

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

BS 65B

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

UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305.000703
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: June 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

-Oakwood Driving Park-

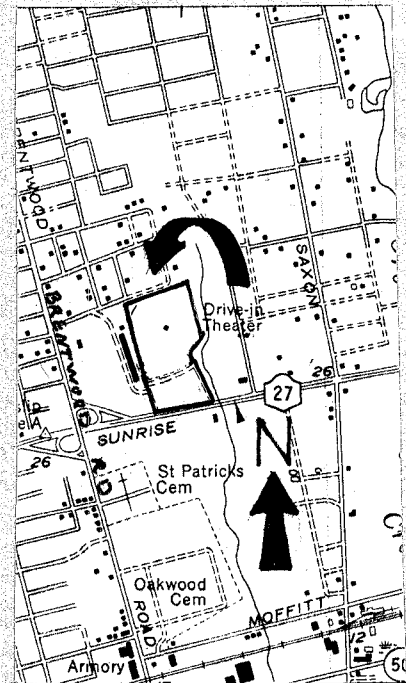
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): United Artists Bay Shore Drive-In Theatre
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bay Shore
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Sunrise Hwy., north side, west of Saxon Ave., east of
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private Brentwood Rd.
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: United Artists Inc. ADDRESS: _____
- 6. USE: Original: horse track (property) Present: drive-in theatre (property)
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain yes

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): _____

12. PHOTO: NEG KK XXIX-7, fm. E/I

13. MAP: NYS DOT Bay Shore East Quad



SITE:

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
 refreshment stand
 i. landscape features: open space preserved
 j. other: concrete block and glass theatre building
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: shopping malls, widened Sunrise Hwy.
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)
 The Drive-In Theatre occupies a large parcel on the north side of the Sunrise Highway surrounded by commercial buildings and suburban shopping malls. A single story refreshment stand and two screens, in addition to the large sign board, serve the drive-in theatre.
18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
 The site is intact as an open space area in the midst of typical suburban highway development.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: Horse Track, prior to 1915 , 1903
Drive-In Theatre, c. 1960

ARCHITECT: _____

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
 This property was identified as "Race Track" and "Islip Polo Club" on the 1915 map. On the 1944 Hagstrom map it was "Bay Shore Horse Assoc., 35 acres."
 The Bay Shore Horse Association was organized in 1899. Its first show was at Sagtikos Manor. In 1903 they moved to Oakwood Driving Park on Brentwood Road in Bay Shore. This was the fourth season of the show and it was hailed as one of the finest open air horse shows of its kind on the Eastern Seaboard.
 The fifty two boxes were filled with the cream of the social set and men who were prominent in the financial world.
21. SOURCES: -refer to continuation sheet-
 E. Belcher Hyde. Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk County, L.I. (westerly section), 1915.
 Hagstrom. Street, Road, and Land Ownership Map of Suffolk County, 1944.
22. NY Times, 6/17/1990 (Real Estate) / NYS DOT Bay Shore East Quad
Weeks, G.L. Isle of Shells, 1965, p. 285.

Research by Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities-KEK

20 - (continued):

For many years the property has been a popular drive-in theatre. Today it is one of the two that remain in operation on Long Island. The other is in Westbury. Since the drive-in is only used after dusk, a flea market is held here on weekend afternoons.

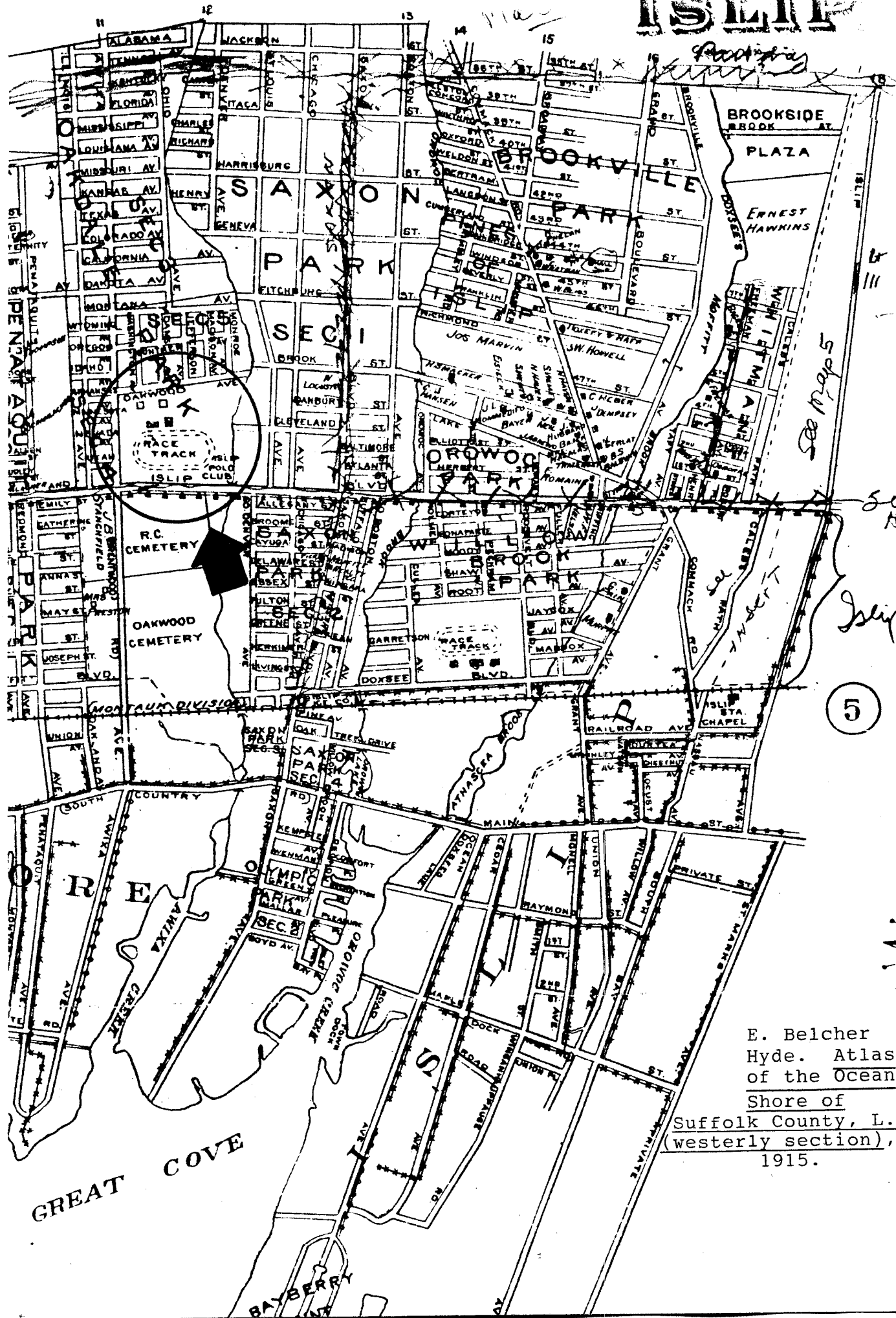


NEG. KK XXIX - 6, fm. W.



NEG. KK XXIX - 5, fm. E, VIEW OF ENTRANCE.

ISLIP



F. Belcher Hyde. Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk County, L.I., (western section), 1915.

E. Belcher Hyde. Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk County, L.I. (westerly section), 1915.

STATE OF NEW YORK (Hospital Site)

Frederick Farms 401 A

EDGEWOOD

PINE AIRE

12

GARDEN

BABYLON FARMS

WEST ISKIP

BRIGHTWATERS

BAY SHORE

Bay Shore Hotel Show Assg 15A

(Main) (Line)

(Branch)

TWP

27

21A

16

17

18

19

20

21

FOR ADJOINING AREA SEE MAP N. 10

Hagstrom. Street, Road, and Land Ownership Map of Suffolk County, 1944.

Oakwood Driving Park P865B

PRIOR TO the year 1899 many places on the South Shore such as Bay Shore held annual horse racing meets on large estates, and on the highways, to determine the swiftness of thoroughbreds. In 1899 the Bay Shore Horse Show Association was organized and its first show was held on Sagtikos Manor Farm.

The spacious Sagtikos grounds were well adapted for the show as, in addition to the size of the estate, there was a small track located on the property. Frederick Diodati Thompson was then owner of the manor, and he was a great lover of blooded thoroughbreds.

It was on August 4-5-6, 1903, that the Bay Shore show was held at the Oakwood Driving Park, located on Brentwood Road. This was the fourth season of the show and it was by then being hailed as one of the finest open air shows along the eastern seaboard.

There had been much talk about who owned the faster local horse, and a free-for-all was arranged at Oakwood Driving Park on July 4, 1904. Among the entries was "Leo", a pacer and excellent specimen of thoroughbred owned by John Jacob Edwards, my brother-in-law. Among the several entries were horses owned by Josiah Robbins and Postmaster Eugene Strong.

The free-for-all attracted a

George L. Weeks
Official Historian of Suffolk County



The Oakwood Park Cup which is inscribed "July 4, 1904. FREE FOR ALL won by LEO".

large attendance which saw "Leo" carry the day. This settled for a time the question of which Bay Shore horse was the fastest.

Soon afterwards, August 6-7-8, 1904, the annual horse show was held at the Park. This year in particular the Long Island summer resorts were buzzing in anticipation for the show had developed into a wonderful country fair as well. The entries were so numerous that the show had become the leading attraction of its type, even outshining the Atlantic City show, with which it had divided honors the previous year. There were

37 classes in the horse show events and several hundred classes in the exhibition department. As it drew prominent members of New York and Brooklyn Society, it was socially in a class by itself.

I had taken a course in pen and ink sketching at Pratt's Institute and my three entries won blue ribbons. I have vivid recollections of watching the various contests among the spirited horses. And the 52 boxes at Oakwood Park were filled with the social set, including men who were foremost in the financial world of the time.

Many improvements had been made for the affair and the exhibits and displays were given a lot of attention by the board of directors. The directors included Charles A. Hubbs, George Ellis, Samuel T. Peters, J. Adolph Mollenhauer, Edward Blum, Simon F. Rothchild, James W. Henning, H. Rockwood Brinckerhoff, Henry W. Hollister, J. Redmond Gibb and Bradish Johnson.

In the classes were roadsters, runabouts, harness tandems, unicorns, four in hands, ponies in harness, ponies under saddle and an invitation exhibit of three horses, to be shown either separately or together. At a previous show that class had attracted considerable attention and it was afterwards copied at horse shows all over the country.

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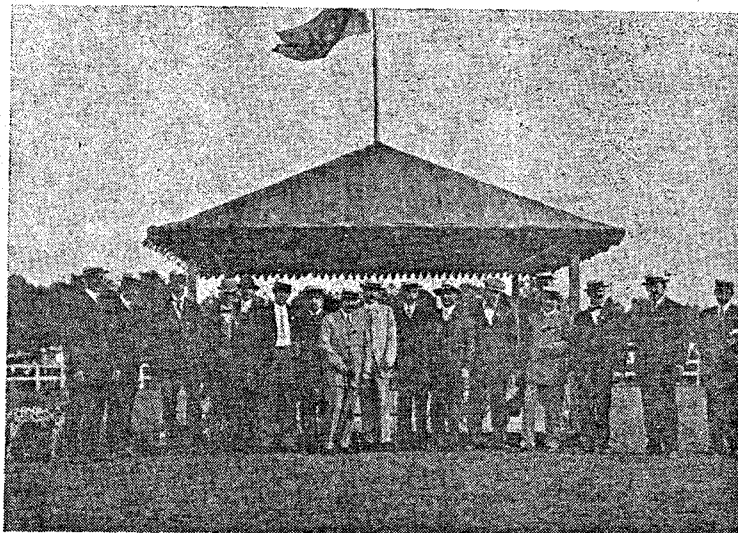
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The manager of the Park was August C. Blume, who married my cousin, Addie Hendrickson, a Bay Shore girl. Participants in the show were W. K. Vanderbilt, Bayard Cutting, Julian T. Davies, Frederick G. Bourne, H. B. Hollister, Harry T. Peters, Walter Watson, Percy G. Williams, Charles B. Hubbs, August Belmont, Jay F. Carlisle, J. Henry Dick, Horace Have-meyer, H. N. Hollister, Brad-ish Johnson, Harry Napp, John B. Stanchfields, H. G. Timmerman, J. P. Baiter, Col. William G. Bates, George W. Burchell, Schuyler Parsons, John H. Eastwood, Julian D. Fairchild, Mrs. Lewis M. Gibb, Mrs. Richard Hyde, J. Adolph Mollenhauer, Mrs. Robert A. Pinkerton, Charles L. Laur-hence, Col. Alfred Wagstaff, Edward Hutton, Dr. Henry Coe, Orme Wilson, Samuel T. Peters, John D. Adams and Charles W. Morse.

These were all well-known people who were residents of this South Shore section, and who were interested in the competition and showing of blue blooded horses. The show was also a brilliant success from a social point of view. Society people from Long Is-land, New York, Newport and elsewhere attended.

The circle in the center of the track was covered with turf, and large parties with



Oakwood Driving Park, north and east of Bay Shore village, was in its seventh year when in 1909 the above pictured group of prominent men posed before the judges' stand.

tallyho and other types of carriage parked there and enjoyed luncheon parties. A famous carriage, always in great numbers at these shows, was the "East Williston Cart". This was a two-wheeled, side-seated cart that became as popular in England as on Long Island.

Lure of lawn and hammock
rod and bat and ball,
Fade before the coming of
a stronger lure than all,

Faint before the whispers of
the padding feet that
pass,
Fail before the witchery of
hoof beats on the grass.
Will Ogilvie: "The Call"

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