Known) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Builder (If known) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Original Owner \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Original Use Residence
- 13. Present Owner Sayville Hist. Soc.  
Name  
same  
Address
- 14. Present Use Museum
- 15. Physical Condition Good
- 16. Surveys L. I. Survey, Office of Plannin<sup>g</sup> Coordination
- 17. Future Action None
- 18. Surveyed by Robert. Wiggins, Cuddebackville, N. Y., Feb. 68.  
Date Surveyed

NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST

Sites and Structures Survey  
Preliminary Listing

103-05-~~0020~~<sup>0008</sup>

(Please type or print in ink.)

Site or Structure EDWARDS HOMESTEAD Structure County Suffolk

Date or period Early 1700 Town or City <sup>Islip</sup> Sayville

Address or Exact Location Corner of Edwards St. and Collins Ave.  
Sayville, Long Island

Check one: Site only  Visable ruins  Intact historic structure

Interpretative relationship (check as applicable): Archeological  Labor

Architectural  Biographical  Agricultural  Indian

Business or industrial  Transportation  Mass media

Military  Political  Religious  Educational

Literary  Creative arts  Performing arts  Scientific

Folklore  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

History and Significance: Original homestead of Edwards family, first  
settlers in area now known as Sayville. Purchased from part of  
original Nicoll Patent. Also served in French and Indian War.

Sources for further historical information:

"A History of Early Sayville" by Clarissa Edwards 1935

M/A