

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. 103-05-0111-
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

DOJ
Quad IV Ext.
No. 6

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: September 11, 1975
Town Hall

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

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

IDENTIFICATION

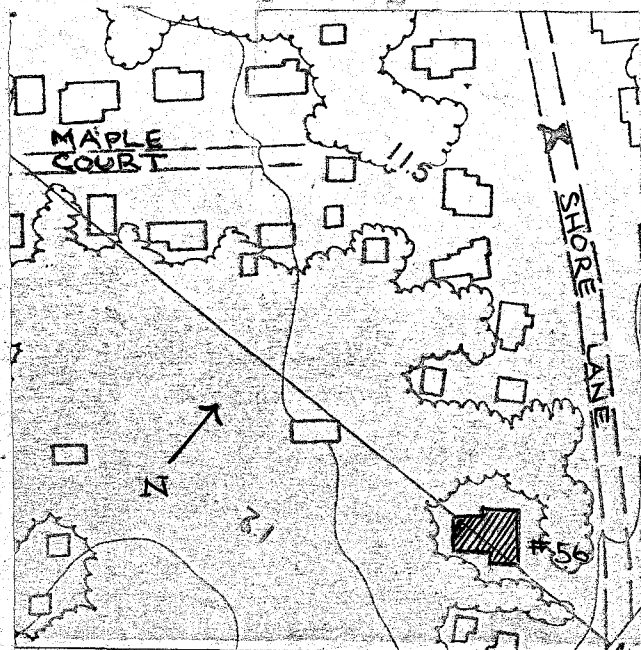
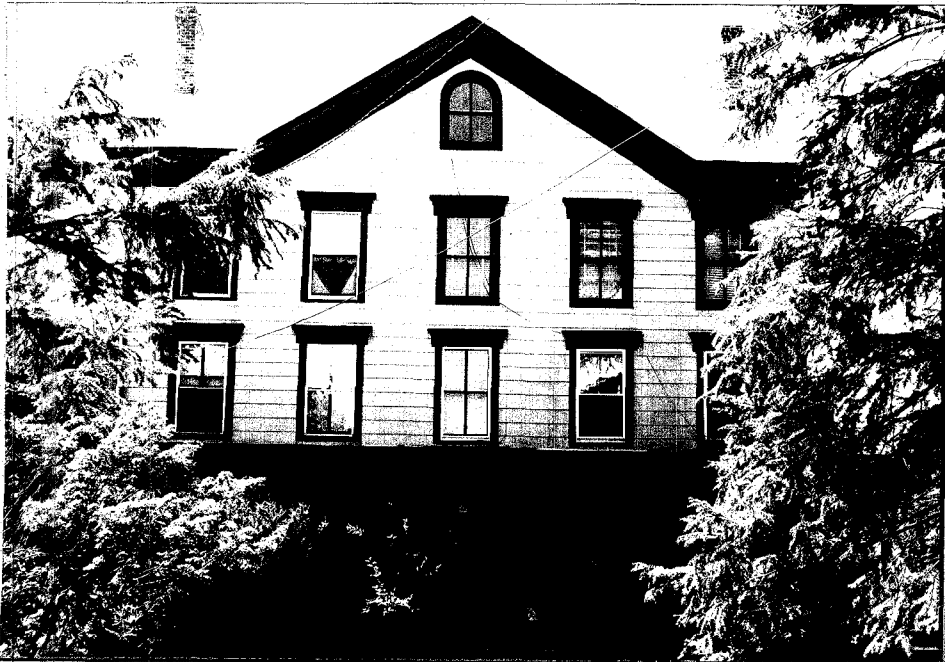
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): J.R. Howell House in 1915, then ~~Stocks House~~
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bay Shore
- 3. STREET LOCATION: #56 Shore Lane (west side, south of Gibson Street)
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
- 6. USE: Original: Residence/Boarding Hse Present: Residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain By appointment only.

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:



HP-1 Bay Shore Roll #Q6; Neg. #13
Front facade

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 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 Greek Revival to Colonial Revival, with Victorian predominating.

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

This three and one-half story house has its original cornice with heavy brackets and decorated frieze. The two-over two windows have projecting heads. The entryway is pilastered with a blind transom above. There is a round-headed two-over-two window in the front gable. There are two symmetrically placed corbelled chimneys.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: unknown, but before 1875

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This large Victorian house retains much of its original detail, i.e., brackets, frieze, cornice, and architraves. It was previously the residence of J.R. Howell and his family; it was used as a 30 room boarding house during the summers. (J.R. Howell also owned and rented #66, #51, and the house south of #51; #51 and the adjacent house were known as "Chappinhurst" and "Cattis Lodge.") This Howell house, #56, was surrounded by gardens and orchards. It was one of several hotels and boarding houses which catered to the popularity of Bay Shore as a summer resort after the Civil War.

The Stocks took possession of the house after J.R. Howell.

also see (IV ext-6A) and (IV-20)

21. SOURCES: Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk County, L.I. (Westerly Section). New York; E. Belcher Hyde, 1915. Volume I. Plate 21.

Tuttle, Etta Anderson. A Brief History of Bay Shore. Bay Shore: Public Library & Suffolk Cooperative Library System, 1962. Page 70.

22. THEME: Interview with Mrs. Mooney, Grand-daughter of J.R. Howell & long-time Bay Shore Resident. 5 West Drive, Bay Shore, NY. Sept, 1975.

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

House were two other well-known summer boarding houses. The Cortland House was for many years a landmark. Situated on the corner of Fourth Avenue where the Fanny Farmer and Woolworth's stores are located, this hostelry was noted for the excellent quality of its hospitality. This was an all-year-round inn. It was remodeled and renovated completely just a few years before it was razed to make way for so-called progress.

There were many women, noted for their cooking, who accommodated a few summer boarders also. Now the institution of the boarding house has nearly vanished, as there are so many ways a woman can earn money today that are easier and more remunerative.

The Surf Hotel was built in 1855 by David Sammis of Huntington Town (now Babylon) on a strip of land at Fire Island, opposite Babylon. As time went on, the hotel was added on to until it could accommodate about 500 summer guests. Regular ferry service plied between the mainland and Fire Island. Many a collation was served on special social occasions. The Surf Hotel catered admirably to the elite.

In August, 1892, New York had a cholera epidemic. The governor of the state started proceedings to buy the Surf Hotel to be used as a quarantine station to intercept incoming vessels from Europe. This action was protested against vigorously by the local residents, but the state

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BAY SHORE

by

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

1962