

**BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  
UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305.000713  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

WB 2

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

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

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**IDENTIFICATION**

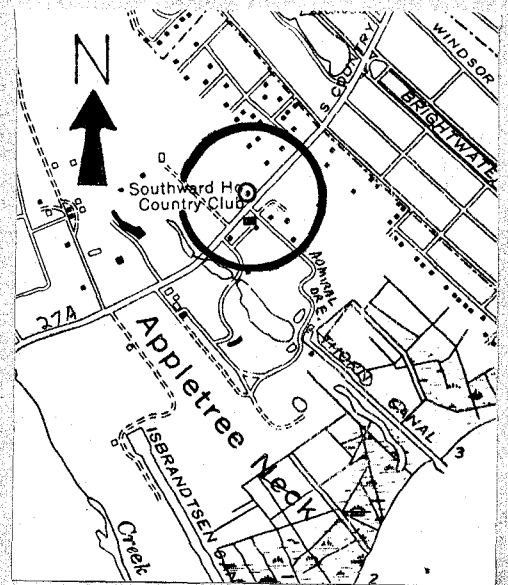
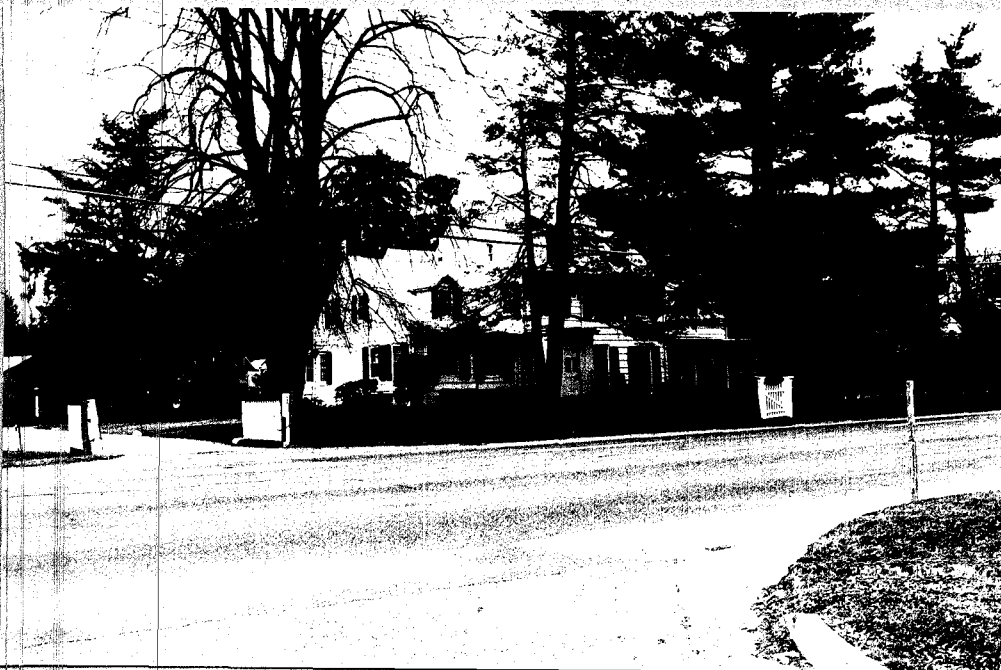
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Wilmerding House
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: West Bay Shore
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 423 South Country Road
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. Barron Otis ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

**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 V-29, fm. S/SW

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   
 d. privy  e. shed  f. greenhouse   
 g. shop  h. gardens   
 i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
 j. other: laundry house (?), ice house (?), old fence &
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary): old gate posts.  
 a. open land  b. woodland   
 c. scattered buildings   
 d. densely built-up  e. commercial   
 f. industrial  g. residential   
 h. other: golf grounds to W/NW

## 17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

423 South Country Road is located on the north side of the road directly east and south of the large Southward Ho Country Club property. New condominium developments stand east and southward along South Country Road near the house and a large brick church is directly south, a remnant of a former estate.

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

423 South Country Road is a 2½ story, three bay, side entrance plan, gable roof house with flanking, 1½ story gable roof wings on the east and west, each with gable roof dormers. The main block contains interior end chimneys and a cornice with large dentils repeated on the wings. 6/6 sash windows throughout the house.

**SIGNIFICANCE**19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: Early 1800's

ARCHITECT: \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDER: \_\_\_\_\_

## 20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This is a remarkably well preserved early house. It is one of the very few 18th and early 19th century houses that are still standing along this historic highway. Wm. E. Wolmerding was a member of the prestigious South Side Sportsmens Club in Oakdale.

For further information about the early history of this house see the column "Historic Long Island, Portrait of Islip's Ancestor" by Carl Starace, the Town Historian, that appeared in the Islip Bulletin on 7/17/1980.

## 21. SOURCES:

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

Beers, Comstock. Atlas of Long Island, 1873.

Chace. Map of Suffolk County, 1858.

22. THEME: Interview, Town Historian Carl Starace, 1/1990.

Old Oakdale History, Vol. I.

Starace, Carl. "Historic Long Island", Islip Bulletin, 7/17/1980.

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I join the festival.

Y, Publisher  
IN, Editor

Associate Editor  
Associate Editor  
Social News Editor  
rts Editor  
Legals, Classifieds  
A, Advertising  
O, Advertising Director  
rt Director  
AM, Associate Art  
is, Classified  
I, Circulation  
ip Finances  
Marketing

# historic long island

## Portrait of Islip's ancestor

### A Portrait For The Town

Margaret Galbreath recently gave an oil painting of her great, great-grandfather, Obediah Snedecor, to the Town of Islip. The presentation was appropriately made at the Connetquot State Park clubhouse which was formerly the South Side Sportsmen's Club. It was known as Snedecor's or the Connetquot House when the club took over the nucleus of the later 3,200-acre preserve. It was a favorite resort for New York and Brooklyn sports fishermen and had been operated by Eliphalet, father of Obediah, from around 1820 until his death.

When the sportsmen's club acquired the place Obediah stayed on for a time, with his wife, Adeline Smith. A son, John, who was then 19, also helped in the operation of the establishment.

Mrs. Galbreath, an old friend, promised me the portrait, which hung in her dining room, some years ago when I told her that I was Islip Town historian and thought Obediah, as a prominent citizen and town official, deserved to hang in the Islip town hall. It must be one of the oldest oil portraits of an Islip town official around. I would guess that it dates from the late 1860s when the Snedecors moved to lands that included those of the present day House of the Holy Nativity, an Episcopal retreat, on the south side of Montauk Highway, just west of Brightwaters.

The Snedecor place was in what is now West Bay Shore, so-called because it is outside the Brightwaters village limits but within the Bay Shore school, fire and postal districts. But it was then known as West Islip, from about that point all the way to the Islip-Babylon town lines. The property had been a wedding gift. Mrs. Snedecor was born Adeline, daughter of Jonas and Elsie Smith, in January 1820, in the little house later to be owned by the Wilmerding family, then occupied by one of the Lawrances and now the home of Mrs. C. Barron Otis. Adeline's mother died soon after her birth and her father soon after that. Her father's parents were Jesse and Charity Willett Smith, and her grandmother took her until she was seven. When the grandmother died, Adeline's uncle and aunt, Jonathan and Anne Wicks Smith took her. They owned a large property at what is now Brightwaters, and a big, comfortable house that eventually burned down.

At 18, Adeline was married by Obediah Seaman Snedecor, son of Eliphalet and Sarah Seaman Snedecor. The Jonathan

Smiths gave them the property west of Bay Shore and subsequently they built a house there that is still a part of the Sisters' retreat soon to be demolished by a developer. The land then extended from the road to the bay. Two of the Snedecor's children, Jonathan Smith and Addie, were born there; the son and an older daughter Anne being named for Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Smith.

In accepting the portrait, Supervisor Michael A. LoGrande noted that Obediah was several times an Islip town official, that he served as inspector of Election District 1 and, that following in the tradition of his father, he also served as an overseer of the town highways. Mr. LoGrande said he would be happy to have the portrait hang in his office and that, on occasion, it would be on loan for special exhibit.

When Margaret Galbreath made the presentation she told the town board and a large audience that she was giving it because none of her children wanted it. Somebody had asked her why she didn't give it to Babylon town where she lives but she told them, "I was born in Islip town and so was Obediah and he spent all his life here. I wanted to have the painting cleaned up a bit but I don't know anyone locally who does that. Somebody asked me why I didn't sent it in to New York for restoration. I told them I would if they'd pay for it."

Margaret speaks with the refreshing frankness of our early citizens, and she comes by it honestly. Her brother, Duncan Arnold Cameron, also well known here but now living in Hatteras is another identifiable descendant of Eliphalet and Obediah. He has been a lifelong sports fisherman, for a time just for the love of it was a market gunner, and with his Islip one-design sloop Querida collected many racing trophies on Great South Bay.

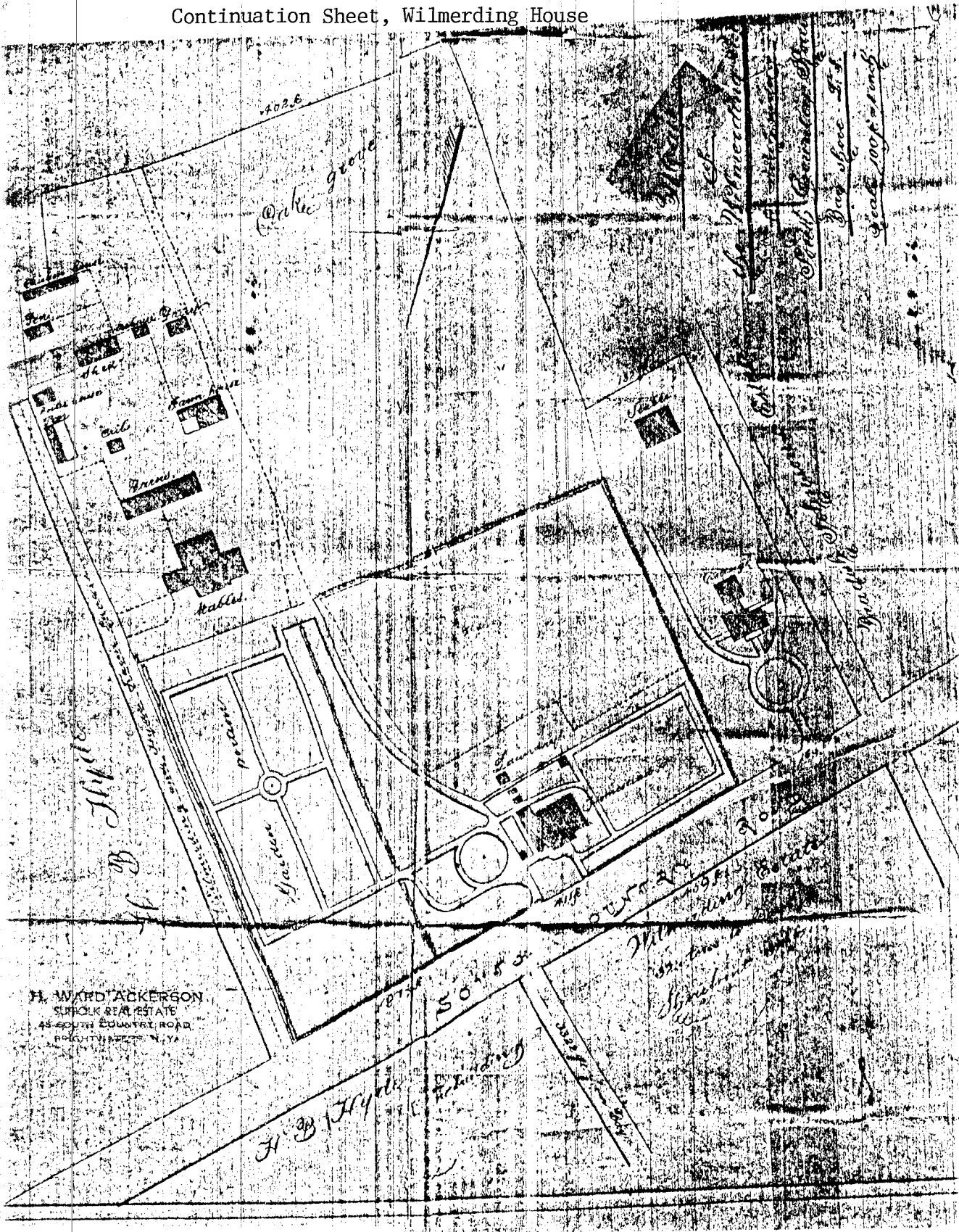
After some years on the West Bay Shore property, Obediah decided he would go into farming and bought 400 acres to the west. He built a house on the north side of the road, just west of the present day Captree bridge over Montauk highway. He also built a house on the south side for his son. Daughter Anne had been married by James H. Carll of Babylon and they built a house near the son John's. These houses eventually became the homes of the Yates and Titus families and one of them is still in use as the Captree Day Camp on Mntauk, corner of Snedecor Avenue.



Neg. KK XX-24, fm. NW, view of Wilmerding outbuildings. George Wilmerding was a New York auctioneer, according to a contemporary account in 1883. (Old Oakdale History, Vol. 1, 1983, p. 81.)



Continuation Sheet, Wilmerding House



H. WARD ACKERSON  
SUFFOLK REAL ESTATE  
45 SOUTH COUNTRY ROAD  
ROCKY HILL, N.Y.

Survey by Eugene Smith of Islip, n.d.  
Coll. Ward Ackerson