

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
UNIQUE SITE NO.	<u>103-05-0347</u>
QUAD	_____
SERIES	_____
NEG. NO.	_____

Oa 38
red
green

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip Town Hall DATE: June 11, 1979
 YOUR ADDRESS: 655 Main Street
Islip, N.Y. TELEPHONE: (516) 224-5450
 ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning and Development

IDENTIFICATION

- BUILDING NAME(S): Merriman House/Pepperidge Hall Estate
- COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Oakdale
- STREET LOCATION: 1351 Montauk Hwy.
- OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. Herbert Peters ADDRESS: see #3
- USE: Original: residence of Supt. Present: residence
- ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain _____

DESCRIPTION

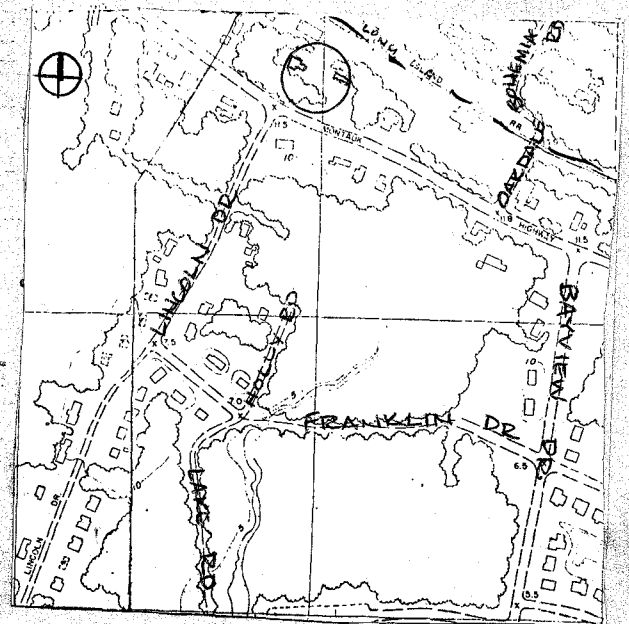
- BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
Torched + demolished c. 1988

12. PHOTO: neg. 1a
NJM-2

13. MAP: Bowe-Anderson, Composite A



view from southeast



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: presently for sale
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: heart-shaped drive
 j. other: _____
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: railroad track to rear

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

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

The Merriman House is on the North side of Montauk Hwy., across from Lincoln Drive. The Carriage House/Barn is east of the house, in an open, grassy portion of the property. Also see Oa 43 and Oa 44.

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

The main section of the house is 1½ stories, and 3 bays long. It has a gambrel roof with 3 gable roof dormers that have bracketed vergeboards and broken pediments as window heads. To the east is a 1 story, 2 bay wing with a gable roof and bracketed overhang. The Carriage house has original barn doors and applied decoration of sawn wood. This house was built

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION:
- prior to 1885

ARCHITECT: H. Edwards Ficken

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Although built ca. 1885, the Merriman House is a fine example of the classic Long Island Homestead with a Dutch influence. The original resident was the superintendent of Pepperidge Hall, the Oakdale estate of Christopher Robert. In recent years, it was given as a retirement gift to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Peters from Dr. Only, its previous owner.

The house is an interesting example of the work of a prominent architectural firm. It was illustrated in a contemporary architectural periodical,

21. SOURCES: Charles R. Stevenson,
- But as Yesterday, the Early Life Times of St. Anne's Church
- , Sayville, N.Y., Sayville 1967, p. 148.

Rendering in American Architect and Building News, Nov. 5, 1887, No. 619.

22. THEME:

Prepared by: Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities
 Setauket, N.Y. 11733
 Nina Monastero, Research Assistant

18. (con't) by Christopher Robert for his superintendent's residence.

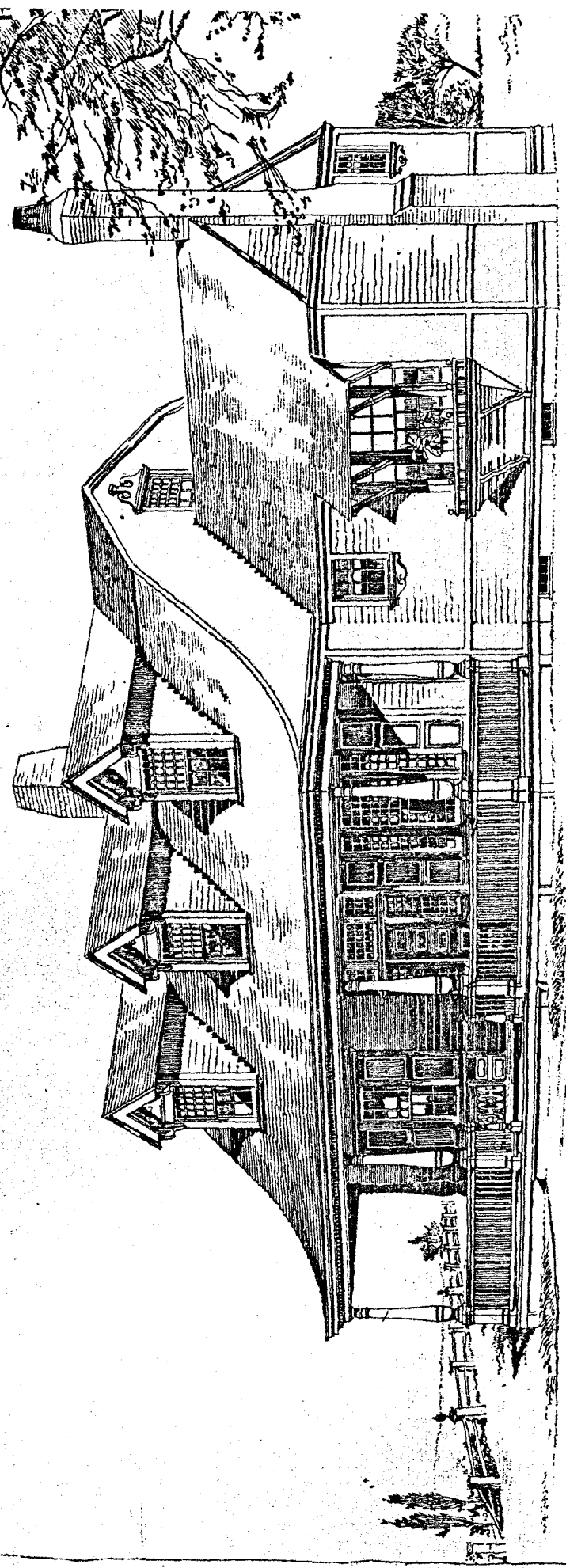
NJM-2, neg 2a

Carriage House, from south

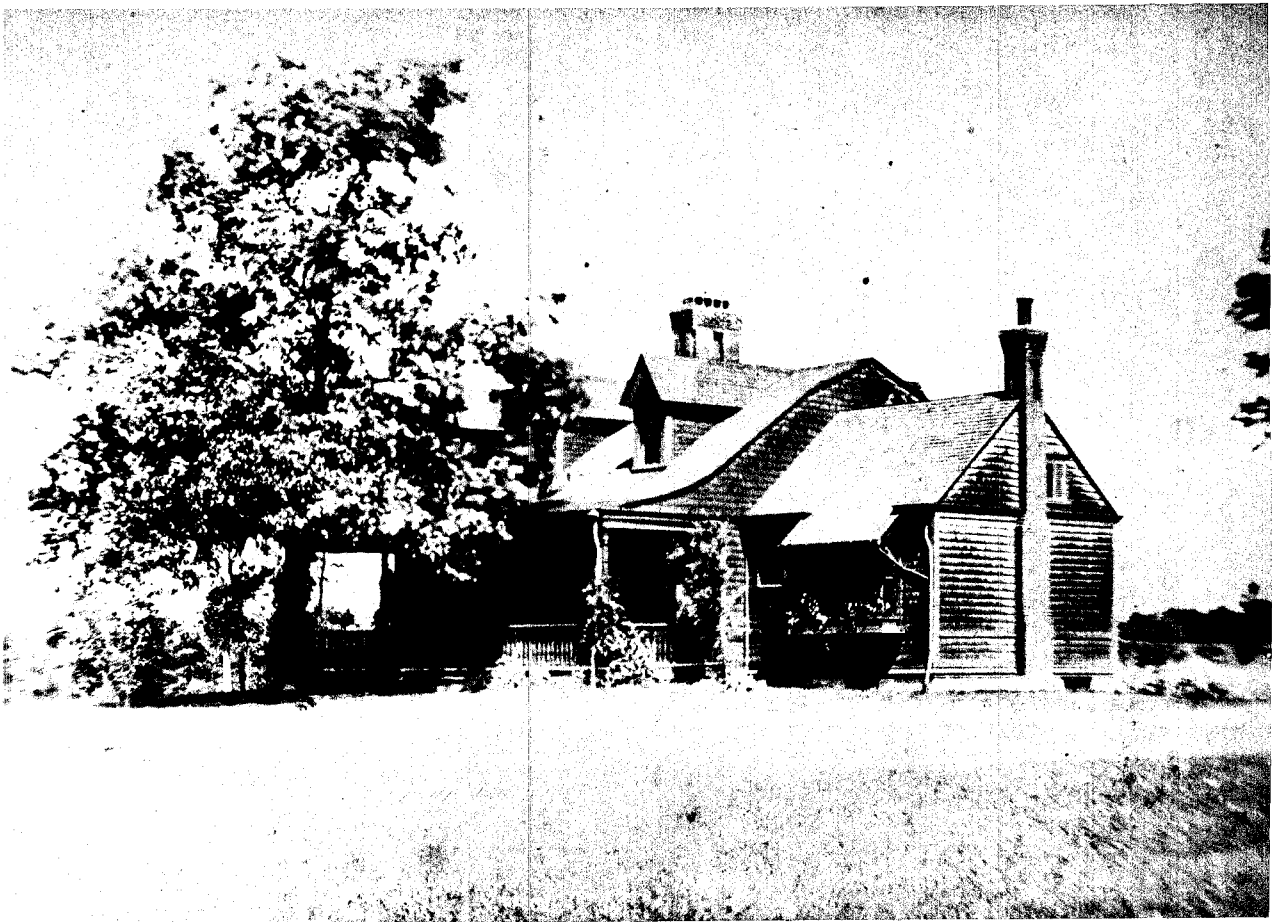


Oakdale

LODGE AT OAKDALE, L. I., [C.F. ROBERT
H. EDWARDS, FICKEN.]



Oa 38



1885 photo

From I. H. Green, Jr. photo album gift of Betty Prall Collections of Mrs. Ruth Dougherty, Sayville Historical Society.

copy neg. by Jos. Adams 1979 JAA 16, a/c

is inseparably associated with Suffolk County and who have always been prominent among its most enlightened and public spirited citizens."

The wardens and vestrymen elected at the annual meeting of the parish on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1888, were the following: Senior Warden — Walter L. Suydam; Junior Warden — I. H. Green, Sr.; Vestrymen — A. D. Foster, John R. Suydam (2), C. H. Merriman¹³⁰ and I. H. Green, Jr.

The new church was consecrated by Bishop Littlejohn on October 14, 1888. On the same day he confirmed twenty-one persons, the first to be confirmed in the new church. They included Carl H. Munkelwitz (1872-1934) (see Chapter 10) and Rufus Foster (1868-1890), son of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Foster. Rufus became the Clerk of the Town of Islip.

Some time after that, the historical tablet was put in place. It states that the present stone church "was the gift to this parish by Walter Lispenard Suydam and Helen Suydam Cutting."

The tablet goes on to record that the gift by Mr. Suydam and his sister was in memory of their parents, Charles Suydam and Anna White Schermerhorn Suydam and their deceased children, Charles Schermerhorn Suydam and Augustus Van Cortlandt Suydam (brothers of Walter and Helen).

The church had a seating capacity, according to Mr. Prescott's parochial reports of "250 sittings."¹³¹

The new church was fitted out with beautiful gifts. The altar cross and vases were presented in 1888, in memory of Edith Thorne (Ellis) Roosevelt, first wife of Robert B. Roosevelt, Sr., by their sons, John Ellis Roosevelt and Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Jr. (see Chapter 11).

The brass eagle lectern was presented on Easter 1888 by Mrs. Alfred A. (Estelle Silleck) Fraser of Greenville, now West Sayville.

A silver offering plate was given in 1888 by G. I. Herbert and B. B. Schneider. Messrs Herbert and Schneider were next door neighbors on the bay, between Edwards and Candee Avenues.

The organ had been presented on Easter 1887 by Lena Cadwalader Evans and Edith Corse Evans in memory of their grandfather, Israel Corse (1819-1885).

¹³⁰ Mr. Merriman lived in Oakdale. He was the manager of the large estate there, owned by Mr. Christopher R. Robert, Jr., on which Pepperidge Hall was then (1888) being erected.

¹³¹ Originally, there was no chancel in the stone church and the pews extended right down to about ten feet in front of the altar rail. Even with these additional pews it is doubtful if the seating capacity of the church ever was two-hundred and fifty.

The Reverend Joseph H. Bond, Rector Emeritus of St. Ann's, had the chancel built after he became Rector in 1922. The maximum seating capacity in 1967 is about two hundred and ten, counting seats in the pews, baptistry, choir, and benches and chairs placed in the aisle and on the chancel. Even with four services in the church on Sundays (not including the services in the Parish Hall), the seating capacity is not anywhere near large enough to accommodate the congregation totaling over nineteen hundred individual members, if a large part of them chooses to attend church every Sunday.

The baptistry
and Mrs. Clara
(1857-1888)
A silver offering
who died in 1888
Chapter 3)

¹³² Many entries
the Book of Baptisms
on the east wall of
The Book of
Reverend Father
of the vestry of
At the time of
of St. Ann's Church
The inscription is
studying the various
areas of the church.
The initial gift
Mr. Palmer from the
Will of Hannah
to the fund and
others. There are
In 1964, Mr. Bond
to purchase the
(1884-1964) and
repository was
were installed and