

**BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM**

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

BO 1

UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305.00079/  
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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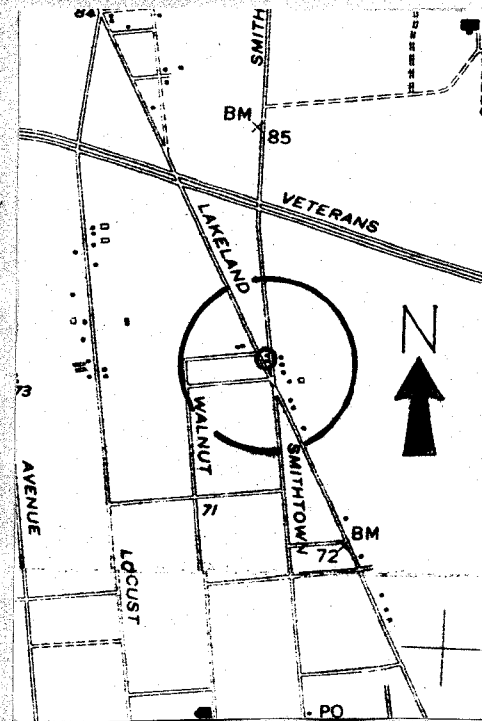
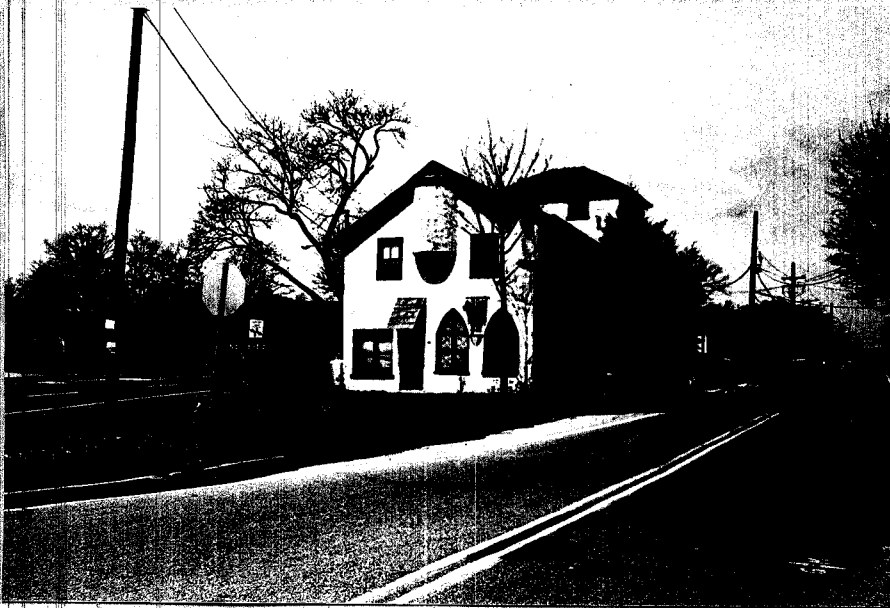
**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Normandie Inn (formerly Chateau LaBoheme)
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bohemia
- 3. STREET LOCATION: North juncture of Smithtown & Lakeland Aves.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Richard Frieda ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. USE: Original: \_\_\_\_\_ Present: restaurant
- 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: half timber
- 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 XIX-11, fm. S 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: large trees  
 j. other: parking field (paved) to N.
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: major crossroads location  
corporate/office blngs. (low rise)
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

The Normandie Inn is located at the crossroads of Smithtown and Lakeland Avenues on a triangular parcel. The building is surrounded by a mix of residential, commercial, and recently constructed low rise office complexes. Light industry northward along Smithtown Avenue.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):  
 The Normandie Inn is a large, 2½ story, irregularly shaped, stucco building with half timber detailing and a slate roof. A three story tower with a hip roof on the north, a smaller pyramidal roof tower on the west, and an oriel window that fills the gable peak distinguish the building. Windows include Gothic pointed arch and round arch casements featured throughout the building.  
 Wall face dormers on the east.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1913-1929  
 ARCHITECT: Hoberg  
 BUILDER: Winnie Benedict

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

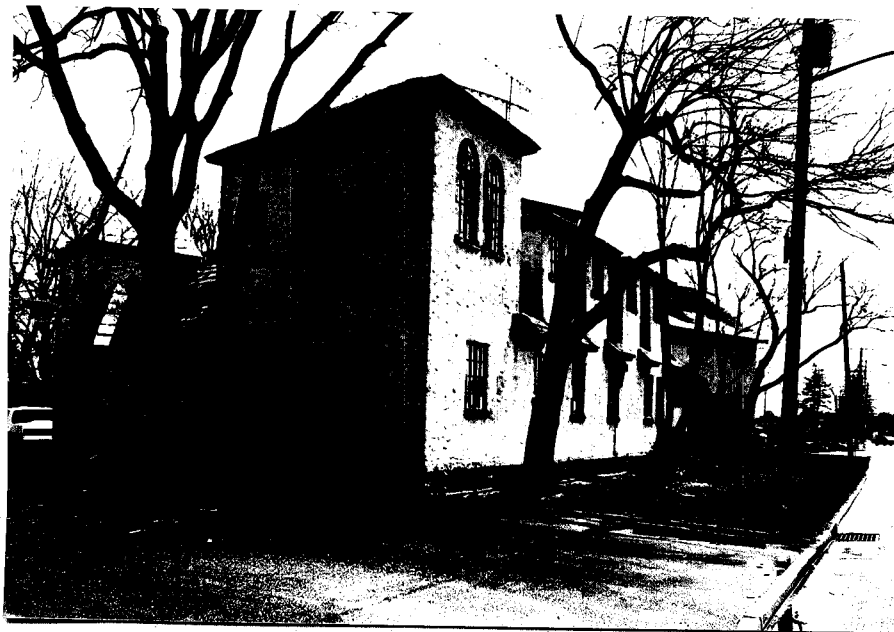
This building with its castle-like towers and turrets is a unique landmark, with a strong visual impact. It was built by Winnie Benedict a great-grandson of John Varra, one of the founders of Bohemia. It was designed to resemble the castles that are prominent in Czechoslovakia.

It is reported that there was a cigar factory on this site at the turn of the century and that it was destroyed by fire. After the fire the site was acquired by Mr. Divis, who was reportedly a Czech baron. Divis built the present building.

The Normandie Inn has been under the present management since 1973.

21. SOURCES:

- E. Belcher Hyde. Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk County, L.I. (westerly Section), 1915.  
 Interview, Fay Pagels (589.5718), July 1990.  
 Interview, Winnie Grace, July 1990.  
Islip: The First 300 Years Landmark Calendar, 1983.  
 Research by Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities - KEK



Neg. KK XIX-9, fm NW, view of Lakeland Avenue facade.



Neg. KK XIX-10, fm. NE, view of Smithtown Avenue facade.

*(Above)*  
**Oakdale**

**The East Gatehouse** One of two gatehouses that are part of the 900 acre estate, Idle Hour, formerly owned by William K. Vanderbilt. This cottage has two stories in the Tudor style, and diamond-paned casement windows.

*(This Page)*  
**Bohemia**

**The Normandie Inn**  
Completed between 1913 and 1920, the inn was designed by Hoberg and built by Winnie Benedick for Mr. Divis, the original proprietor. The inn was a way-point for rum-runners from Montauk during Prohibition, and was a popular gathering place at that time.



## Normandie Inn

The Normandie Inn is situated where the oldest building in Bohemia once stood. This historic building was erected in the late 1800's. The restaurant as it now stands was completed circa 1913 - 1929 by Winnie Benedict for A.B. Divis, its first proprietor. Used as a house at first, it has now been a restaurant for over 50 years.

Local legend and documented history has it that at one time the building provided a way point for rum runners on the old Montauk to New York run. It was a place for celebrities from New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles to drink during prohibition and dine in the finest baroque tradition of the late twenties and early thirties.

*Special reservations are required for group luncheons and business meetings. If time for lunch is all too short, an order placed in advance by telephone will have your food ready when you arrive. Call 589-9898*