

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>103-05-0573-125</u>	
QUAD _____	
SERIES _____	
NEG. NO. _____	

SA 52

red/green

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: November 30, 1979

Town Hall

YOUR ADDRESS: 655 Main St., Islip TELEPHONE: 516 224-5450

ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning and Development

NR
listed

IDENTIFICATION

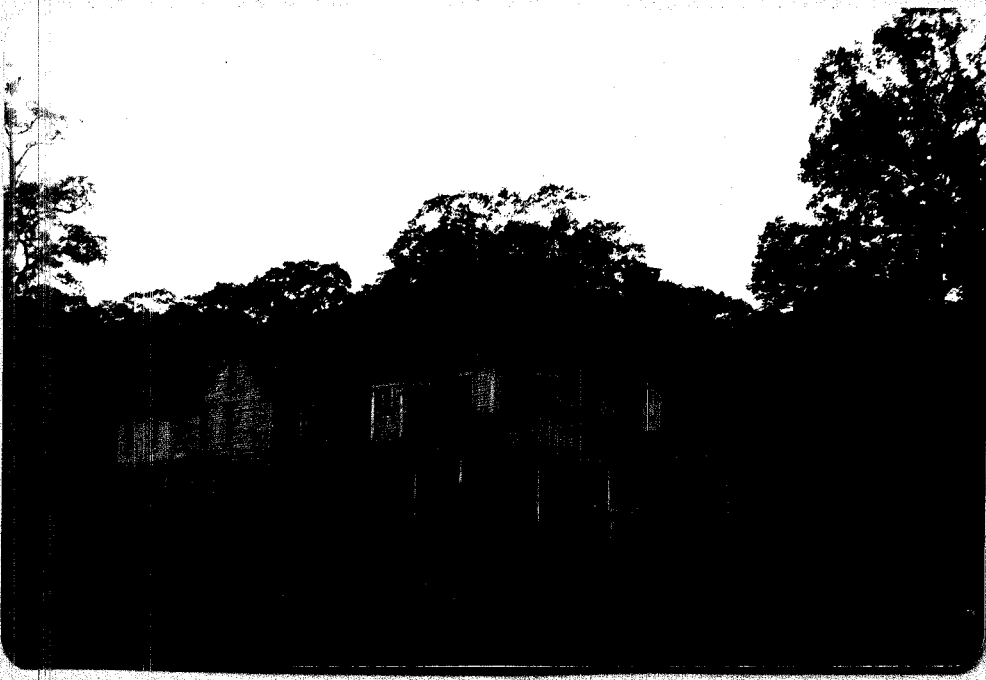
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): John E. Roosevelt house / "Meadow Croft"
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Sayville
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Middle Road; north side; east of St. Ann's Church
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Suffolk County ADDRESS: _____
- 6. USE: Original: summer residence Present: empty
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain by appointment

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): _____

12. PHOTO: **ELW III, # 2**
from SW, front & W. side

13. MAP: **see attached.**



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: this house stands empty; caretaker on property.
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: Brown's River branches flow on either side
 j. other: cottage, swimming pool.
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: marshland; Brown's River

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

This house lies on sixty-five acres of unspoiled land which includes wetlands and forks of Brown's River, just east of Sayville, and north of Middle Road. It lies directly south of what was Robert B. Roosevelt's property on Lotus Lake (bought in 1873). Robert's son John bought this land in 1890.

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

Outbuildings include garage, carriage house, stables, caretaker's cottage, and a swimming pool. See photos attached.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1890* (prior to 1873 for rear section)

ARCHITECT: I.H. Greene** (pending further verification)

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house, known as Meadow Croft, was the summer residence of the John E. Roosevelt family. He was the son of Robert B. Roosevelt and first cousin of President Theodore Roosevelt. He bought this property in 1890 and immediately built the house. His father, R.B. Roosevelt, had bought 150 acres directly north of this land in 1873 and built his country home there (now gone).

It is a large, two and one-half story, three bay, flaring hip roof, clapboard house with pilasters at corners. Center bay with elaborate window above porte-cochere at front entrance. Original panelled front door flanked by multi-paned sidelights. Original, divided, gable roof porch on front corners, with tapered columns. 28/1 windows. Three gable roof continued on attachment #1.

21. SOURCES: Stevenson, Charles, But As Yesterday, Sayville, 1967, pp. 77-84.
 Belcher-Hyde, E., Atlas of Suffolk County, Brooklyn: 1915, pl. 29.

22. THEME: residential.

John E. Roosevelt house, "Meadow Croft"

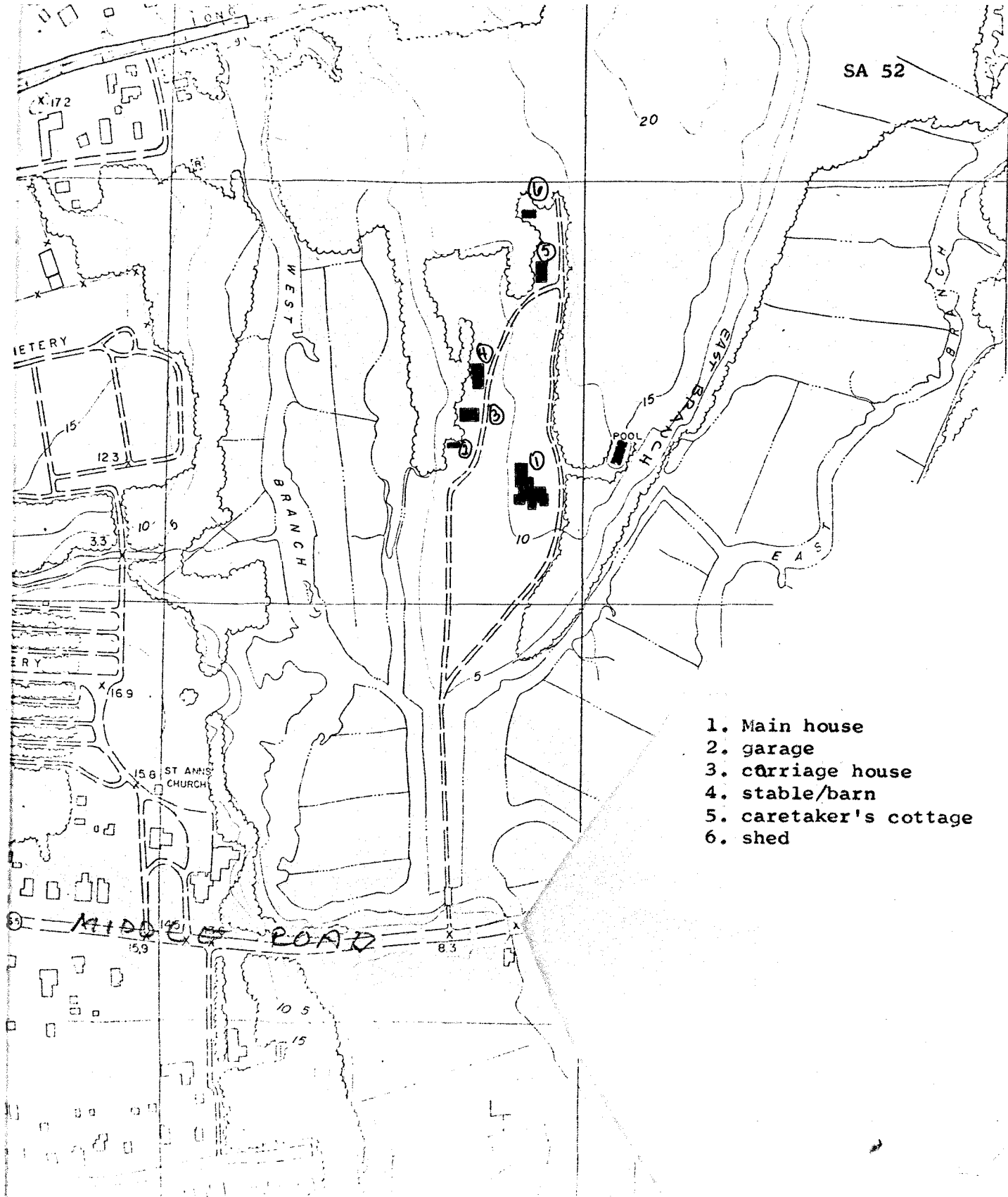
20 continued: pedimented dormers with 12/2 windows on front roof, and one each on west and east sides. Original balustrade gone from roof but surviving on porte-cochere. Brick foundation.

Rear section of house, containing kitchen, laundry, pantry, workshop, library, and bedrooms upstairs, includes older section of house existing on the site at the time the main section was built. Addition to rear of this older house and porch across west side added. Cistern located on this porch outside laundry room. Older section has door into J.E. Roosevelt's workshop with panels and two round-topped windows.

Main section of house includes dining room on west and drawing room on east with center hall containing elaborate staircase, and a large fireplace with panelled nook. The second and third floors contain large bedrooms with 28/1 windows on second floor, and 12/2 windows in third floor dormers.

Please see attached photos, both interior and exterior.

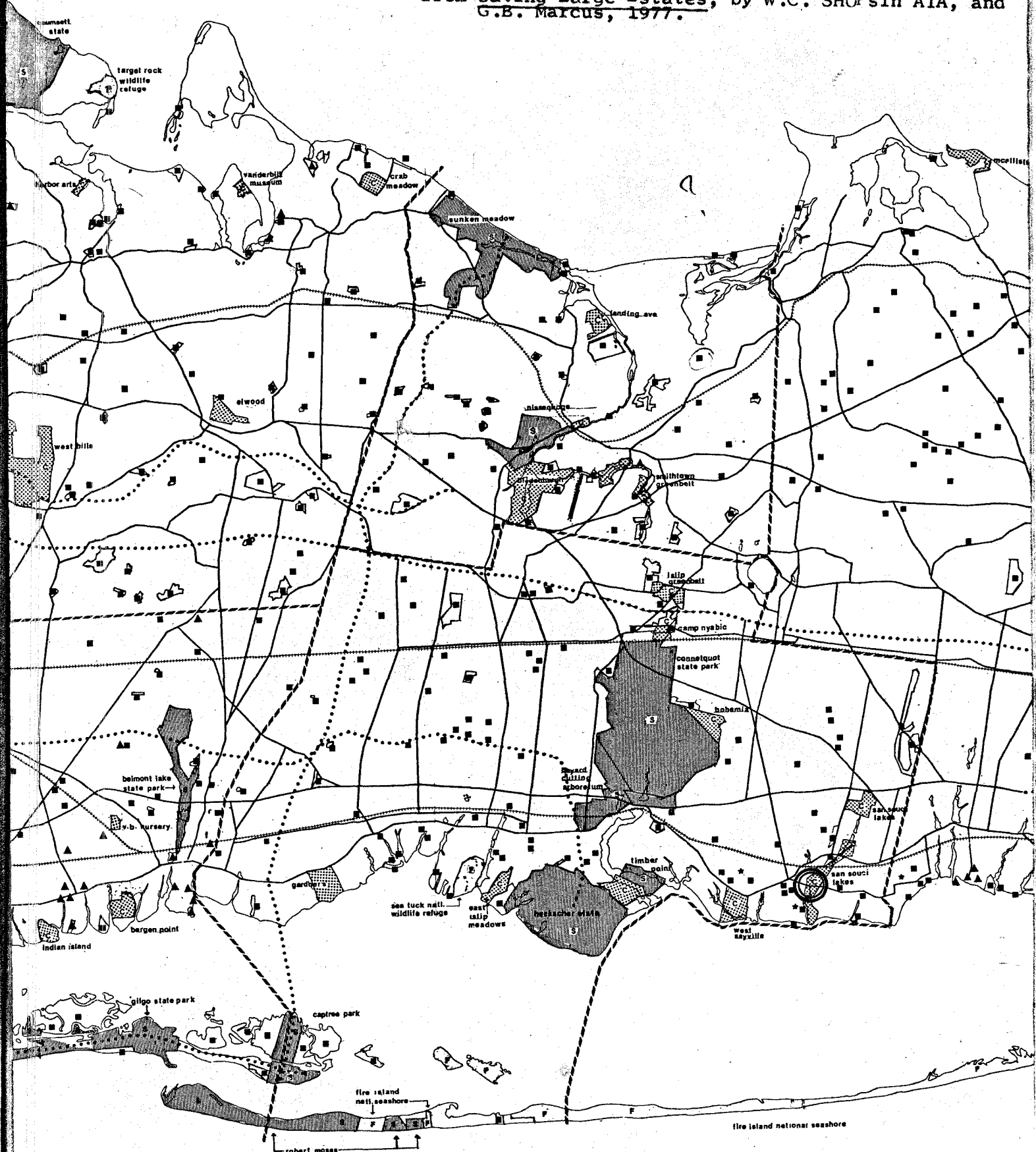
The older part of this house, now the rear wings, was built prior to 1873 and is identified as belonging to Woodward on the 1873 Atlas of Long Island.



1. Main house
2. garage
3. carriage house
4. stable/barn
5. caretaker's cottage
6. shed

Bowe, Albertson Sewer Map, Sayville.
 John E. Roosevelt property, now owned by Suffolk County.

from Saving Large Estates, by W.C. SHOPSIN AIA, and G.B. MARCUS, 1977.



"Nassau and Suffolk Counties: Outdoor Recreation Facilities", prepared by Suffolk County Dept. of Planning.

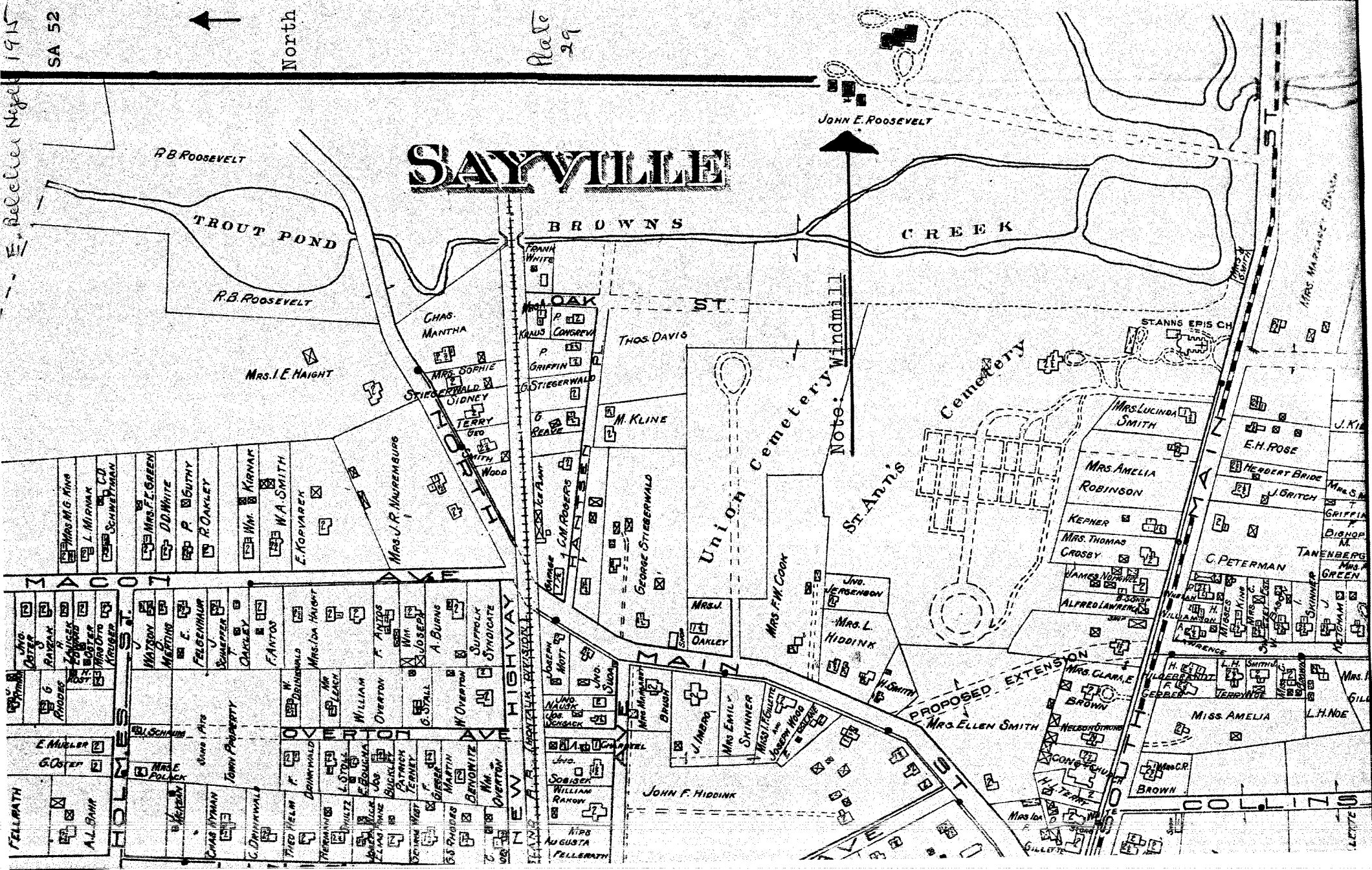
E. Belleli Nigh

SA 52

North
←

Plate
29

SAYVILLE



JOHN E. ROOSEVELT

R.B. ROOSEVELT

TROUT POND

R.B. ROOSEVELT

BROWNS

CREEK

CHAS. MANTHA

LOAK

THOS. DAVIS

M. KLINE

George STIEGERWALD

Union Cemetery

Note: Windmill

St. Ann's

Cemetery

STANNS EPIS CH

MRS. LUCINDA SMITH

MRS. AMELIA ROBINSON

MRS. THOMAS CROSBY

ALFRED LAWRENCE

E.H. ROSE

HERBERT BRIDE

J. GRITCH

TANENBERG

C. PETERMAN

Mrs. GREEN

MRS. CLARIE BROWN

MRS. ELLEN SMITH

MISS AMELIA

L.H. NOE

JOHN F. HIDDINK

Mrs. BROWN

Mrs. BROWN

LETTE



6

Photograph of Meadow Croft, from the personal album of Sayville architect I.H. Greene, collection of the Sayville Historical Society.

It is believed that the houses pictured in this album were designed by the Sayville architect, I. H. Green, Jr.

6

Meadow Croft

ELW III, # 1
from SW, front & West side



ELW III, #3
from SW, front and part of West side



Meadow Croft

ELW III, # 13
from WSW, west side and front showing porches and porte-cochere on front.

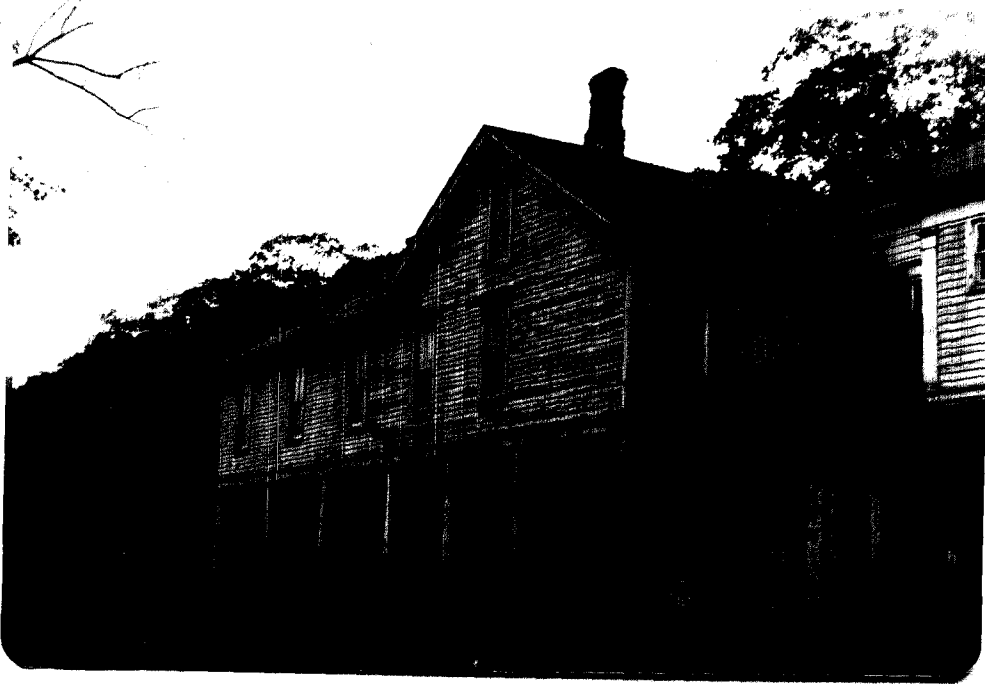


ELW III, # 4
from WNW, west side center, showing older part of house.



Meadow Croft

ELW III, # 12
from SW, west side showing older mid-section and rear section.



ELW III, # 10
from N, rear section containing laundry room



Meadow Croft

ELW III, #16
from SE, front and east side of main section



ELW III, # 14
from E, east side of main section



#6

Meadow Croft

ELW III, #15
from SE, part of front and east side second floor showing flaring hip roofline.

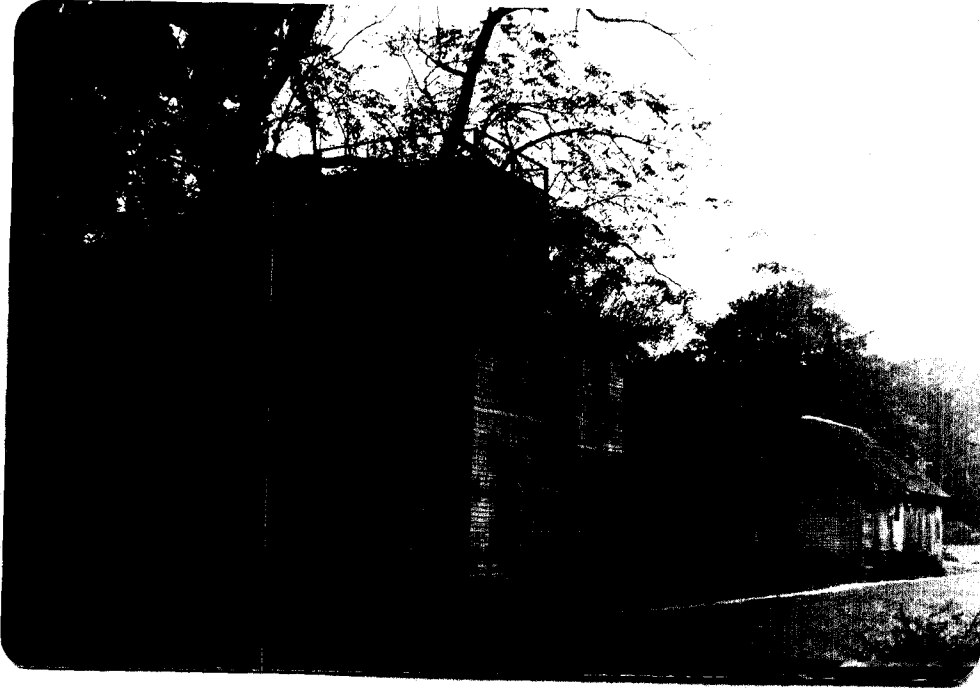


ELW III, # 5
from SE, garage (poured concrete)



Meadow Croft

ELW III, #6
from SsE, carriage house with base of water tower on roof, and stables (R.)



ELW III, # 11
from E, carriage house with base of water tower on roof



Meadow Croft

ELW III, # 9
from SE, stables

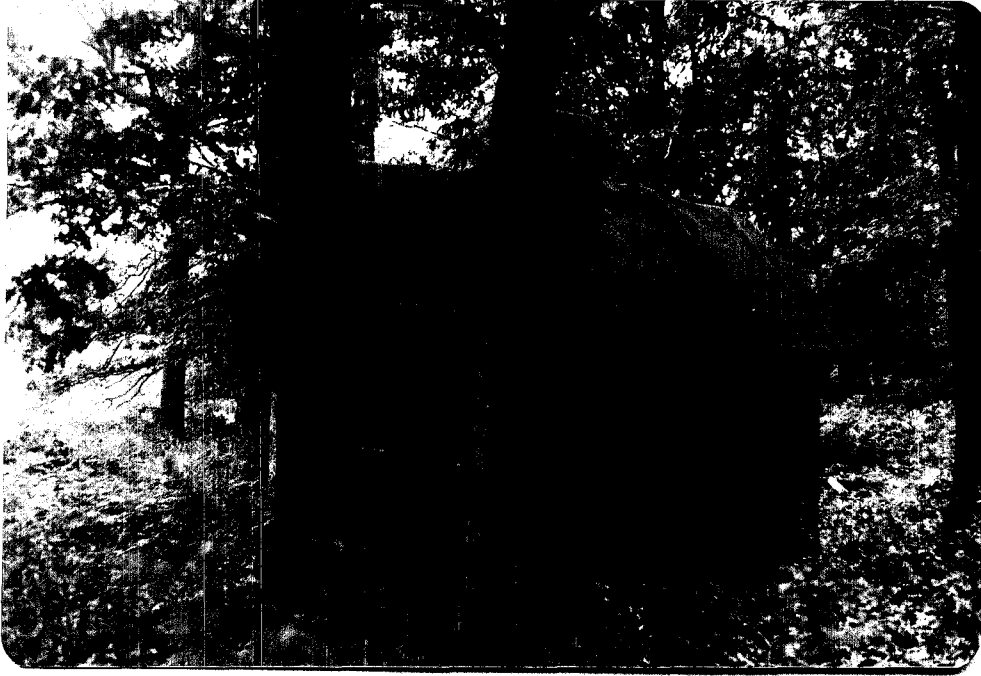


ELW III, # 17
from SW, caretaker's cottage, front and south side.



Meadow Croft

ELW III, #8
from SE, shed or pumphouse, located to west of swimming pool.



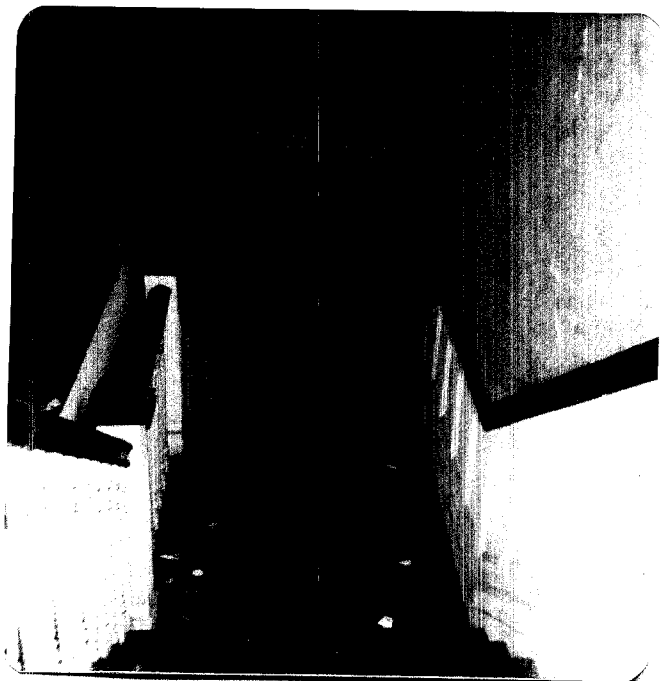
ELW III, # 7
from S, swimming pool (poured concrete)



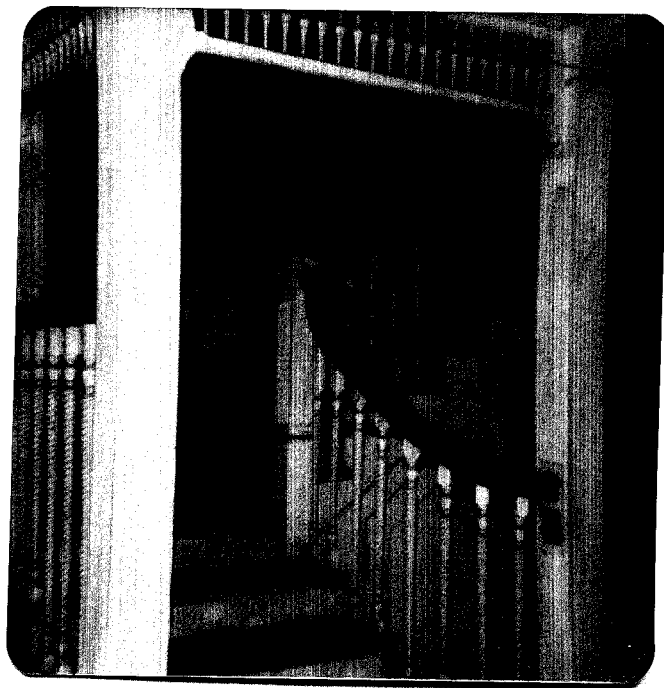
Meadow Croft Interiors

Center Hall, first floor, including staircase.

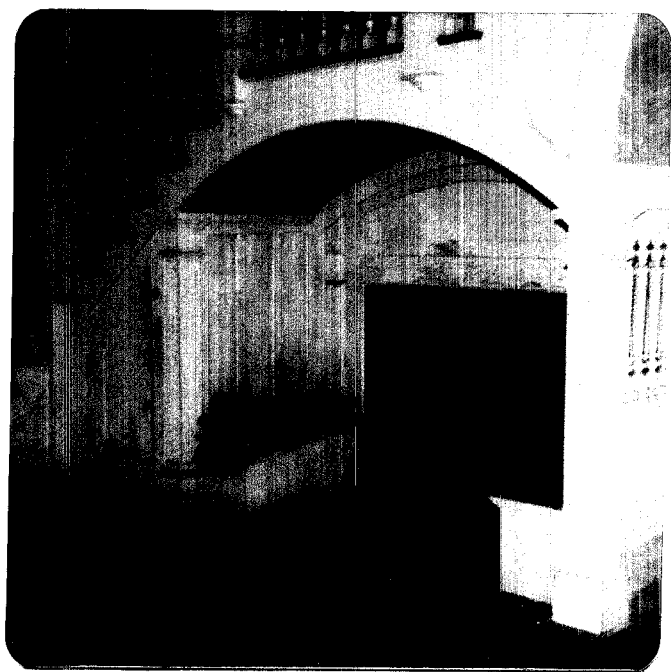
ELW V, #2, from second floor looking down the stairs to first floor



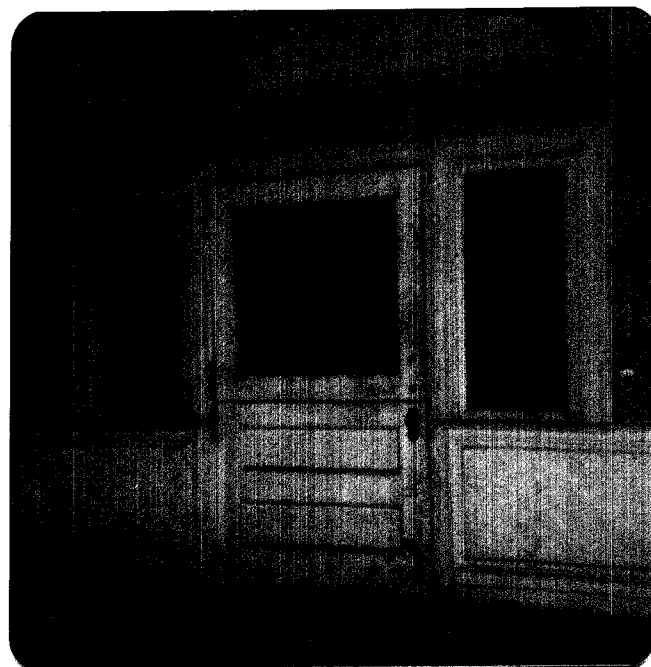
ELW V, #4, from first floor turn in staircase. Nook at right.



ELW V, # 3, first floor, staircase and fireplace with panelled nook.



ELW V, # 5, first floor, center hall, front entrance, Dutch door and side-lights.



Meadow Croft Interiors

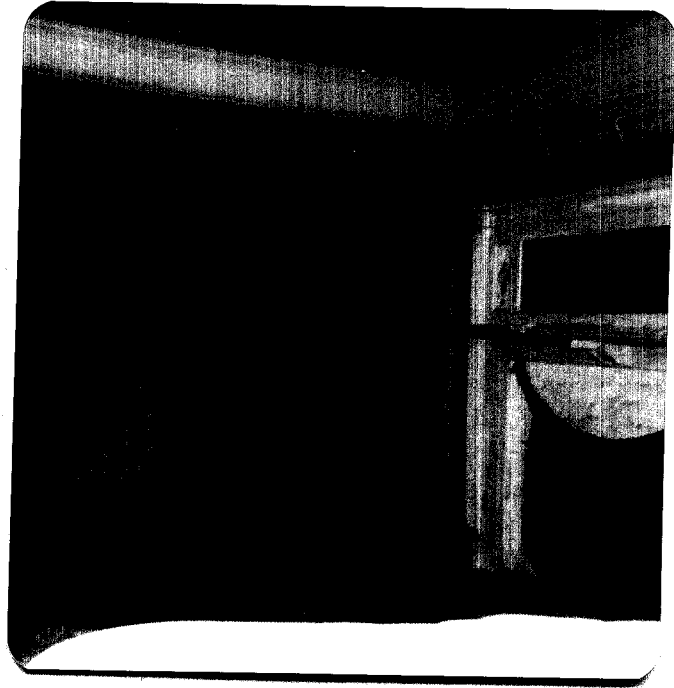
ELW V, #8

Front door detail, brass fixture.



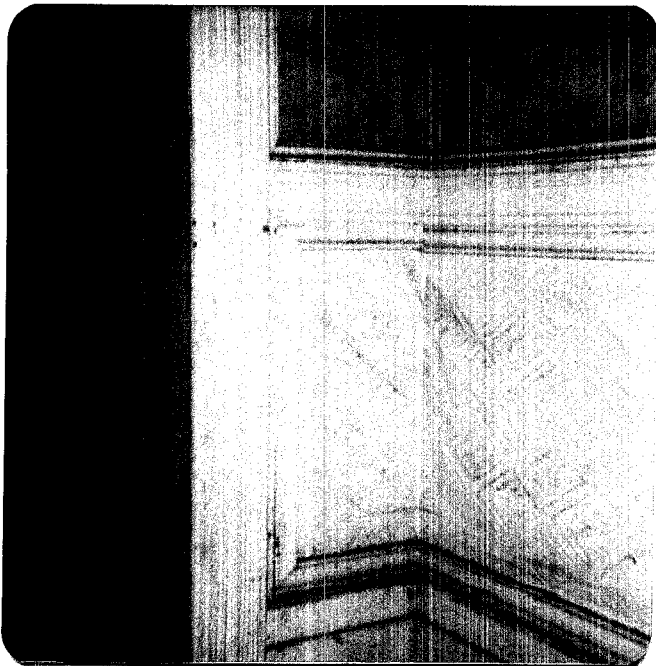
ELW V, #7

Drawing Room, French doors with
leaded transom lead to front porch.
Door on right into center hall.



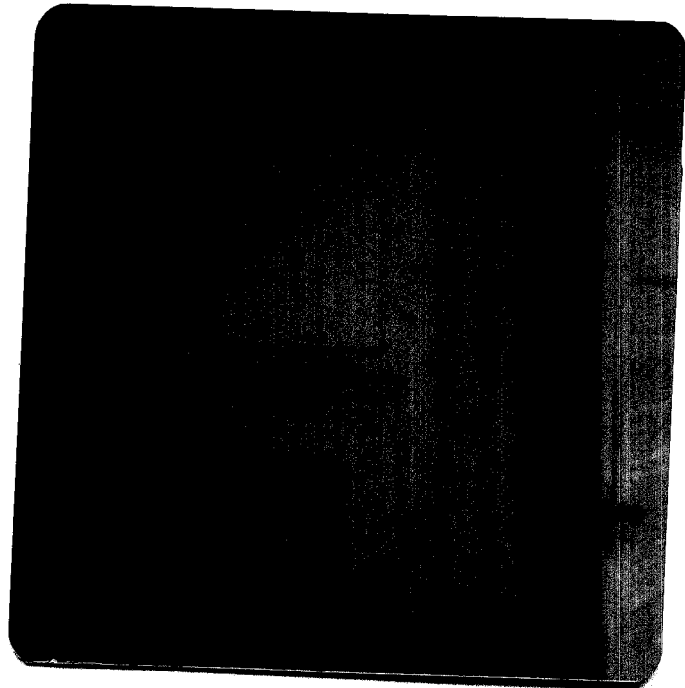
ELW V, # 6

Center Hall, first floor, detail



ELW V, # 1

Bedroom, second floor west side.
Corner fireplace.



was pleasantly

for the sponsorship of
eldest sister, Minnie
others. Libby Homan

man's affairs. She and
August 27, 1878, as a
ed a site north of the
doubt, this was done

7, and was buried in
ated at the funeral.
John and Robert. In
ases in her memory.
rch since its erection.
(Marion T. O'Shea)
in 1906, their home
house. It was demol-

ruished visitor at his
e United States with
ad John K. (Jack)
en Roosevelt (1857-

the east side of Lotus
another developer who
lake, sought permission
stead of the 60 houses

port-Sayville Watershed
the purpose of the com-
y was in keeping with
d former owner of the
developer's petition to
eres of the land to be
etting the lake will be

he dark of night, with
George and John K.
ter Bay to Sayville. It
and Ronkonkoma. As
y met John Beintema,
ed out the way to the
ast with the Robert B.
r. and Mrs. John E.
nd the President for a
is head right and left
rty salutations of the
Roosevelts dined that
day (July 24, 1903)

Robert B. Roosevelt, Sr., died on June 14, 1906, and was buried in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn. The funeral services were conducted at Lotus Lake by The Reverend Mr. Prescott, an old and close friend of Mr. Roosevelt.

Mr. Roosevelt's elder son, John E. Roosevelt, graduated from Columbia Law School in 1874. He had an active law practice in New York City. He was a member of St. Ann's Vestry from 1880 to 1882, inclusive. He was also selected as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention in those years.

John had three daughters by his first wife, Nannie Vance Roosevelt (1860-1912), whom he married in 1879. She also is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery.

The youngest daughter survives. She is Mrs. Philip J. (Jean Schermerhorn) Roosevelt of New York City and Oyster Bay, Long Island.

In about 1890, John E. Roosevelt purchased the house and about seventy-five acres of land on the peninsula which juts into the marsh, east of St. Ann's and south of the Long Island Railroad tracks. He called the property "Meadow Croft." His family spent the summers there until he died in 1939. A dirt road leads into it from Middle Road, just west of the bridge across Brown's River.

Mrs. Philip J. (Jean) Roosevelt was born in "Meadow Croft" and was baptized there by Mr. Prescott. Mrs. Roosevelt now owns "Meadow Croft." It is in charge of Bernard Loughlin, whose father had also been caretaker of the estate. Mr. Loughlin is the present chief of the Sayville Fire Department.

John Roosevelt was a bicycle enthusiast. In 1895, he was one of the local consuls of the League of American Wheelmen whose headquarters was in New York City. A "consul" was a property owner who opened up his grounds as a stop for touring wheelmen where they could rest and get refreshments. "Meadow Croft" was such a stop.

The Roosevelt family was friendly with that of John R. Suydam (2). Their children were together a lot in the summertime.⁶¹

After his first wife's death, John E. Roosevelt married Mrs. Edith Hamersley Biscoe of Bayport (1884-1943). The marriage was not a success. Mrs. Edith H. Roosevelt is buried in St. Ann's Cemetery.

In 1925, Jean Roosevelt married her second cousin, Philip J. Roosevelt (1892-1941). He was the son of W. Emlen Roosevelt who was a first cousin

the party left the Roosevelt home at four in the morning and arrived back at Sagamore Hill around noon.

W. Emlen Roosevelt was the son of James Alfred Roosevelt (1825-1898), older brother of Robert B. Roosevelt, Sr., and Theodore Roosevelt. Sr. James A. Roosevelt became president of the family business, Roosevelt and Son, an investment and brokerage firm. James also had a summer home at Oyster Bay, near that of his brothers, S. Weir Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt, Sr. Robert was the only one of the four brothers who did not buy a summer place in Oyster Bay. He picked Sayville.

"John Roosevelt's daughter, Gladys (later Mrs. Fairman Rogers Dick, now deceased) was a close friend of Lisa Suydam, daughter of John R. Suydam (2), now Mrs. Paul Renshaw of New York City (See Chapter 5).

Please make copy

& file under

RECEIVED

Sayville, SEP 10 1973

Suppall County News
8/30/73

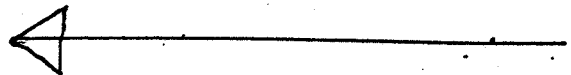
PAST-TIME

70 Years Ago - 1903

Kermit Roosevelt, a son of the President, and Philip, a cousin, had bicycled here from Oyster Bay to spend the day with Mr. and Mrs. John E. Roosevelt.

The wires of the New York and New Jersey Telephone Co. were being extended to Wading River, which had not before had telephone connections.

The members of the Sayville Cornet Band had had a Rhode Island clam bake in their club rooms.



File Sayville

Sayville

SAYVILLE

70 Years Ago-1903

The News said Lionel Barrymore, the actor and brother of Ethel Barrymore, was nearly drowned in the surf at East Hampton. A big surf was running and life savers cautioned bathers not to venture out too far. Barrymore was a powerful swimmer and the rough sea did not daunt him. He swam for awhile near the shore. Then he was caught in a seapuss and carried out until he called for help. The life savers rescued him.

For the first time in Sayville's history, it had been visited by a President of the United States. Theodore Roosevelt rode here on horseback from Oyster Bay, leaving at two in the morning and arriving at seven. He spent the day with his uncle, Robert B. Roosevelt, and left at four the next morning.

At the annual meeting of

1973

73

Suff. County News

Suffolk County News, 1973.

See Heinson & better account

and watermelon were provided; so the afternoon was pleasantly spent. Everybody enjoyed it very much."

On July 3, 1877, an amateur show was held under the sponsorship of St. Ann's in Columbia Hall. John Roosevelt and his eldest sister, Minnie (whose real name was Margaret), participated, among others. Libby Homan described the affair in her Journal (see Chapter 1).

Mrs. Robert B. Roosevelt, Sr., was active in St. Ann's affairs. She and Walter L. Suydam, Jr., were named by the vestry on August 27, 1878, as a committee to select a site for a new rectory. They selected a site north of the church on the edge of the marsh (see Chapter 9). No doubt, this was done in consultation with the Rector and Mrs. Prescott.

Mrs. Robert B. Roosevelt, Sr., died on April 1, 1887, and was buried in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn. Mr. Prescott officiated at the funeral. Her memory was perpetuated in St. Ann's by her sons, John and Robert. In 1887, they presented the altar cross and two brass vases in her memory. They have been in the sanctuary of the present stone church since its erection.

In 1888, the widowed Robert married Mrs. R. Francis (Marion T. O'Shea) Fortescue, a widow with three children. After his death in 1906, their home on Lotus Lake became known locally as the Fortescue house. It was demolished in 1958.⁵⁹

Three years before he died, Robert received a distinguished visitor at his summer home on Lotus Lake. It was the President of the United States with his son, "Ted," and Ted's second cousins, George and John K. (Jack) Roosevelt, sons of the President's first cousin, W. Emlen Roosevelt (1857-1930). They had come from Oyster Bay on horseback.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ In recent years, the part of the former Roosevelt estate on the east side of Lotus Lake has been developed with many fine homes. In April 1966, another developer who owns about 68 acres of the former estate, on the west side of the lake, sought permission of the Islip Town Board to build 104 homes on his property instead of the 60 houses on one acre plots for which it was then zoned.

A group of conservation-minded residents formed the Bayport-Sayville Watershed Preservation Committee to oppose the developer's application. The purpose of the committee is to preserve the estate as a wetland area. This certainly was in keeping with the beliefs of Robert B. Roosevelt, Sr., pioneer conservationist and former owner of the property. On September 20, 1966, the Town Board granted the developer's petition to the extent of permitting 83 homes to be built, with 30 to 35 acres of the land to be donated to the Town for conservation purposes. The area abutting the lake will be preserved in its natural state.

⁶⁰ On July 23, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt set out in the dark of night, with the three boys, then in their teens, (his son, Ted and cousins, George and John K. (Jack) Roosevelt) to ride from his home at Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay to Sayville. It was a thirty-five mile ride on muddy roads through Smithtown and Ronkonkoma. As they turned from Railroad Avenue into Main Street, Sayville, they met John Beintema, milkman who exchanged greetings with the President and pointed out the way to the Robert Roosevelt home. The President and his party had breakfast with the Robert B. Roosevelts. They lunched at Meadow Croft as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Roosevelt. In the afternoon, Robert B. Roosevelt took his father and the President for a ride through Sayville as far as Oakdale, "the President bowing his head right and left and raising his familiar broad-brimmed hat in response to hearty salutations of the Sayville people." (*Suffolk County News*, July 24, 1903). All the Roosevelts dined that evening at the Robert B. Roosevelt home on Lotus Lake. The next day (July 24, 1903)

Robert B
Green-Wood
Lotus Lake
Roosevelt.

Mr. Roo:
Law School
was a mem
selected as

John had
1912), wh
tery.

The your
Roosevelt c

In about
five acres
Ann's and
"Meadow (C
A dirt road
Brown's R

Mrs. Ph
baptized th
It is in cha
the estate.

John Ro
consuls of
New York
grounds as
ments. "M

The Ro
Their child

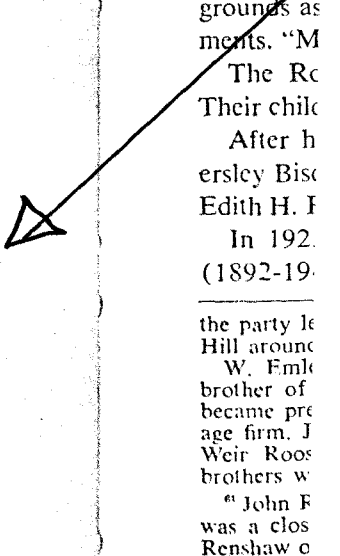
After h
ersley Bisc
Edith H. F

In 192.
(1892-19

the party le
Hill around

W. Eml
brother of
became pre
age firm. J
Weir Roos
brothers w

"John F
was a clos
Renshaw o



Robert B. Roosevelt, Sr., died on June 14, 1906, and was buried in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn. The funeral services were conducted at Lotus Lake by The Reverend Mr. Prescott, an old and close friend of Mr. Roosevelt.

Mr. Roosevelt's elder son, John E. Roosevelt, graduated from Columbia Law School in 1874. He had an active law practice in New York City. He was a member of St. Ann's Vestry from 1880 to 1882, inclusive. He was also selected as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention in those years.

John had three daughters by his first wife, Nannie Vance Roosevelt (1860-1912), whom he married in 1879. She also is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery.

The youngest daughter survives. She is Mrs. Philip J. (Jean Schermerhorn) Roosevelt of New York City and Oyster Bay, Long Island.

In about 1890, John E. Roosevelt purchased the house and about seventy-five acres of land on the peninsula which juts into the marsh, east of St. Ann's and south of the Long Island Railroad tracks. He called the property "Meadow Croft." His family spent the summers there until he died in 1939. A dirt road leads into it from Middle Road, just west of the bridge across Brown's River.

Mrs. Philip J. (Jean) Roosevelt was born in "Meadow Croft" and was baptized there by Mr. Prescott. Mrs. Roosevelt now owns "Meadow Croft." It is in charge of Bernard Loughlin, whose father had also been caretaker of the estate. Mr. Loughlin is the present chief of the Sayville Fire Department.

John Roosevelt was a bicycle enthusiast. In 1895, he was one of the local consuls of the League of American Wheelmen whose headquarters was in New York City. A "consul" was a property owner who opened up his grounds as a stop for touring wheelmen where they could rest and get refreshments. "Meadow Croft" was such a stop.

The Roosevelt family was friendly with that of John R. Suydam (2). Their children were together a lot in the summertime.⁶¹

After his first wife's death, John E. Roosevelt married Mrs. Edith Hamersley Biscoe of Bayport (1884-1943). The marriage was not a success. Mrs. Edith H. Roosevelt is buried in St. Ann's Cemetery.

In 1925, Jean Roosevelt married her second cousin, Philip J. Roosevelt (1892-1941). He was the son of W. Emlen Roosevelt who was a first cousin

the party left the Roosevelt home at four in the morning and arrived back at Sagamore Hill around noon.

W. Emlen Roosevelt was the son of James Alfred Roosevelt (1825-1898), older brother of Robert B. Roosevelt, Sr., and Theodore Roosevelt, Sr. James A. Roosevelt became president of the family business, Roosevelt and Son, an investment and brokerage firm. James also had a summer home at Oyster Bay, near that of his brothers, S. Weir Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt, Sr. Robert was the only one of the four brothers who did not buy a summer place in Oyster Bay. He picked Sayville.

⁶¹ John Roosevelt's daughter, Gladys (later Mrs. Fairman Rogers Dick, now deceased) was a close friend of Lisa Suydam, daughter of John R. Suydam (2), now Mrs. Paul Renshaw of New York City (See Chapter 5).

Meadowcroft

The Day Tripper

For the family that's done everything we've designed a trip for that certain Sunday afternoon when all the funnies have been read, the beaches are too crowded and the kids are restless. It's a mini-historical trip through some of Islip Town's museums and homesteads. They are all open on Sundays between 1 and 4 p.m. The trip covers a radius of approximately 20 miles and the cost for your family should run you less than a movie since most of the museums are free.

Sagtikos Manor
Montauk Highway (Route 27A) near Gardiner Drive, Bay Shore
Built in 1692 by Stephen Van Cortlandt, it is one of the finest colonial homes in the United States. The Manor House was used as the Headquarters of General Sir Henry Clinton during the Revolutionary War. In 1790 George Washington was an overnight guest.
The manor is open Memorial Day through September. In June and September it is open Sunday only from 1-4 p.m.; in July and August on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Adults \$1, Children under 12, 25 cents.
861-0137

Octagonal House — Vicarage of Christ Episcopal Church
Brentwood Road and Third Avenue. From Sunrise Highway north on Awixa Avenue which becomes Brentwood Road. Brentwood.

One of the most unusually shaped pieces of church property on Long Island. The house is 120 years old and was acquired by the parish in 1966. It stands well back from the street near the church.

Westbrook Farms
Across from Bayard Cutting Arboretum on Montauk Highway and next to Grumman's on Sunrise Highway in Oakdale.

These Cutting farm buildings are on the site of the original "Lorillard Stables" consisting of 635 acres used for the breeding and racing of the famous Lorillard thoroughbred race horses. The architect of "The Barns" for Mr. Cutting was the famous Stanford White.

Westbrook Farms is on the National Register of Historic Sites and its destiny could be destruction by neglect. The William K. Vanderbilt Historical Society is trying to prevent this occurrence. It is not open to the public but it can be viewed from the road.

Idle Hour
Off Montauk Highway in Oakdale, south on Idle Hour Drive.
This William K. Vanderbilt

Mansion was built in 1902 and is now Dowling College.

Ocker's Gardens — Town of Islip Museum
965 Montauk Highway, Oakdale

This museum is operated by the William K. Vanderbilt Historical Society and it is located in the home built in 1830 by "the Oyster King", Jacob Ockers. Exhibits include The Original Oakdale Settlers, Two Victorian Toy Rooms, Bottle & Pottery Room and The Interchangeable Exhibit Room which is now featuring "The Great Estates of Islip Town". The purpose of this Museum is to teach the "Waste Not, Want Not" theory.

Museum hours: Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Call for special group tours. Free.
567-2277

LaSalle Military Academy
Montauk Highway, Oakdale just east of the Oakdale shopping center.

The Christian Brothers oversee this fine estate which was originally called "Indian Neck Hall."

Architect Ernest Flagg was commissioned by Commodore and Mrs. Fredrick Bourne to design the mansion which was completed for their 25th Wedding Anniversary in 1900.

The grounds, with the rustic bridges, lake and little islands, were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Have your cameras ready to photograph the pair of rare black swans that glide around the lake. A drive into the complex is permissible or the mansion and grounds can be seen from the highway.

Blue Points Company
Atlantic Avenue — South from Montauk Highway, West Sayville

The Blue Points Company is famous for their clams which are shipped all over the country. The tour consists of a marine exhibit and a visit to a "greenhouse" for raising clams. Tours are free and conducted only in the mornings beginning about 10:30 a.m. Age's

limited to 15 years and older. Free.
LT 9-0124

West Sayville Marine Museum
Montauk Highway, south on West Avenue in West Sayville

The museum has changing exhibits, a local small craft collection, lifesaving exhibits and a 19th century oystering vessel docked by a 19th century oystering house. It is open year-round. Monday - Saturday from 10-3 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Suggested donation (adults 50 cents, children 25 cents)

Edwards Homestead
Collins Avenue and Edwards Street, Sayville

A restored 18th century farmhouse which features photographs, old maps, tools, period furnishings, lamp collection, country store and museum buildings on grounds.

It is open during the summer on Wednesday and Saturday from 1-4 p.m. and on the first Sunday of every month. Free.
567-1733.

Meadowcroft
Middle Country Road, Sayville. Just past St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

This mansion, once owned by the late John E. Roosevelt, sits back from the road and looks out onto acres of marshland and on to Brown's River. It can be viewed from the road by stopping at the small bridge that crosses the creek.

Islip Grange Historical Village
Broadway Avenue and Montauk Highway in Sayville

Restoration of a historical village including a windmill, structures dating pre-Revolutionary War and a 1920's cottage art gallery.

The village buildings may be viewed by walking around the complex. None are yet open to the public.

An art gallery on the site is open Tuesday through Friday from 10-4 and Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Free
Call 529-7342

Suffolk County News
6/14/79

Suffolk County News, June 14, 1979.

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
91NR0873
UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305-000573
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Suffolk Co. Historic Services DATE: 12/15/88

YOUR ADDRESS: P.O. Box 144, West Sayville TELEPHONE: 516-567-1487
N.Y., 11796

ORGANIZATION (if any): _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): "Meadow Croft" Stable *hamlet*

2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Sayville

3. STREET LOCATION: Middle Road, north side at Browns Creek

4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private

5. PRESENT OWNER: Suffolk County ADDRESS: Riverhead County Center

6. USE: Original: stable Present: stable

7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No

Interior accessible: Explain Park to be open to public when the house is restored.

DESCRIPTION

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

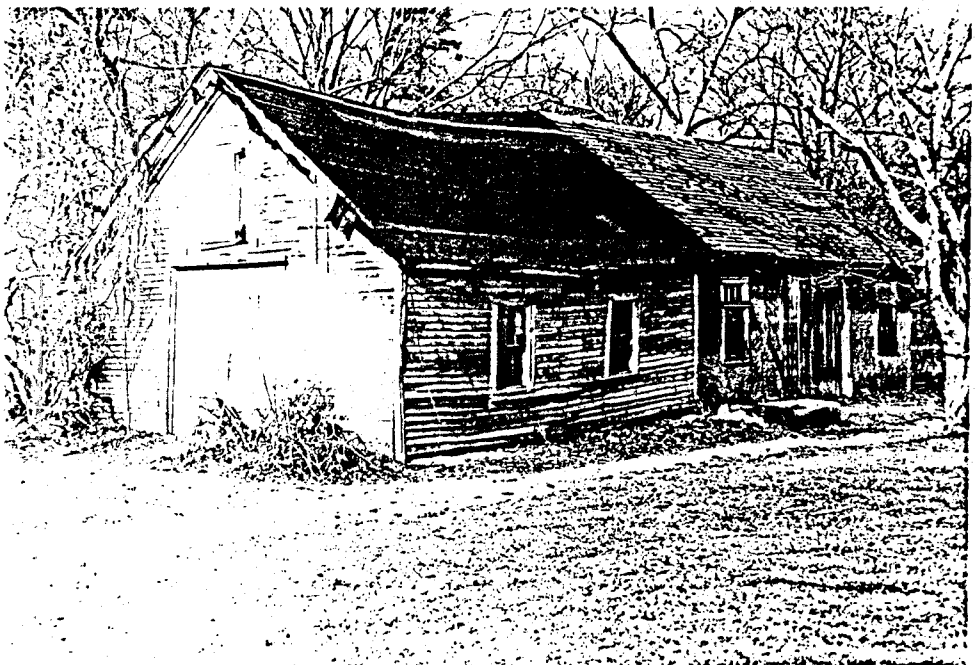
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____

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): _____

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP: see attached



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: building is located between the west
 j. other: and east branches of the Browns River.
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)

Meadow Croft consists of six estate buildings located on sixty acres of Suffolk County Parkland Between the west and east branches of the Browns River. The property and buildings have been dedicated to the Suffolk Co. Historic Trust and were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

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

Meadow Croft has been virtually unchanged since 1939 when John Roosevelt died. The stable has been used by the caretaker of the property until the present time. The west side of the stable is severely rotted with both the flooring and roof needing to be rebuilt .

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1891

ARCHITECT: Isaac H. Green

BUILDER: Nelson Strong

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Meadow Croft was the Summer Estate of John E. Roosevelt, a first cousin of President Theodore Roosevelt. It is the last remaining estates of the three that were built at the border of Bayport/Sayville at the turn of the Century by Robert Roosevelt and his two sons. I.H. Green a prominent local architect worked on all of the estate buildings. This is one of the few remaining estates on the south shore of Islip Town.

21. SOURCES: Roosevelt family files from James P. Roosevelt, Oyster Bay N.Y.

22. THEME: Long Island Estates

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: November 30, 1979

Town Hall

YOUR ADDRESS: 655 Main St., Islip TELEPHONE: 516 224-5450

ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning and Development

copy
CEQ
DONE

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): John E. Roosevelt house "Meadow Croft"
2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Sayville
3. STREET LOCATION: Middle Road, north side, east of St. Ann's Church
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
5. PRESENT OWNER: Suffolk County ADDRESS: _____
6. USE: Original: summer residence Present: empty
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain by appointment

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): _____

12. PHOTO: ELW III, # 2
from SW, front & W. side

13. MAP: see attached.



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: this house stands empty; caretaker on property.
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: Brown's River branches flow on either side
 j. other: cottage, swimming pool.
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: marshland; Brown's River

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

This house lies on sixty-five acres of unspoiled land which includes wetlands and forks of Brown's River, just east of Sayville, and north of Middle Road. It lies directly south of what was Robert B. Roosevelt's property on Lotus Lake (bought in 1873). Robert's son John bought this land in 1890.

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

Outbuildings include garage, carriage house, stables, caretaker's cottage, and a swimming pool. See photos attached.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1891 (prior to 1873 for rear section)

ARCHITECT: I.H. Green

BUILDER: Nelson Strong

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house, known as Meadow Croft, was the summer residence of the John E. Roosevelt family. He was the son of Robert B. Roosevelt and first cousin of President Theodore Roosevelt. He bought this property in 1890 and immediately built the house. His father, R.B. Roosevelt, had bought 150 acres directly north of this land in 1873 and built his country home there (now gone).

It is a large, two and one-half story, three bay, flaring hip roof, clapboard house with pilasters at corners. Center bay with elaborate window above porte-cochere at front entrance. Original panelled front door flanked by multi-paned sidelights. Original, divided, gable roof porch on front corners, with tapered columns. 28/1 windows. Three gable roof continued on attachment #1.

21. SOURCES: Stevenson, Charles, But As Yesterday, Sayville, 1967, pp. 77-84.
 Belcher-Hyde, E., Atlas of Suffolk County, Brooklyn: 1915, pl. 2

22. THEME: residential.

John E. Roosevelt house, "Meadow Croft"

20 continued: pedimented dormers with 12/2 windows on front roof, and one each on west and east sides. Original balustrade gone from roof but surviving on porte-cochere. Brick foundation.

Rear section of house, containing kitchen, laundry, pantry, workshop, library, and bedrooms upstairs, includes older section of house existing on the site at the time the main section was built. Addition to rear of this older house and porch across west side added. Cistern located on this porch outside laundry room. Older section has door into J.E. Roosevelt's workshop with panels and two round-topped windows.

Main section of house includes dining room on west and drawing room on east with center hall containing elaborate staircase, and a large fireplace with panelled nook. The second and third floors contain large bedrooms with 28/1 windows on second floor, and 12/2 windows in third floor dormers.

Please see attached photos, both interior and exterior.

The older part of this house, now the rear wings, was built prior to 1873 and is identified as belonging to Woodward on the 1873 Atlas of Long Island.