

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>103-05-0039-001</u>
QUAD	_____
SERIES	_____
NEG. NO.	_____

Quad III ex
No. 6

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: August 29, 1975

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

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

IDENTIFICATION

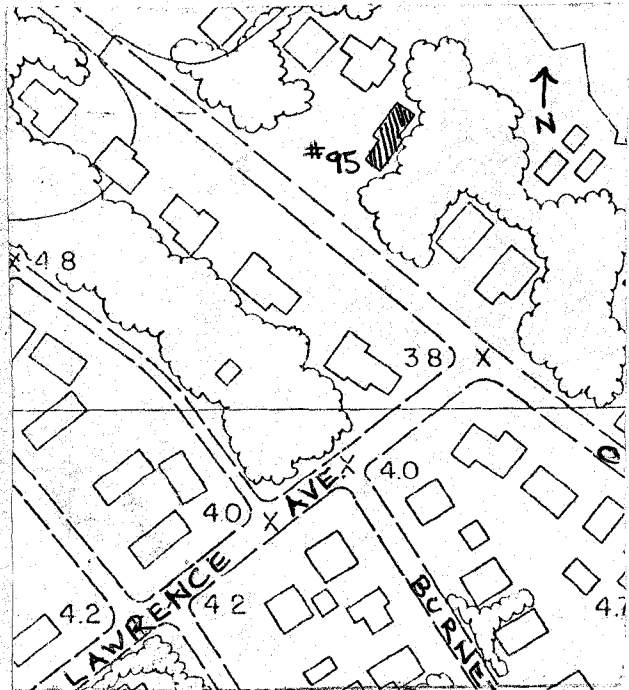
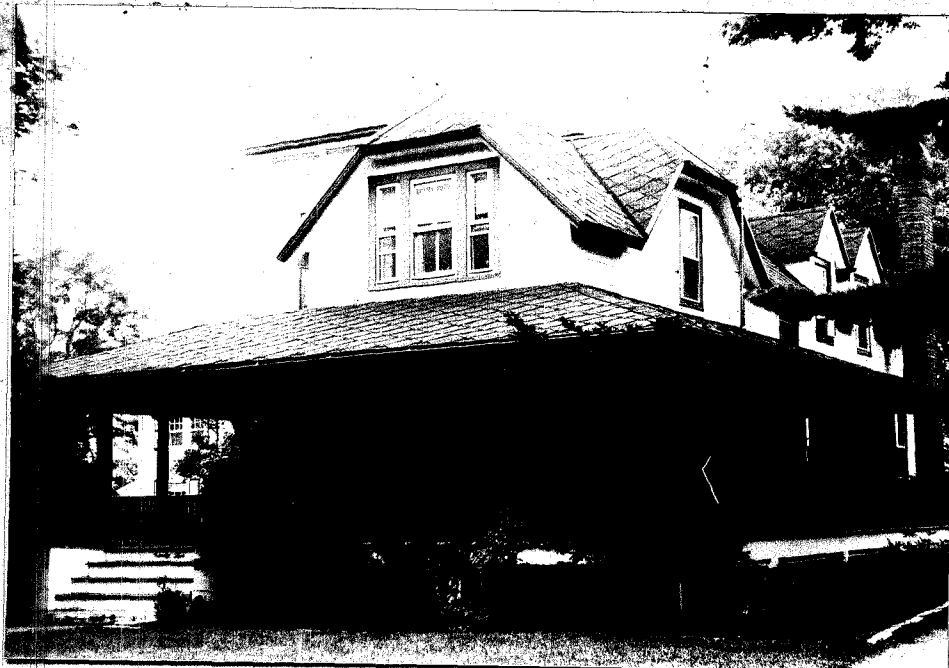
- BUILDING NAME(S): ~~Probably Former Prospect House Cottage~~
- COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bay Shore
- STREET LOCATION: #95 Ocean Ave. (east side, south of Linden Place)
- OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
- USE: Original: _____ Present: Residence
- ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain By appointment only

DESCRIPTION

- BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 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 _____
- CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:



HP-1 Bay Shore Roll #Q5; Neg. #16
West & South facades

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)

This house is in a residential area which runs south from Main Street to the Great South Bay. There are numerous houses of architectural significance in the area, ranging from ornate Victorian structures to simple baymen's cottages.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
The house has its original clipped gables, tower, dormers, and brackets. The square tower is capped by a pointed roof and has supporting brackets. The south side of the house has a clipped gable and two gabled dormers. There is a large open porch with a simple balustrade extending along the front and south side of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: unknown

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This Victorian house was probably one of the Prospect House cottages - Prospect House being the well known Bay Shore hotel established by John M. Rogers circa 1870. The square tower, clipped gables, open porch, and dormers are all indicative of the style of Prospect House cottages. The front door has leaded glass, as do the square windows flanking it at the upper section. There is also a free-standing corbelled chimney. The Prospect House burned down in 1903, but the other structures including the cottages were saved at that time.

21. SOURCES: Weeks, George Lewis, Jr. Some of Town of Islip's Early History Bay Shore: Consolidated Press, 1955.
Tuttle, Etta Anderson. A Brief History of Bay Shore. Bay Shore Public Library & Suffolk Cooperative Library System, 1962.

22. THEME:

Development of Bay Shore from 1861-1918

Development of Bay Shore as a Resort Area

As the Long Island Railroad connected more and more points on Long Island with New York City, it became much easier for city residents to visit the more remote points, and discover the beauty of the island.

The Long Island Railroad completed its road to Babylon in 1867 and to Patchogue by 1868. This was an important factor in the development of the area as a summer resort. It did not take prosperous New Yorkers long to see the advantages of a family summer residence in such a cool, comfortable seaside resort. The men could tend to their business in the city and join their families every night.

After the Civil War, well-to-do people sent their families to a cool spa or mountain resort to live in a summer hotel for the entire season, while the wage earner remained in the city. The resort hotel sprang up and looked like a sure and permanent institution. For many years it was just that, and Bay Shore had many.

There always had been some inns in Bay Shore that were open all the year for the convenience of travelers, even, as has been mentioned above, in George Washington's day.

Besides Sagtikos Manor, the old Dominy House which stood on the block between Third Avenue and Bay Shore Avenue, on the north side of the street, was one of the best known inns on Long Island. It was a charming colonial

building, razed in the nineteen thirties to make space for a block of stores. The only remaining portion of the old Dominy House that this writer knows of is a small building which was moved just below Main Street on Shore Lane.

George Weeks states in Some of Town of Islip's Early History, Consolidated Press, Bay Shore, 1955, page 125:

"In 1867 John M. Rogers came to Bay Shore from Sagg Harbor, and shortly after established the well known hotel, The Prospect House. The hotel was located on Ocean Avenue, and several additions were built, owing to its great popularity....

"According to the family tradition, four brothers left England and came to Long Island, settling at Southampton.

"At the age of 15, young John went to Sagg Harbor and became a clerk in the dry goods store of George B. Brown. In 1851 he organized the firm of Tiffany and Rogers and continued in the general store business, both in Sagg Harbor and in Bridgehampton until 1867, building up a very prosperous trade. For a time, he engaged in the fishing business.

"Commodore Rogers built the hotel in Bay Shore against the protests of many of his friends. However, his perseverance resulted in one of the most prosperous hostelries of the summer seasons on Long Island. He conducted the hotel under the most modern methods known at that period and as a result the hotel was crowded each season and several guest

cottages were constructed on the property adjacent to the hotel.

"ACCOMMODATE 400 GUESTS"

"An original sketch by Edward Lange of Elwood, L. I., a commercial artist for the Long Island Railroad's summer booklets, shows a beautifully laid out park along Ocean Avenue and extending to the shore of Great South Bay. There were all kinds of games, such as tennis, croquet, and bowling.... A large stage with a team of horses, typical of the time, transported the guests to and from the railroad station.

"The hotel had 200 rooms, and, with the cottages, could accommodate 400 guests....

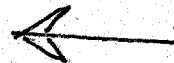
"At the time Commodore Rogers retired, his son, Frank M. Rogers, became the proprietor of Prospect House.

"At one time, the hotel was managed by D. Frankel, proprietor also of the Clarendon Hotel, Brooklyn. In 1882, N. Sewell was the manager, and in 1902 W. S. Buchanon took over as manager and at this time the holdings of the hotel were transferred to the Bay Shore Hotel Company for \$140,000. The hotel failed to make a profit and the holdings were returned to the Rogers family.

"BIG FIRE IN 1903"

"On September 27, 1903, a fire broke out in one of the upper floors.... The hotel, including much valuable furniture, was a total loss. The other structures, including the

cottages, were saved.



"Thus ended the famous Prospect House which had been a social rendezvous where many events took place during the summer months, and on holidays and Saturday evenings was the meeting place of the elite who came in evening dress to enjoy the dances, the best of entertainmant, and the culinary arts."

La Grange Hotel and Restaurant was established by Samuel Higbie shortly after the American Revolution. Its name was that of the estate of General LaFayette, who was alleged to have stayed there on one occasion.

In pre-railroad days Samuel Higbie conducted a stage-coach line between New York City and Patchogue, stopping for the night at La Grange. Later, when the railroad was extended to Deer Park, Richard Higbie operated a stage line to the depot to meet all trains.

These early hostelries always had a taproom. They were noted, too, for the bounteous repasts served at all hours. An abundance of fresh-caught seafood, farm-fresh eggs, newly-churned butter, homemade bread, rolls, cakes and pies, chickens and ducks, local cured ham and bacon, pork, lamb, and beef, as well as all kinds of fresh vegetables (raised locally), berries, and fruit were offered.

Peace and plenty seemed to be the watchwords in this opulent era which ended with World War I.

The Howell House on Shore Lane and the old Cortland

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BAY SHORE

by

Etta Anderson Tuttle, A. B., M. S. Ed.