

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. 103-05-0535
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

Sa 23b

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip Town Hall DATE: 8/17/79

655 Main Street
YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, NY TELEPHONE: (516) 224-5450

ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning and Development

IDENTIFICATION

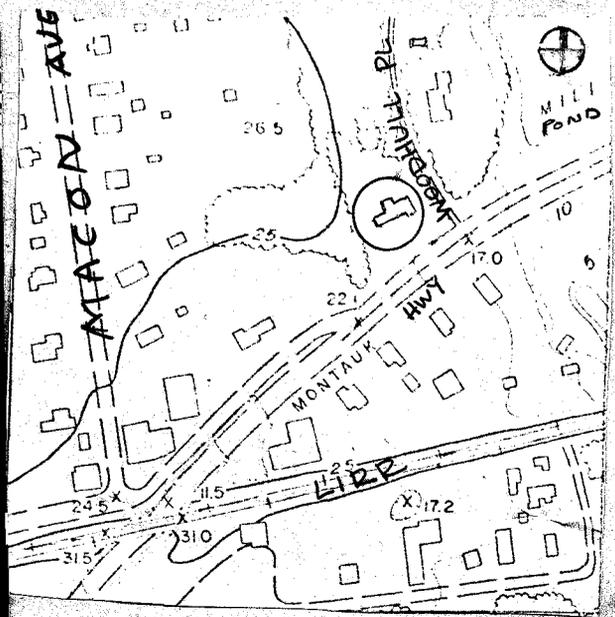
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Woodhull House
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Sayville
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 313 Montauk Highway
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior 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: (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):
additions in late 19th century

12. PHOTO: ELW VIII, # 11
from SW, W. side & S. facade

13. MAP: Bowe-Anderson



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: adjacent to Mill Pond

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

The Woodhull House is on the North side of Montauk Highway, adjacent to the Mill Pond on which Nathan Woodhull had his saw mill, and north of the Long Island Railroad tracks.

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

2½ story 7 bay clapboard house with gable roof central portion and projecting gable roof bays. Second floor dormer extension on brackets on west wing. Varigated shingles in gable. Original entrance has covered portico and entry with sidelights. 2/2 balcon-fenetre windows throughout, with occasional multi-pane SIGNIFICANCE windows.

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1810

ARCHITECT: _____

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

In 1800, Nathan Woodhull, one of Sayville's early residents, originally from Setauket, purchased from the Edwards family a large tract of land on the South Country Road adjoining the Mill Pond, and in 1804 built a Saw Mill on the Pond by making a dam at the edge of the road. His home, at 313 Montauk Hwy., was built in 1810, and still survives, an important element to the history of Sayville. The House is a Designated Town Landmark.

See Oa 60.

21. SOURCES:

Charles P. Dickerson, A History of the Sayville Community, Suffolk County News, 1975. pps. 15 & 41.

22. THEME:

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

A History Of Sayville

By Charles P. Dickerson

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CHAPTER XII THE FISHING INDUSTRY



The most lucrative source of income to the early inhabitants of Sayville was from the bay, where they caught fish, clams and oysters. The oysters particularly brought a good price in the New York market. In 1815 a Capt. Humphrey of Bluepoint planted oyster seed in the bay off Blue Point and was very successful and they had an unusually fine flavor. That is how the name Blue Point Oyster started.

About 1820 the oysters and clams became very scarce. The oysters ceased to spawn. There were hard times in Sayville. But about this time the city of New York had started to grow very rapidly. It had become a city of almost 500,000 people. The homes, and shops, and office buildings were heated entirely by cordwood. Since there were no railroads, or trucks, there was no way to transport coal, and the use of oil was unknown, the people of New York City had to depend on the countryside around to obtain cordwood, and Suffolk County became the largest producer of lumber in the USA.

A man from Setauket named Nathan Woodhull had come to Sayville in 1804 and built a sawmill on the Mill Pond on No. Main Street. He also built a home in 1810 just west of the sawmill overlooking the lake, that stands today. The people of Sayville went out far and wide, cutting down the woodlands to the north of the village. They took the trees to Mr. Woodhull's sawmill where it was cut into cordwood, then loaded on boats in Brown's River and taken to New York to be sold. And for the two decades from 1820 to 1840 that is how they made their living.

In 1838 a shipload of oysters from Virginia had been unloaded in the bay and had started to spawn and multiply so rapidly that by the mid-forties they had again become a principal source of income for the village.

For the past 120 years the fishing industry has centered around the Dutch folks of West Sayville. It was in 1849 that two Dutchmen sailed from Rotterdam in Holland - they came from the village of Bruinisse - and landed in New York City, expecting to go west with their families. But they heard about the good fishing on Long Island. Their names were Cornelius Hage and Cornelius DeWall. Mr. Hage and his family got on the LIRR in Brooklyn, which at that time ran only thru the middle of Long Island, and they got off at Lakeland. Weary and disappointed, they had the good luck to come upon Carman Seaman of Bayport, who offered to take them in his ox cart, down to the Great South Bay "where the clams and oysters were."

They wrote home to Holland about the plentiful supply of fish, clams and oysters

to be found in the bay at Sayville, Holland was having hard economic times and shortly more Dutchmen arrived in Sayville. Among the first was Sebastian Broere. Others settled in Oakdale. They built an oyster house on the bay at Brick Kiln Creek in Oakdale.

The area that is now West Sayville, was all owned by Samuel T. Greene, whose forebears had purchased it from the Nicoll Estate in 1786. It was not until 1865 that Mr. Greene sold the first plot to a Dutchman named William Tucker, down on what is now the east side of Atlantic Avenue. Soon the majority of the new Dutch arrivals were settling in West Sayville. It is estimated that within the next few decades over 1500 Dutch folks came to settle in this area. As I mentioned before, due to an oversight in the King's Grant to William Nicoll in 1697, the bay and the beach in the east half of Islip Town belongs to Brookhaven Town. The people of Brookhaven forbade the inhabitants of Islip Town to fish and clam and oyster in the east half of the bay. It was not until July 13, 1880 that an agreement was reached with Brookhaven whereby for the sum of \$1,500 the fishermen of Islip Town were given forever equal rights with those Brookhaven to fish in the bay.

In the same year another long dispute was settled. Brookhaven Town and the Smith heirs of St. George's Manor, both claimed ownership of the bay, the Town by grant from Charles II and the Smith family by a deed showing that they had purchased it from the Indians. The dispute was finally settled in 1880 by the Supreme Court, who divided the bay between them by a line going south from the Tower of the old Bayport Fire House. Thereupon the Town of Brookhaven purchased the Smith family portion, and the whole bay east of Nicoll Point, now belongs to Brookhaven - except such parts as they have sold off afterwards to individual owners.

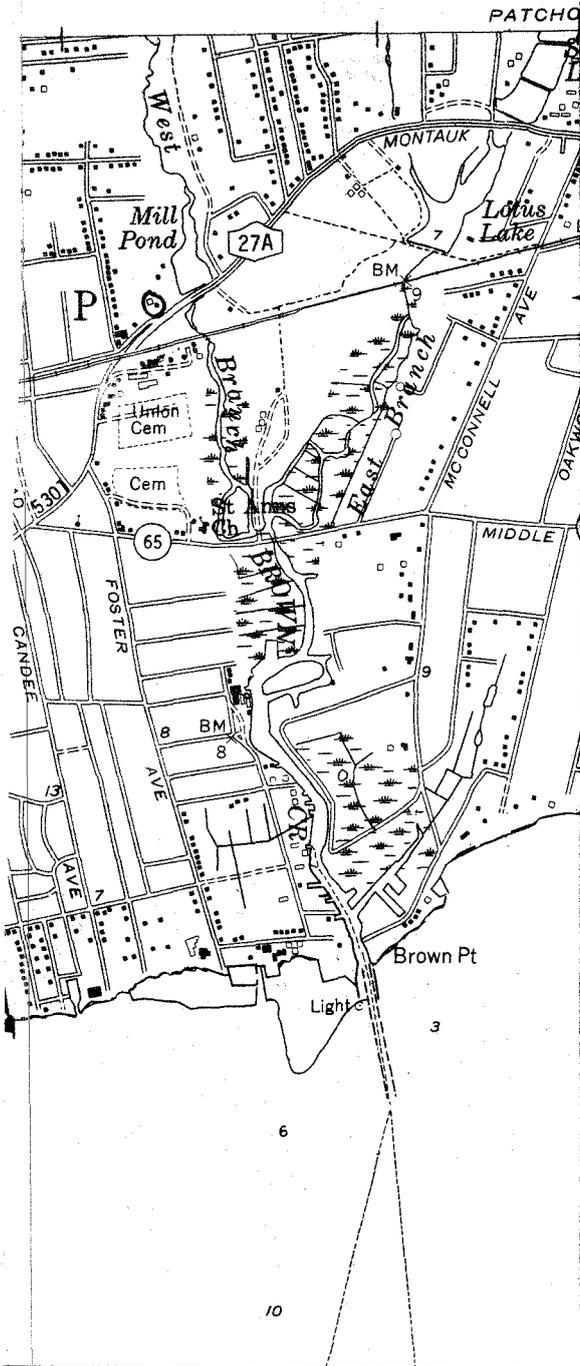
In the meantime the oyster and clam industry had become very important to this area. The Bluepoint oyster of the Great South Bay was considered the finest in the world. In 1908 the State passed a law forbidding any oysters to be called "Bluepoints" unless they came from the Great South Bay.

An oyster crop failure in 1879-1880 marked the end of the natural beds, or "commons" and was the beginning of the planted beds by individual owners.

Prior to 1870 most oysters were shipped by boat to New York. After 1870 most were shipped by rail. In 1894 70,000 barrels were shipped rail and 20,000, were shipped by boat. The oystermen received \$6 per barrel. By 1900 as many as 100,000 barrels per year were being shipped by rail out of the Sayville railroad station, to all parts of the world.

(Continued Next Week)

New York State DOT map, Sayville



Q. Is it true that an Indian dugout was found in Suffolk a few years ago?

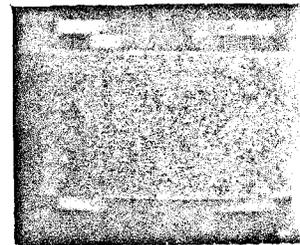
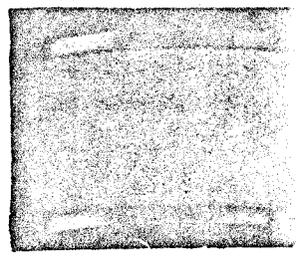
—E.P., Seaford

A. What was believed to be an Indian relic was pulled out of Old Mill Pond in Saville in October, 1953, by a group of young boys. The battered, hollowed-out log was found resting on the muddy bottom in five feet of water. From its description one historian said it was similar to the handmade canoes that had been used by the Secatogues who had lived in that area long ago. However, it was never examined and authenticated by any authority. The youngsters patched up a few spots in the 14-foot craft, let it dry out and paddled around in it for a time. No one seems to know what happened to it and, according to the parents of one of the boys, it might have ended up at the bottom of the pond again.

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also
Don't file "Indians" file: See willp

12/17/72
L.I. magazine



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UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305000535
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

SY 1B

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: May 1990
Town Hall, 655 Main St.
YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, L.I., N.Y. 11751 TELEPHONE: 516.224.5450
ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning, Hosing, and Development

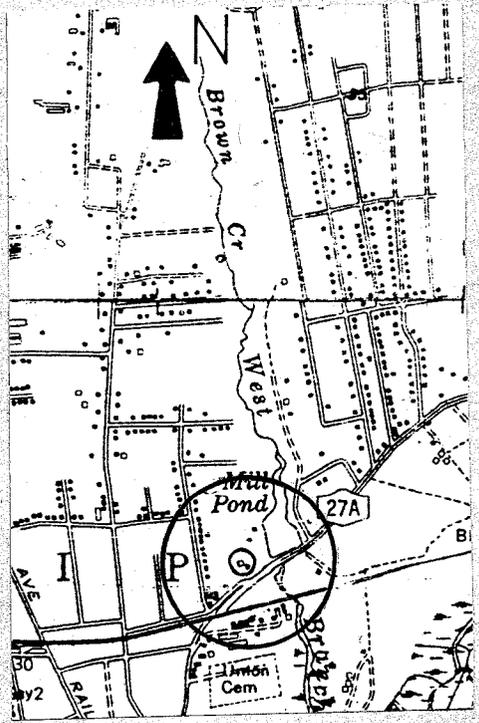
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Interior accessible: Explain private residence

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additions in late 19th century

12. PHOTO: Neg. KK XXII-31, fm. W/SW 13. MAP: NYS DOT composite Patchogue and Sayville Quads



HP-1

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
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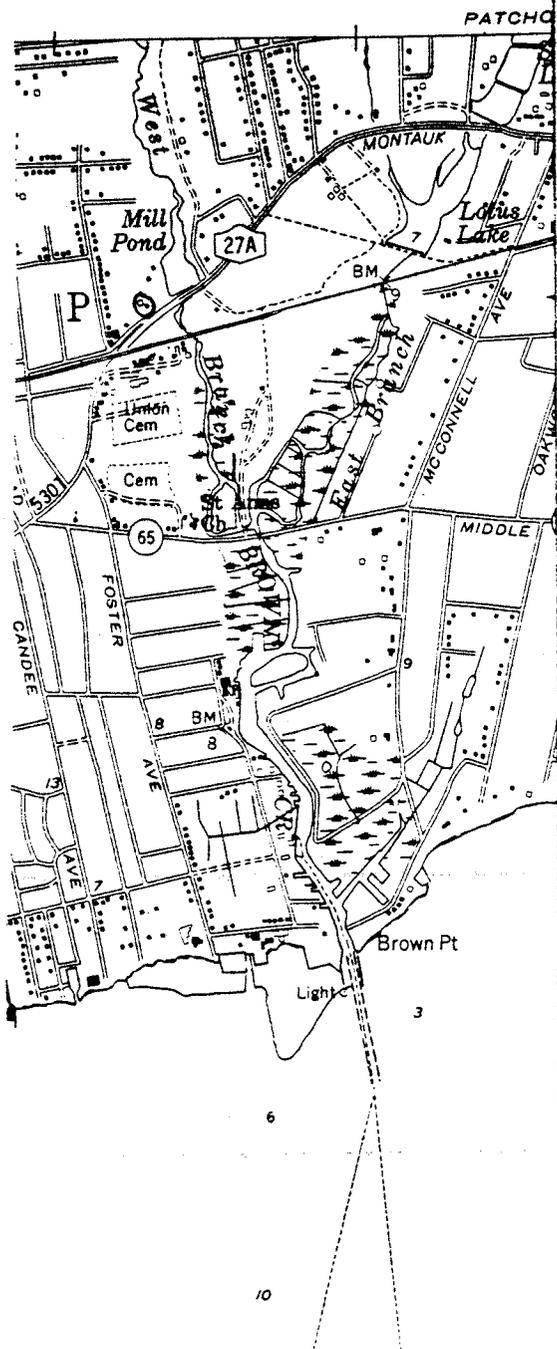
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also
Dues

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