

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. 103-05-0055
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

DD 1
Quad IV
No. 8

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: August 19, 1975.

YOUR ADDRESS: Town Hall
655 Main Street TELEPHONE: (516) 581-2000

ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning, Housing & Development

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): ~~Brass Shop~~ Plumb House ^(BRASS SHOP) ~~3-IVES PLUMB IN 1897~~
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bay Shore
- 3. STREET LOCATION: #158 & #162 Main St. (south side, bet. Shore La. & Homan Ave.)
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
- 6. USE: Original: Residence Present: Shops
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain During store hours.

DESCRIPTION

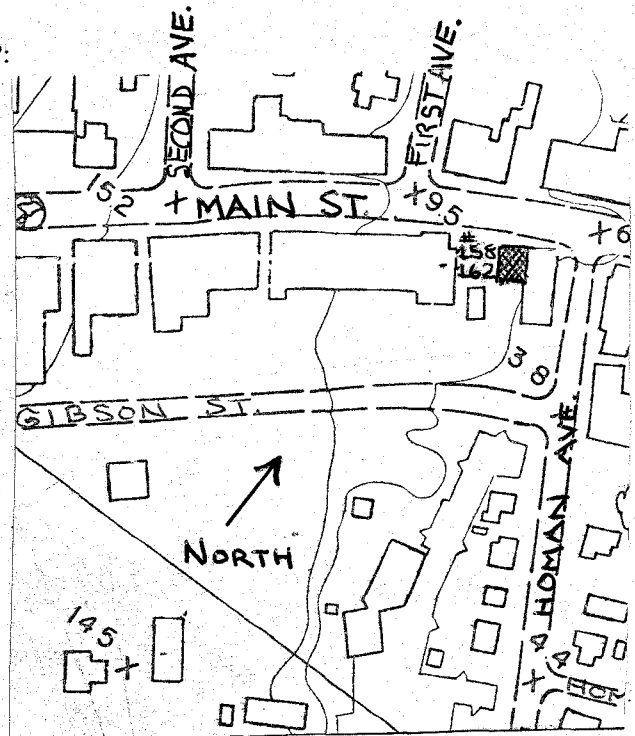
- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints
(if known) b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? from Great River
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):

First floor remodelled and extended for store fronts.

12. PHOTO:



13. MAP:



Bay Shore Roll #Q4; Neg. #13
HP-1 North (front) & west sides.

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 building is on the main commercial street. There are other structures of architectural significance near-by, though from varying periods and in varying styles. Many of them have undergone extensive remodelling.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
The structure retains much of its original Victorian detailing. There is a projecting front center bay, topped by a projecting balcony and gabled dormer. This section has decorative brackets, drops, balustrades, and paired columns supporting a round-headed arch with a vergeboard variation above. Two smaller and somewhat less ornate gabled dormers flank the central dormer. The three dormers SIGNIFICANCE have gables with double projections.

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: unknown

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: ~~unknown~~ JAMES VAN ORDEN

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This ornate Victorian two and one-half story structure was originally the central section of the Plumb House in Gr^{at} River. It retains its original decorative brackets, drops, balustrades, architraves, friezes, and vergeboard variations. The main gables are at the sides of the house. On the west side, the third level has pointed two-over-two windows; the first and second floors have semi-elliptical windows. There are two corbelled chimneys on either side of the roof ridge on the western side. The front facade has rectangular windows with molded trim; the front dormer windows have triangular heads. The gable on the east facade has vertical siding, dogtooth shingle, and brackets with terminal drops. The rear facade has original detail as well.

21. SOURCES:

Photograph Collection of Frederick C. Griffiths, Member of Islip Town Landmark Commission.

HYDE & CO. ATLAS 1897

22. THEME:

a number of these enterprises. In fact, the name of Conetquot (now Great River) was changed to Youngsport because of its shipyard owned by Erastus Young in the 1840s. In 1876 Smith's yard in Islip built a yacht for which six horses were required to draw its two spars.

When the railroad came in 1844, it went through the heart of the best section of woodland. Quantities of this wood were used in its construction as well as for fuel. The greatest destruction to these forests, however, was caused by the locomotive setting fires from sparks which issued from their smokestacks.

The town population at this time was estimated to be 2602. If we were to list the principal occupations of the people in 1850 and the years that followed we would find but two important ones, "following the bay", and farming. During these years there were approximately 8016 acres of improved land, or about one-ninth of the total acreage of the town. Most of this improved land was tilled. On it were raised hay and grain for the farmers' horses and cattle, and food for themselves. About two-thirds of the male population were fishermen, seamen or skippers. The oyster, then as now the principal product of the bay, and the clam were transported by boat to market. Fin fish were not so readily shipped as "icing" was not practiced at that time.

From 1880 to 1900 the population doubled. In 1900 it was 12,545. This was the period of the Gay Nineties. Wealthy people had found out that the land along the bay was desirable for residences and that the bay was ideal for boating and fishing. Also the fresh-water streams were full of fish and the woods full of game.

Many large estates were established, among the most pretentious being those of the Vanderbilts, Bournes, and Roberts at Oakdale. There was also the Lorillard place, afterwards Cutting's, at Great River; the Taylor and the Hollins homesteads at East Islip, and in West Islip the estates of Wagstaff, Gilmore and Hyde. At Oakdale, "Idle Hour", the Vanderbilt country home, was built in 1900 at a cost of \$1,600,000 on an estate of 862 acres. The grounds were beautifully landscaped with picturesque roads and canals winding through the forests. The mansion still stands, but the property has been sub-divided.

Across the water (Great River) is the Cutting estate of more than a thousand acres. Its arboretum will eventually become state-owned, as arranged by its present owner. The Roberts estate, known as Pepperidge Hall, has gone from the map. The mansion has been torn down and the property sold. To the east of this is the former F. G. Bourne estate, now the home of the LaSalle Military Academy.

Heckscher State Park now occupies the property once owned by the families of Taylor and Plumb. Other places have become developments. Part of the James Hazen Hyde estate at West Islip became the famous Southward Ho Country Club. This and a number of other old places had their own racetracks. Mr. Hyde commuted to New York in his own private railroad car, which was placed on

