

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

BO 9

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

UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305.000804  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: March 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

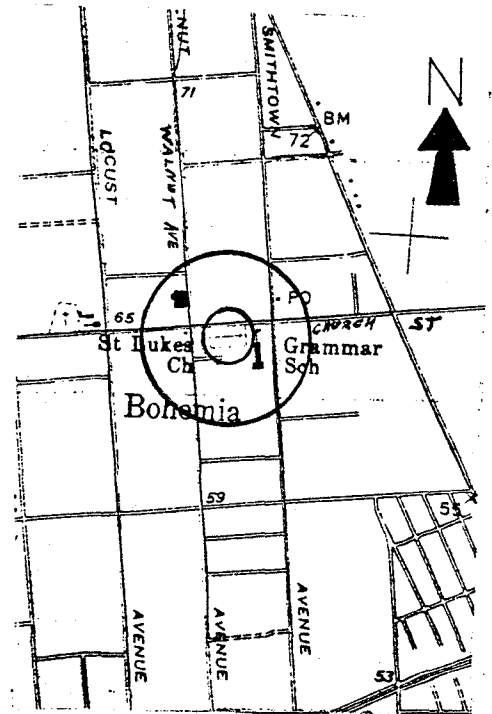
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Union Cemetery & Jan Hus Statue
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bohemia
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Church St., south side, west of Smithtown Ave.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. USE: Original: cemetery Present: cemetery
- 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 Jan Hus statue - marble
- 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 XXI-3, fm. NW  
Jan Hus statue at left

13. MAP: NYS DOT Patchogue 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: several mature trees  
 j. other: bordered by chain link fence
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: church directly east

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

The Union cemetery is located on the south side of Church Street in a residential neighborhood of detached houses that date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries with some newer construction intermixed.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):  
 The Union Cemetery is a rectangular parcel with predominantly granite and marble headstones and statuary. The Jan Hus statue stands approximately in the middle of the cemetery opposite the entrance gates.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: Jan Hus statue - 1893

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

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

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Alexander Wallis, who purchased most of what is now Bohemia from the original Nicoll Estate, sold lots to newcomers and gave two acres for a school and two acres for a cemetery. In 1893 the statue within the cemetery was erected to commemorate Jan Huss, who had led the Bohemian religious reformation one hundred years before Martin Luther. It was the first statue in the world to have been erected to the Czech martyr who was burned at the stake in 1415.

21. SOURCES:

Dickerson, Charles. A History of the Sayville Community, 1975.  
A History of Bohemia, 1985.

22. THEME:

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

#### CHAPTER XIV BOHEMIA



In the middle ages, the great kingdom of Bohemia, dominated central Europe. The first great University on the European continent was Charles University founded in Prague in 1348. The people of Bohemia, led by Jan Huss, were leaders in the religious reformation a hundred years before Martin Luther, but in 1415 the Roman Pope had Jan Huss burned at the stake for preaching religious freedom.

In the 17th century the Hapsburg emperors in Vienna conquered Bohemia and began to persecute the Bohemian people. Seeking freedom from the Hapsburgs, in 1855, three young couples, named John Vavra, John Kratochvil, and Joseph Koula, set out for America. They arrived in New York City and on March 5, 1855 took the Long Island Railroad to Lakeland. (This station later burned and the new station was built at Ronkonkoma.)

Walking to the south about a mile, they decided to build their homes in the woods, two on what is now Smithtown Avenue, and one on what is now Locust Avenue.

Puzzled by a strange sound they heard when the wind blew from the south, they decided to walk south believing it might be a factory where they could find employment. The men walked till they reached the bay, only to find that the sound they heard was the surf on Fire Island. However, they had the good luck to come upon the estate of William Ludlow in Oakdale, who immediately gave them work. Each evening they had to make the long walk from Oakdale to their home two miles to the north.

They were happy to find work and soon wrote to friends in Europe persuading them to join them in America. A group arrived in 1857. Within a few years many more Bohemian people settled in the new community and also in Sayville and the surrounding area. In 1859 they gave their new settlement the name of "New Village of Tabor". Tabor means "camp". Many of the early names are familiar in our area today. Joseph Jedlicka opened a tinsmith shop in Sayville. Joseph Nohowec opened a saloon on the site of the MacArthur Hotel. Fred Munkelwitz opened a blacksmith shop in Sayville on Railroad Avenue.

Alexander Wallis, who had purchased most of what is now Bohemia from the original Nicoll Estate, now sold plots to the newcomers at \$10 per acre. Mr. Wallis gave two acres for a school and two acres for a cemetery.

The first religious services were conducted by a Presbyterian minister named Reverend Clark from Sayville. When he left in 1872, the Reverend John H. Prescott, rector of St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Sayville continued to conduct the