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YOUR NAME: TOWN OF ISLIP DATE: October 1975

YOUR ADDRESS: Town Hall, 655 Main Street TELEPHONE: (516) 581-2000  
Islip, L.I., N.Y. 11751

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

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1. NAME OF DISTRICT: ~~Bay Shore East H.D.~~  
(Old Mill Site Historic District)

2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bay Shore

3. DESCRIPTION:

This district extends from and including the Methodist Church on the west to and including the site of the historic mill pond on the east. The pivotal buildings are the three commercial buildings built when the grist mill was torn down, and the handsome J. Ives Plumb house (now commercial) which was moved here from Great River.

4. SIGNIFICANCE:

Architecturally significant is the group of three commercial buildings on the northeast corner of First and Main which are relatively unaltered, and the Plumb house on the south side of Main Street which is one of the most exciting Victorian structures in all of Bay Shore.

Historically significant is the grist mill site. A grist mill is a most important economic factor in a 19th century village, and its site should be of great interest to everyone. The stores on the site illustrate the socio-economic development of the area. The district contributes to the community sense of "where".

5. MAP:

see attached

Old Mill Site Historic District

6. SOURCES:

E. Belcher Hyde, Atlas of the Ocean Shore ..., 1915

Beers, Comstock & Kline, Atlas of Long Island, 1873

Paul Bailey, Long Island - Nassau and Suffolk, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., New York, 1949

R. M. Bayles, Historical Sketches of Suffolk County, 1874

7. THREATS TO AREA:

BY ZONING

BY ROADS

BY DEVELOPERS

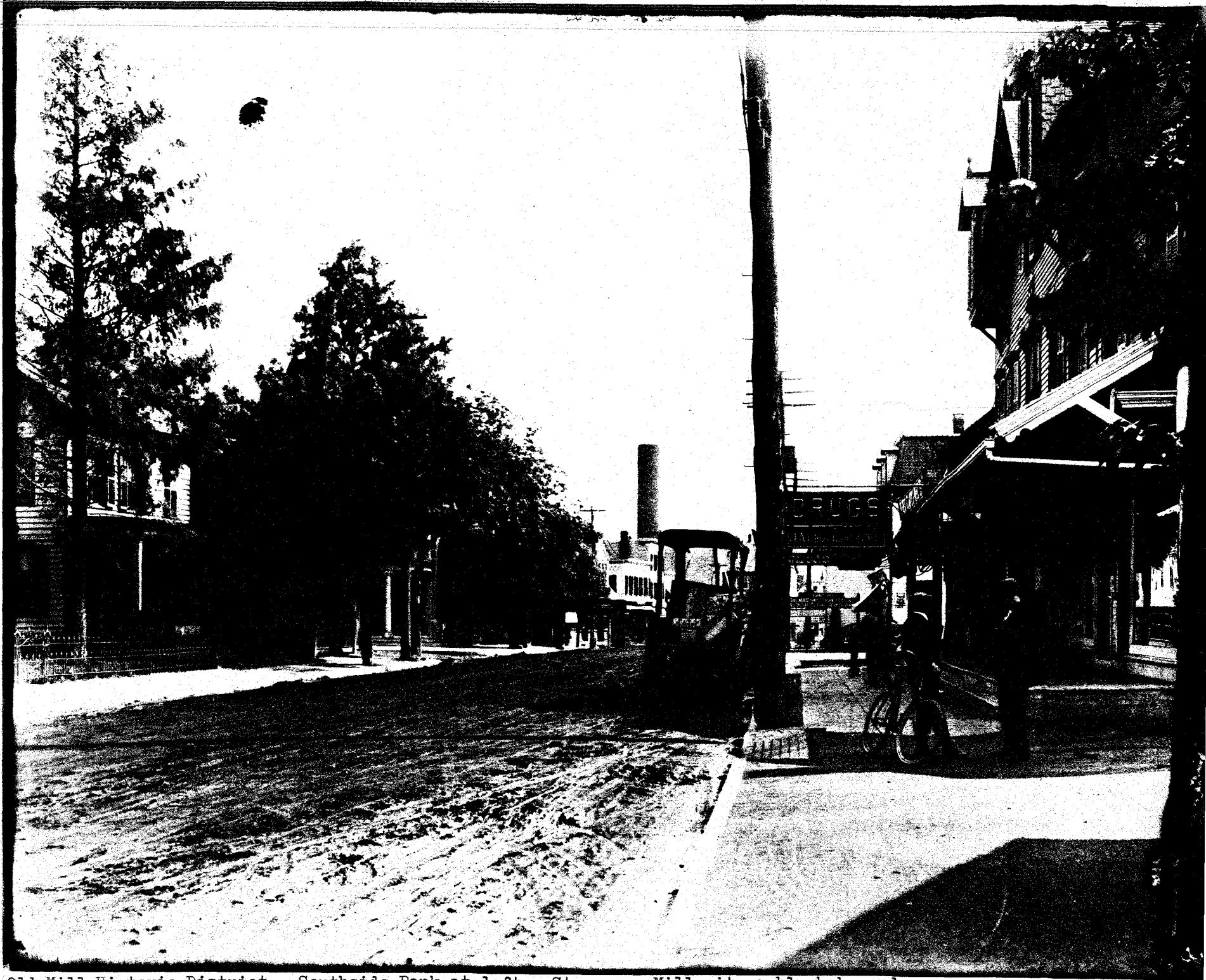
BY DETERIORATION

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

8. LOCAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE AREA:

9 PHOTOS: See fprms (II-13) (II-14) (IV-6) (IV-7) (IV-8)  
(IV-9) (IV-10) (IV-11) (II-10) (II-11)



Old Mill Historic District. Southside Bank at left. Stores on Mill site a block beyond.  
Anderson photo. Print by L. Rogers, 15 Hemlock Lane, Bay Shore, L.I., N.Y.

NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BUREAU OF PROGRAMMING

Bay Shore East quad  
7.5 min



passed by. The first lighthouse was built in 1825. The present light is 162 feet above the ocean and can be seen twenty miles at sea.

The Surf Hotel was built around 1870 to the east of the lighthouse by S. S. Sammis of Babylon. It could accommodate six hundred guests. Two steamers ran between Fire Island and Babylon during the "heat term" for the convenience of patrons. In 1892 this hotel was taken over by the state as a detention station for cholera immigrants but such a public protest arose that no patients were ever landed there although attempts were made to do so.

In 1868, Fire Island had a telegraph station which was owned by the New York Magnetic Company. Thus the city press would learn of the impending arrival of ships from Europe. A lookout with a telescope was part of the system. Today there is a Naval Radio Station there. Coast Guard stations used to be established every five miles along the beach but now only a few are kept open, including the one at Fire Island.

The details of Islip's war records are buried in the archives of the State and National government. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War a company of Colonial troops was organized in the town by Captain Benijah Strong. They were a part of the First Regiment, Commanded by Col. William Floyd, Signer of the Declaration of Independence. After the Battle of Long Island this company was broken up but some of its men went into the Colonial army. Captain Strong went to Connecticut and aided Col. Talmadge in his daring adventures along the Sound and on Long Island. In the Civil War there were one hundred and twenty-six men from Islip Town and many also served in the Spanish-American War. Nine hundred local boys wore uniforms in World War One while in World War Two over 5500 men and women served the nation.

Bay Shore, which had a population of 8353 in 1943, leads all the other communities in population and wealth. In 1865 there were only nine dwellings besides the Dominy House, Robinson's General store, Smith's Tavern and a gristmill. The Wicks, Crumbs, Thurbers, Clocks and Burrs occupied the nine houses. The most important cross-street was Telegraph Road, now Fifth Avenue. The mail was taken to Thompson's Station once a day by stagecoach. The post office was located in a store on the corner of Main Street and Fourth Avenue. The first postmaster was Seth Clock who held the position thirty-eight years, starting in 1850.

Up to 1831 Bay Shore was called Sodom and then Mechanicsville, but in 1849 its new post office was named Penataquit. In 1868 it became Bay Shore. Selah Wicks, who owned what is now the center of the village, gave the railroad the site for its first station which stood on Third Avenue until 1881 when it was moved to Fourth Avenue. Walter Burr was the first station agent and telephone operator and directed the arrival and departure of the four daily trains.

The Dominy House was established in 1861 on the corner of Main Street and North Bay Avenue. In the 1920s it was torn down to make way for a modern business block. The Cortland House is

# LONG ISLAND

*A History of*

## TWO GREAT COUNTIES NASSAU and SUFFOLK

*Edited by*

PAUL BAILEY

*Founder-Publisher of*

*The "LONG ISLAND FORUM"*

1949

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VOLUME I

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LEWIS HISTORICAL PUBLISHING CO., INC.

NEW YORK

A grist-mill is located on Panothticut River in the eastern part of the village. A little west of this stands the Congregational church, a building of moderate dimensions erected about twenty years ago. A short distance further, on the same road, is the Methodist Episcopal church, a handsome structure erected here in 1867. A small burying ground is connected with this, and lies in the rear of the church. Between here and the railroad and upon the west side of a new street recently opened up between the two churches, stands the new school house, just completed at a cost of \$5,000. This building is a very creditable affair, and a good representative of the enterprise of the place. The school numbers about one hundred and fifty scholars. Bay Shore Division of the Sons of Temperance has fifty members, and meets Wednesday evenings. This village is located nearly central upon the south side of the Moubray Patent of 1708. The main road between here and Islip is inhabited all the way along, which fact renders it rather difficult to determine just where the dividing line should be. This village was formerly called Mechanicsville, then by the corrupted Indian name Penataquit, which since the coming of the South Side Railroad has been changed for its present name. About a mile and a half east of here is a burial plot of about an acre, styled the Clock burying ground, which contains a number of graves, and a family vault. Several other family burying grounds are scattered about the vicinity. Just back of the village of Bay Shore is a small African church.

Islip is a handsome village of about one thousand population, on the south side of the town two miles east of Bay Shore. It has a station on the South Side Railroad, half a

R. M. BAYLES 1874

Historical and Descriptive  
Sketches

of

SUFFOLK COUNTY

with a

Historical Outline of Long Island

By RICHARD M. BAYLES  
1874

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### Transportation Facilities

In colonial days horseback, wagon, stagecoach, and sleigh were common means of travel by land.

A law was passed in 1704 whereby each county of Long Island should have road commissions to lay out roads four rods wide from Brooklyn to Easthampton. (The direct road between these two points was in the center of the island.)

In 1764 the Post Road was established. It was called the circuit. Mail was carried on horseback once in two weeks by the north road, and the carrier returned by the south road.

South Country Road was the old King's Highway. It was laid out in 1735. At about a mile on an average from the south shore, this road extended through Islip town and was our present Main Street.

Nicoll's Road ran from Town Line Road (dividing Islip and Smithtown) to Nicoll's Neck (where Heckscher Park is), and ended at Caleb's Path (named for Caleb Smith, descendant of "Bull" Smith, patentee of Smithtown).

Gibb's Road ran along South Country Road from what is now Saxon Avenue to Nicoll's Road. Early town roads were from Ronkonkoma south to the bay, from Hauppauge south, Miller's Path from Commack south, ending at Udall's neck in West Islip, Terrie's Road (near Bayport), North Suffolk Road to Central Islip, in 1876, Crooked Hill (Fifth Avenue, Bay Shore), in 1871, Brook Street in 1872, and North Saxon



BRAYSHORRE

E. BELCHER HYDE.

ATLAS OF THE OCEAN SHORE.

1915. PLATE 21

# BAYSHORE

TOWN OF ISLIP

SUFFOLK CO.

Scale 40 Rods to the inch

SOUTH SIDE R.R.

