

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305\_000710  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**IDENTIFICATION**

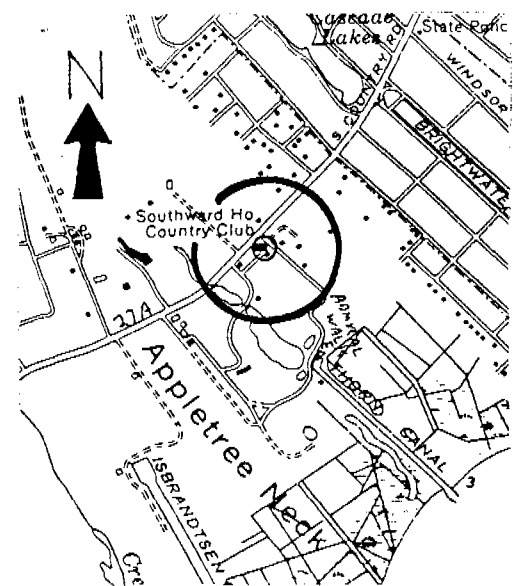
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): St. Peter's By The Sea/former Thorne Estate Bldng.
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: West Bay Shore
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 500 South Country Rd.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. USE: Original: indoor tennis court Present: church
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain by app't.

**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? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):

Remodelled into a church complex with added wing, 1961.

12. PHOTO: Neg. KK VI-28, fm. E 13. MAP: NYS DOT Bay Shore West Quad



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  modern  
 d. privy  e. shed  f. greenhouse   
 g. shop  h. gardens  of Thorne era (partial)  
 i. landscape features: gate house/cottage of Thorne Estate  
 j. other: at entrance to adjacent condominium complex

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: condominium development on former Thorne property, directly west and northwest.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)  
 St. Peter's By The Sea is located on a former estate property on the south side of the South Country Road, set diagonally and close to the road. The building is virtually surrounded by a paved parking field. The former Thorne gate house/cottage is part of the present church property.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):  
 St. Peter's By The Sea is a large, brick, gable roof building with rows of tall round arch windows and a 2½ story brick wing on the east with wall face dormers and casement windows. The gate house/cottage is a 1½ story, gable roof brick building. Remaining Thorne Estate buildings and landscape plan are in the present day "Admiralty" subdivision.

SIGNIFICANCE 1938

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: \_\_\_\_\_

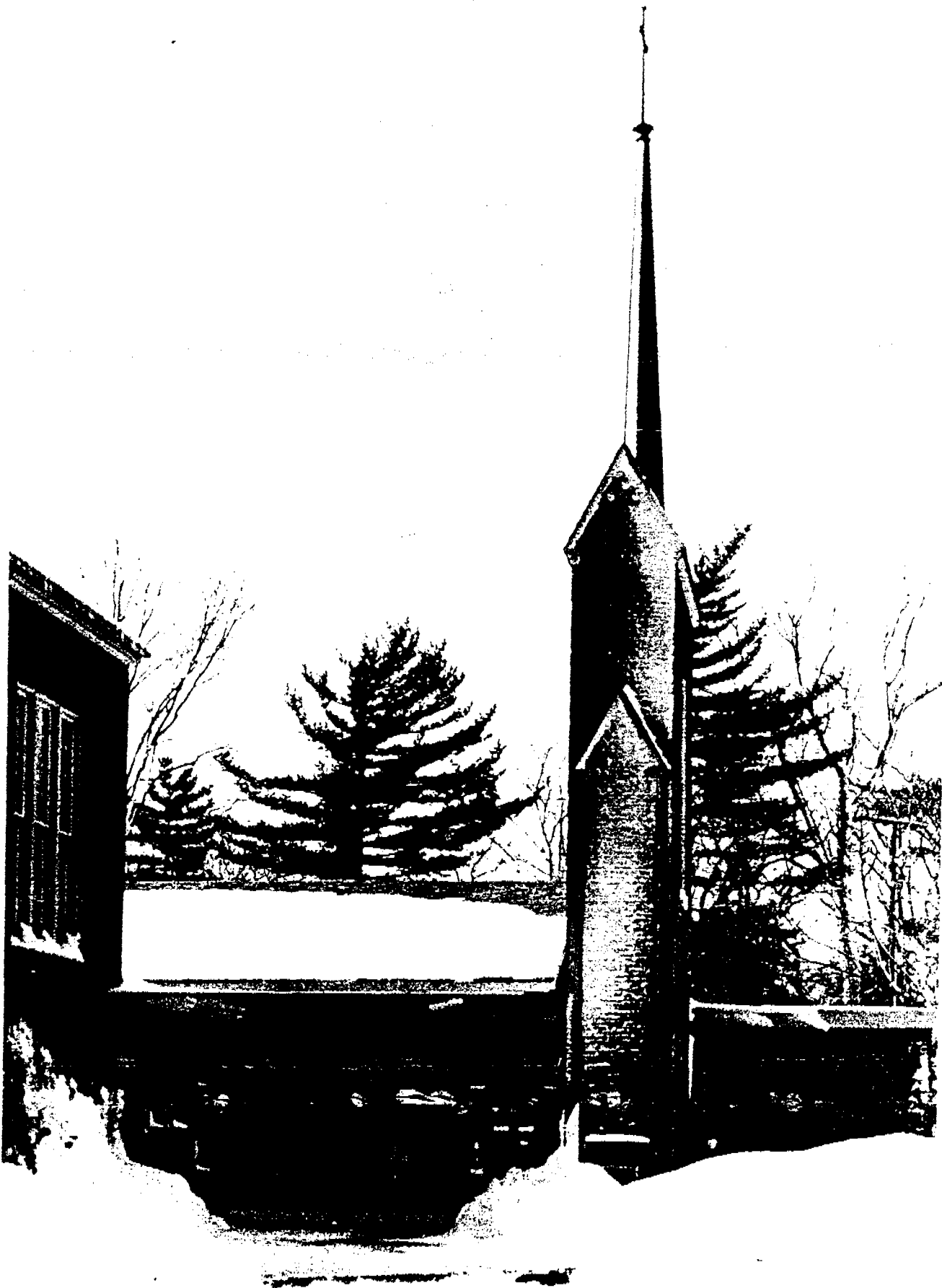
ARCHITECT: Tennis Court Building - James W. O'Connor

BUILDER: Remodelling - Eggers & Higgins  
E.W. Howell, Babylon

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:  
 This once-handsome estate outbuilding has been altered for use as a church. The adjacent gate house/cottage is also used for church purposes. This is a sensitive adaptive re-use of an architecturally important estate outbuilding.

21. SOURCES:  
Architectural Record, June 1961.  
Kuss, Betty. Building-Structure Inventory Form, 2/10/1976.  
E.W. Howell. A Tradition in Building, No. XXXI, 1963.

22. O'Connor, James W. Monograph, 1930.  
 Research by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities - KE



Eggers & Higgins, architects, 1961.  
"A Heritage in Building", E.W. Howell Co., 1963, p. XXXI.



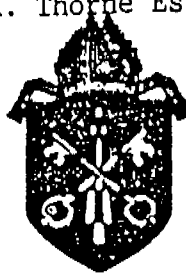
Neg. KK VI-27, fm. E. L.K. Thorne Tennis Court Building & wing, now church.



Neg. KK VI-29, fm. W/SW. Gate house/cottage of L.K. Thorne Estate, William Dominick, architect.

*St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

500 SOUTH COUNTRY ROAD



516 665-0051

BAY SHORE, LONG ISLAND, N.Y. 11706

As Suffolk County celebrates its Tercentenary and many neighboring agencies and institutions observe various centennials, St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Parish, Bay Shore, commences a centennial year celebration in September of 1983.

Following a few years of seasonal activity in the area, funds were presented in 1883 for the acquisition of land for a permanent Episcopal Church in Bay Shore. In June of 1884 the property at the corner of Main and Fifth Avenues was purchased and a temporary chapel was relocated there. Between 1888 and 1909 a new church, rectory and parish hall were erected at that location.

In 1957 through the generosity of Landon K. Thorne, the field house and recreational complex of his large estate bordered by the Great South Bay and Montauk Highway, were offered to the parish for re-development as a new church facility. In 1959 the cornerstone was laid with the late Robert Moses as principal speaker. Palm Sunday 1960, final services were held at the old location followed by the first service in the new church presided over by the Episcopal Bishop of Long Island.

The conversion of indoor tennis courts to a church and the redesign of the adjoining field house facilities were noted in several trade journals, including a feature in the June 1961 issue of "Architectural Record". In the ensuing years since 1960 there have been several expansion projects. A day school has been added together with parish hall, auditorium-gymnasium. The adjoining Bookshin residence on the east was purchased and now includes houses for all the parish clergy as well as sports fields, tennis courts and swimming pool. The original carriage and gate houses to the Thorne estate on the westerly boundary were acquired and converted into choir studios, additional classrooms and a home for the parish choirmaster, linked to the main church complex by an enclosed cloister. In 1972, one of the largest and finest pipe organs in the greater metropolitan area was installed by the Gress-Miles firm.

Today St. Peter's by-the-Sea ranks as one of the leading parishes in the Diocese. A staff of several priests and lay employees serves the congregation which draws not only from Bay Shore but many surrounding communities. It has long been noted for its choral program and has been recognized as one of the leaders in the Royal School of Church Music network of affiliates. A professional counselling service joins parish organizations in outreach and ministry to the needs of the greater community.

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

WB 3

NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST  
OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 457-3753

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Betty Kuss DATE: 2/10/1976

YOUR ADDRESS: 226 Idle Hour Blvd. TELEPHONE: Lt 9-2731  
Oakdale, L.I., N.Y.

ORGANIZATION (if any): W.K.Vanderbilt Hist. Soc. Dowling College

\*\*\*\*\*  
IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Gatehouse on Thornham estate
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: W. Islip
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 550 Montauk Hwy. West Islip
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: developer ADDRESS: lives on estate
- 6. USE: Original: gatehouse & garage Present: same
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain developer denies access

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:

no photograph allowed

13. MAP:

enclosed

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known  b. zoning  c. roads   
 d. developers  e. deterioration   
 f. other: impending demolition of property
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: mansion, boathouse 2 caretakers cottages
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)  
design complimentary to main mansion
18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):  
landscape design integrates building with remaining property

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1928  
 ARCHITECT: Wm. F. Dominick (see Bio. Dict. enclosed)  
 BUILDER: E.W. Howell, Babylon
20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:  
designed as garage and gatehouse on large baronial estate on shore of Great South Bay in Islip.
21. SOURCES:  
Biographical Dictionary of American Architects by H.F. Withey 1970  
Noted L.I. Homes, E.W. Howell Co., Babylon 1933