

478-04-031

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK

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

Supplement  
Landmark  
List #WP6

518 474-0479

REPORTED BY: Town of Islip  
Town Hall  
YOUR ADDRESS: 655 Main Street TELEPHONE: (516) 581-2000

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

DATE: September 26, 1975

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1. SITE NAME: Oak Neck Indian Site / Secatogue Neck Indian Site  
2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bay Shore  
3. LOCATION: Five acre site north of West Islip Beach, on Beach Drive, Secatogue Neck. And Oak Neck Lane, Oak Neck.

4. PRESENT OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_

5. OWNER'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

6. DESCRIPTION, CONDITION, EVIDENCE OF SITE:

- STANDING RUINS
- SURFACE TRACES VISIBLE
- UNDER CULTIVATION
- NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE
- CELLAR HOLE WITH WALLS
- WALLS WITHOUT CELLAR HOLE
- EROSION
- UNDERWATER
- OTHER Commemorative monument erected in 1960.

7. COLLECTION OF MATERIAL FROM SITE:

- SURFACE HUNTING BY WHOM \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_
- TESTING BY WHOM \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_
- EXCAVATION BY WHOM George Milliken Jr. DATE June 6, 1960  
(see attached Newsday article)
- NONE

PRESENT REPOSITORY OF MATERIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

8. PREHISTORIC CULTURAL AFFILIATION OR DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

9. HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION OF SITE:

During pre-Colonial times, the Secatogue Indians occupied the western part of Islip. Their principal village was located on the neck of land called "Secatogue Neck."

June 6, 1960 - Skeleton and pottery unearthed on five-acre site north of West Islip Beach. Pottery dates back to 800-1200 AD. Spot said to be a native burial ground, perhaps a fire pit where winter burial took place. See: Prime, Nathaniel S. History of Long Island. NY: Robert Carter, 1845. Chase Map. Philadelphia: Douglass, 1858, Beers, F.W. Atlas of Long Island, New York. New York: Beers, Comstock, & Cline, 1873.

10. POSSIBILITY OF SITE DESTRUCTION OR DISTURBANCE:

The site is now a Little League Baseball Field. The commemorative plaque states: "Secatogue Indian Village. Site purchased by Thomas & Richard Willetts, Sept., 19, 1692 from the Sachem, Wamsea." (Beach Drive Site)

11. REMARKS:

Additional Sources: "Expert Dates West Islip Bones to 800 AD," Newsday, June 14, 1960. Page 20.

Bailey, Paul (editor). Long Island - A History of Two Great Counties: Nassau and Suffolk. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1949. Volume I.

12. MAP LOCATION

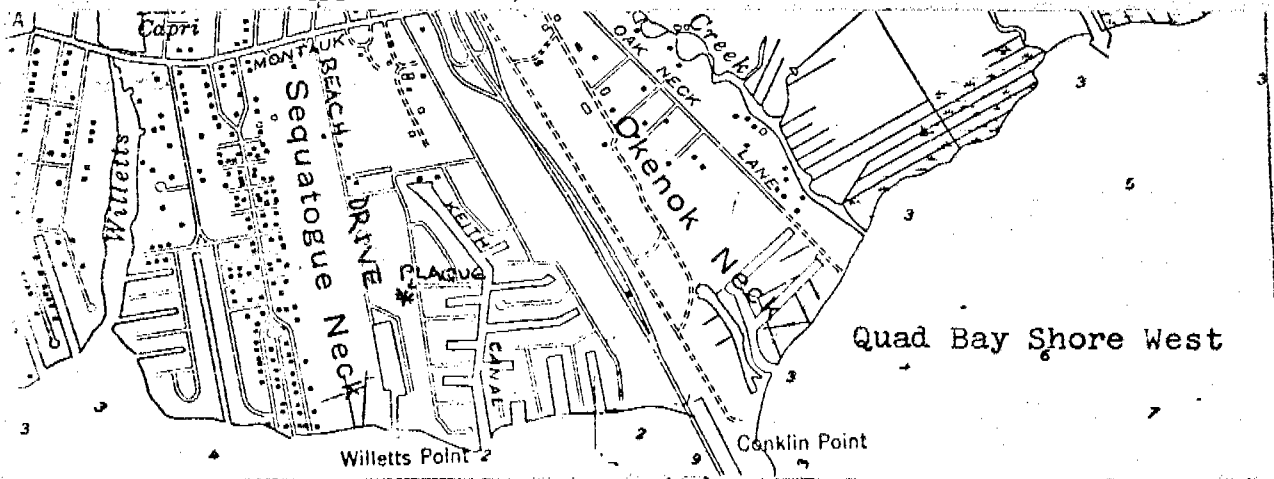
7 1/2 MINUTE SERIES QUAD. NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

15 MINUTE SERIES QUAD. NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S.G.S. COORDINATES: \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.T. COORDINATES: (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

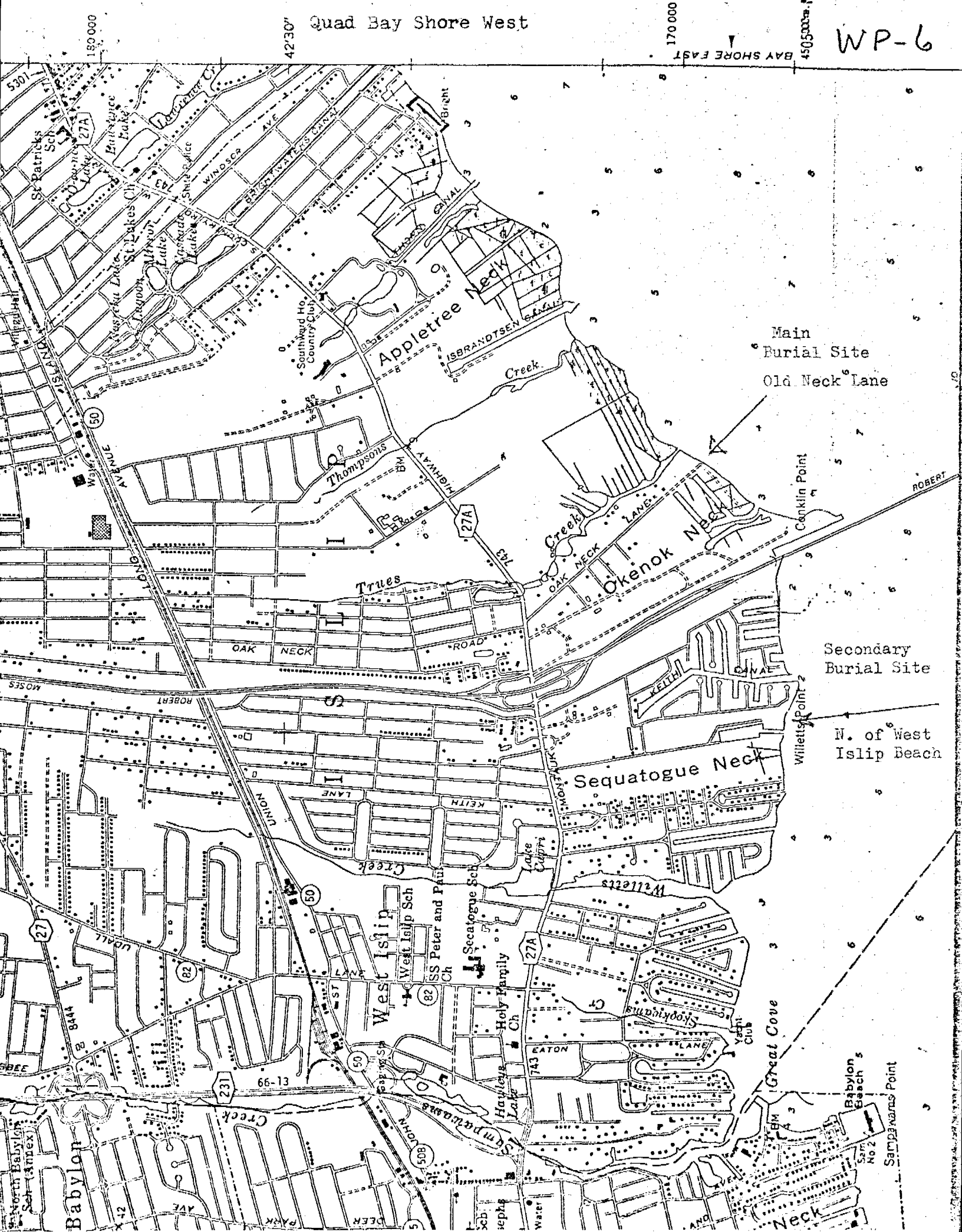
ATTACH SKETCH, TRACING OR COPY OF MAP



13. PHOTOGRAPHS (optional)

Department of Transportation Map

The 1960 discoveries on Secatogue Neck are thought to be a secondary burial ground of the Secatogue Indians, the main burial ground being on Oak Neck Lane, Oak Neck.



Main  
Burial Site  
Old Neck Lane

Secondary  
Burial Site

N. of West  
Islip Beach

Babylon Beach 5  
Sampsons Point



WP-6

Brightwaters

West Islip

Appletree Neck

Babylon Cove

Willetts Point

Conklin Point

Sampawams Pt

WP-6

Indian Village & Camp Site

Islip Street Map

mail 1974

Henry M. Zaleski to succeed M. Weiss, who is stepping down after 20 years as town Democratic leader. Jack Harding was picked as Zaleski's co-leader.

Incumbents, meanwhile, were reelected in the other towns voting last night. Lawrence Delaney and co-leader Stephen Hudson won without opposition in Huntington as did Patrick V. Gorman and co-leader John Case in Southold and Dominic Baranello and co-leader Frank Covey in Brookhaven. In Shelter Island where Democrats have only two committeemen, no reorganization meeting was held. Southampton and East Hampton Democrats hold their meetings tonight.

Meanwhile, Suffolk Supreme Court Justice L. Barron Hill yesterday ruled in favor of a party-endorsed Primary Day candidate for Islip Democratic committeeman when he decided a 49-49 tie vote between George Mintzer and Charles H. Goldstein in favor of Mintzer. The race was in Islip's 82nd District. Hill awarded two disputed ballots to Mintzer and threw out two others.

# Expert Dates West Islip Bones to 800 AD

New York—An American Museum of Natural History anthropologist said yesterday that a skeleton and bits of pottery unearthed last week during grading operations in West Islip may be more than 1,000 years old. He said the area in which the relics were found "appears to be a native burial ground."

Islip Supervisor Thomas J. Harwood said the town would decide at today's board meeting or what should be done with the burial area, which is on a town-owned site. The area, ear-marked for a Little League baseball field, may be turned into a shrine, Harwood said. Museum anthropologist Dr. James Ford met for an hour here yesterday with Islip Historian George L.

Weeks Jr. to inspect bits of pottery and a skull that Weeks had brought to the museum. "The skull was badly damaged," Ford said, "and wasn't of much help. But the pottery appears to date back to the period 800-1200 AD. The spot appears to be a native burial ground."

Harwood said watchmen have maintained a 24-hour-a-day guard over the shallow pit in which the bones were found June 6. The find was made on a five-acre site north of West Islip Beach. "If work continues in the area, it will be under supervision and with proper safeguards to avoid any desecration," Harwood said.

Weeks said he had sent the town board a memorandum suggesting that a fence be built around the 75-by-

40 foot area that yielded the bones and pottery and that a memorial plaque be placed on a mound inside the fence. He said he believed the relics had been found in a Secotogue Indian fire pit, where winter burial took place. He said that the main burial ground of the tribe is on Oak Neck Lane. Weeks said he doubted that the area would yield other remains.

The bones and pottery were found last week by 28-year-old George Milliken Jr., a Long Island Lighting Co. representative, who had been surveying the area for future LILCO utility pole installations. Milliken, an amateur archeologist, was browsing through the recently-turned earth during his lunch hour when he made the find.

Newsday

6/14/60

WP-6

# Chapter 12

## TAVERNS AND SUMMER HOTELS

ONE OF the fastest growing sections of the Town of Islip is West Islip. The area has a very interesting background, dating back to the time when the Willetts brothers, Thomas and Richard of Jericho bought the land from the Wameas, Sachene and the Sequatogues (Secatogues) Indians.

This section of the Town of Islip is mentioned in the Dutch archives as early as Jan. 15, 1639, and is referred to as Kieft's Purchase. The Willetts brothers made their purchase on Sept. 19, 1692. The purchase was confirmed three years later by a patent granted by Colonial Governor Fletcher, dated Oct. 10, 1695.

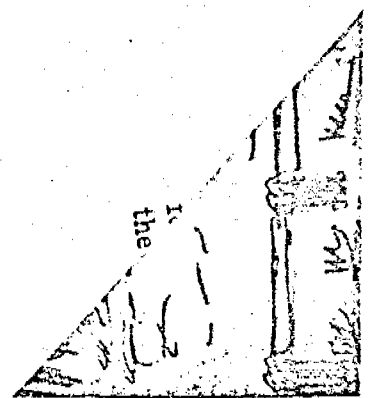
Secatogue was the neck of land extending into the Great Bay. The Indian meaning of Secatogue was the black or dark colored land which was in the large area of meadows that bordered the up-land. This parcel of meadow land consisted of two necks. The east neck was known as Fort Neck, and the west as George's Neck.

There were many land transactions after the Willetts brothers acquired the property. All rights in the original purchase were sold by Richard to his brother Thomas on April 1, 1702 for 300 pounds. On Oct. 25, 1705, another purchase from the Indians was consummated by the Willetts brothers. It consisted of the land north of the Pine Plains, bounded on the east by Col. Van Cortlandt's land, now Sagtikos Manor.

Again on April 23, 1710, Thomas Willetts gave to his son, Thomas, land bounded on the east by the Sequatogue River and west to a creek known as Soquams Oquenc for the land we now know as Oak 1 of the Indian burial ground. Oquenc of the Willetts brothers from that of Manor.

### La Grange

In 1779, Richard Willetts sold Colonel Platt Conklin. Samuel A. Hill or his sons, Aaron and Nehemiah (t



example of the other towns in forbidding other than the townsmen to take fish out of the town waters under penalty of a fine of forty shillings. This money was to be used by the overseers-for-the-poor.

Indians must have been numerous in this section during pre-colonial times because many streams that lead to the bay gave them means of obtaining fish, oysters and clams. Many of these streams that flow into the Great South Bay had or still do have Indian names. The Secatogue Indians occupied the western part of the town. Their principal village was located on the neck of land called after them. The sachem's abode was supposed to have been at the head of Secatogue Brook, west of this neck, on the property formerly owned and occupied by Dr. Wagstaff in West Islip. On the neck of land to the east of Secatogue Neck there is said to have been an Indian burial place.

Peter John, a Shinnecock Indian, who was here about 1750, and Paul Cuffee, a Montauk Indian, 1790, preached to the Indians in a church in Islip village. Peter John is buried in the Poosepatuck Indian Reservation cemetery at Mastie and Paul Cuffee's body lies in a small enclosure by the side of the road at Canoe Place. The church in Islip where they preached is mentioned in history as an Indian church, but its location is not known.

When the first settlers arrived, the road that now connects the south shore villages was nothing but an Indian trail but in 1732 the Colonial Assembly passed an act to have a good road laid out through the town. A committee consisting of Richard Willetts, Ananias Carll and George Phillips was named to carry out this project. As a result we have the South Country Road. The route is now somewhat changed as the old road was laid out so that its entire route came within a mile of the bay and had to accommodate itself to the various rivers and streams along the way. These it could not cross and the road had to be brought up to the places where the rivers could be easily forded. It was just a one-track road, full of ruts and curves to avoid large trees and steep hills. This old road was the one that George Washington used when he made his tour of the island in the spring of 1790. He found it more comfortable at times to ride horseback than to be bumped around in his coach.

There were a number of auxiliary roads in these colonial times. The Nicoll Road that ran from the Nicoll homestead northward to Lake Ronkonkoma is still in existence at its northern end. This was used principally by the Nicolls to go to visit their northern borders and to go to New York by way of the County Road or Conklin's Road which joined the Nicoll Road and came out ten miles west of Smithtown. The County Road ran east and came out at Southaven. There was also the Wheeler Road going to Wheeler's settlement in Hauppauge. The Wheelers used it to cart hay from their meadows at Blue Point. This road ran southeasterly and crossed the headwaters of Connectquot River. Besides these roads, there were several others, namely the Burnt House Road, Ezekiel's



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