

**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. 10305-0551-~~115~~  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Sa 36

green

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip Town Hall DATE: 8/7/79

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**

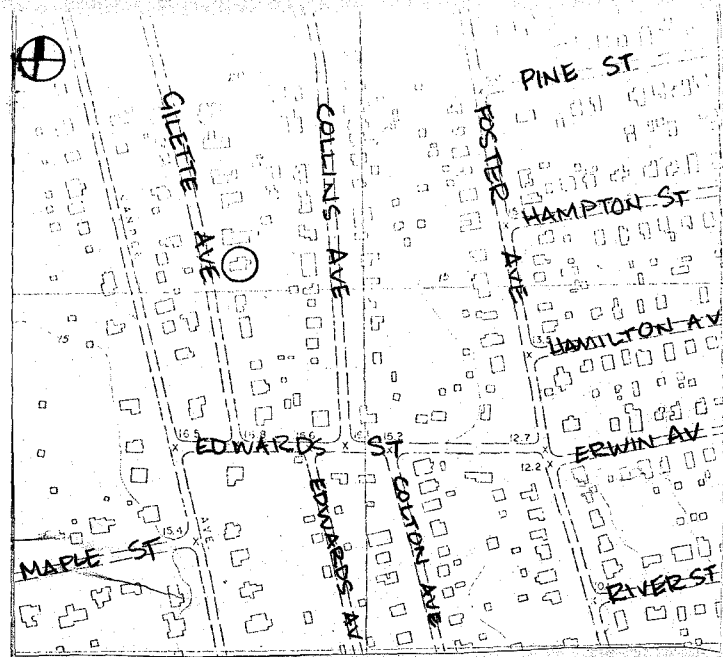
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): David Edwards House
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Sayville
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 111 Gilette Avenue
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Wartella ADDRESS: see #3 above
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*clapboard under shingles
- 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. 8a

13. MAP: Bowe-Anderson



HP-1 view from southwest front and south side

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 Edwards house is located on the east side of Gillette Avenue, just north of Edwards Street.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):  
 2 story, 3 bay first floor, 2 bay second floor clapboard under shingle house, with gable roof and balcon fenetre windows. Inside the house is a set of double halls and double stairways.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1814 or 1832.
- ARCHITECT: \_\_\_\_\_
- BUILDER: \_\_\_\_\_

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:  
 The David Edwards House, now a Designated Town Landmark, was built and originally owned by a descendant of Sayville's first resident. Additionally, the house was owned for many years by Grace Edwards who became one of the first women of the cloth and often spoke at the Sayville Congregational Church.

21. SOURCES:  
 "Young Sayville Couple Live in A Landmark," Suffolk County News, Sayville: September 2, 1976.  
 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

## Sayville Couple Live In A Landmark

Continued from page 10

Williamsburg and several New England restorations. Plants fill a sun lit, three foot addition which was built in the 1960's

For the Wartellas -- who left their homes in Wilkes Barre, Pa., and their own generations of family ties there -- life in a historical landmark is like leafing through an unknown but strangely familiar album of photographs ... or like an informal archeological expedition.

"We don't go to history - history comes to us" said Jean Wartella who has collected fragments of the house's history in bits and pieces. And like a jig-saw puzzle made without the aid of a sharp cutting knife, the pieces do not fit together neatly.

"People stop by the house to tell me they remember this or that about the house ... A man with five sons ... a lady who became one of the nation's first preachers ... Rubin Edwards ..." For the Wartellas, historical accuracy is not as important as the house itself and the many conversations the home generates.

Although the house and its owners can be traced back to an early 1857 map of Sayville, little is certain about its early history. The Islip Historical Landmarks Commission has listed 1814 as the date the house was constructed but other sources say the house was not built until 1832. Some say the house was built by the Terry brothers and moved to its present location next to a no longer existing oystershell road which

ran diagonally from Montauk Highway to Edwards Street. Others say that the house was built by the Edwards brothers. One source says David Edwards built the house. Another says Rubin Edwards was the architect.

But some facts -- overheard as pleasant gossip -- do add up. The house was owned for many years by Grace Edwards who did, indeed, become one of the nations first women of the cloth and often spoke at the Sayville Congregational Church. After World War II, the house was modernized by long-time owners Kay and David Hitzegrath, improved by the Lents and now by the Wartellas who bought the house in December of 1971.

Drawbacks to history? According to Nick Wartella, the house requires constant upkeep -- little things such as painting, mending shutters and keeping after sags and bumps. But the work is pleasant and rewarding, something that the couple who teach English in the West Islip School District find a welcome alternative to a day of classes.

The house is one of the few landmarks created in Islip which are private residences.

The Hart house on Pine Street and the Woodhull house at the Mill Pond are the only other private homes in the historic village of Sayville that have been honored by the Landmarks Commission this year.

## Clash Of Views

Continued from page 9

defense spending and for his failure to support bills and amendments that would have prohibited the use of Federal funds for forced busing.

Downey also came under heavy fire from Cohalan for his recent vote to fund the education and implementation of abortions with Federal funds.

"I feel my candidacy offers

voters a better choice," Cohalan said. "I will search out honest solutions to our problems and stop the mismanaged programs that have not done what they were intended to do.

"Government is eating up more than money; its eating up the pride of older Americans and the future of younger ones.

*Frederick H. Stahl*

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*Suffolk County News*  
9/2/76