

97SD0231

HISTORIC AND NATURAL DISTRICTS  
INVENTORY FORM

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Oa 1

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

UNIQUE SITE NO. <u>103-05-0353-D24</u>
QUAD: _____
SERIES: _____
NEG. NO.: _____

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip Town Hall DATE: 5/18/79  
655 Main Street  
YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, N.Y. TELEPHONE: (516) 224-5450

ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning and Development

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1. NAME OF DISTRICT: William K. Vanderbilt Estate

2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Oakdale

3. DESCRIPTION:

The former 900 acre estate of William K. Vanderbilt, then known as Idlehour, occupies land on the east bank of the Connetquot River. The Vanderbilt's residence, the 110-room mansion now owned by Dowling College, was the focal point of the estate, which included such buildings as a coach house, ice house, power house, engineer's cottage, eagle house, bowling alley, tea house, workmen's boarding, two gatehouses, and the grand clock tower farm area. All of these structures still survive, and most are occupied as private residences, scattered among the contemporary developments. The area is bound by Montauk Highway to the north, the Connetquot River to the south and west, and Vanderbilt Boulevard to the east.

4. SIGNIFICANCE:

Although the Idlehour area has been densely-built-up by developers, the buildings of the Vanderbilt estate preserve the illustrious history of the area. None of the historic structures are in any danger of being destroyed, and the community takes pride in its former residents. The mansion and estate were built in 1876 and for some years after, at a total cost of over six million dollars. at this time, the Vanderbilts were interested in establishing their place in society. The family used the estate primarily on weekends, where members of the N.Y. Coaching Club would visit to hunt and fish or ride on the Connetquot River in Mr. Vanderbilt's steamer.

(see attachment)

5. MAP:

Bowe-Anderson  
Composite

6. SOURCES:

Merritt B. Hyde, Atlas of a Part of Suffolk County, Long Island, New York, South Shore, E. Belcher Hyde, Brooklyn, 1915, Vol 1.

The Story of Idle Hour, Alice McGorty, Editor, Dowling College Press, Oakdale.

George Lewis Weeks Jr. Some of Islip's Early History, Consolidated Press, Bay Shore, 1955.

Witten, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, 1970.

7. THREATS TO AREA:

BY ZONING

BY ROADS

BY DEVELOPERS

BY DETERIORATION

OTHER UNSYMPATHETIC ALTERATIONS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

8. LOCAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE AREA:

Most residents of Idlehour are aware of the history that surrounds them and are proud of their community's past. The area has its own historical society, The Vanderbilt Historical Society, which concerns itself with preserving the historical fervor of the area.

9. PHOTOS:

Prepared by: Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities  
Setaukat, New York 11733  
Nina Monastero, Research Assistant  
May, 1979

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3	Vanderbilt Coach House	Chateau Drive
4	Vanderbilt Mansion (Idlehour)	Idlehour Blvd.
5	Vanderbilt Powerhouse	Central Blvd.
6	Vanderbilt Engineer's House	121 Central Blvd.
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10	Vanderbilt Bowling Alley	149 Connetquot Drive
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12	Vanderbilt Superintendent's Hs.	37 Hollywood Drive
13	Vanderbilt Pottery	10 Shore Drive
14	Vanderbilt Laundry	Asbury Avenue
15	Vanderbilt Eagle House	44 Featherbed Lane
16	Vanderbilt Tea House	Shore Drive
16a	Secatogue Indian land	Idle Hour area

#### 4. Significance (con't.)

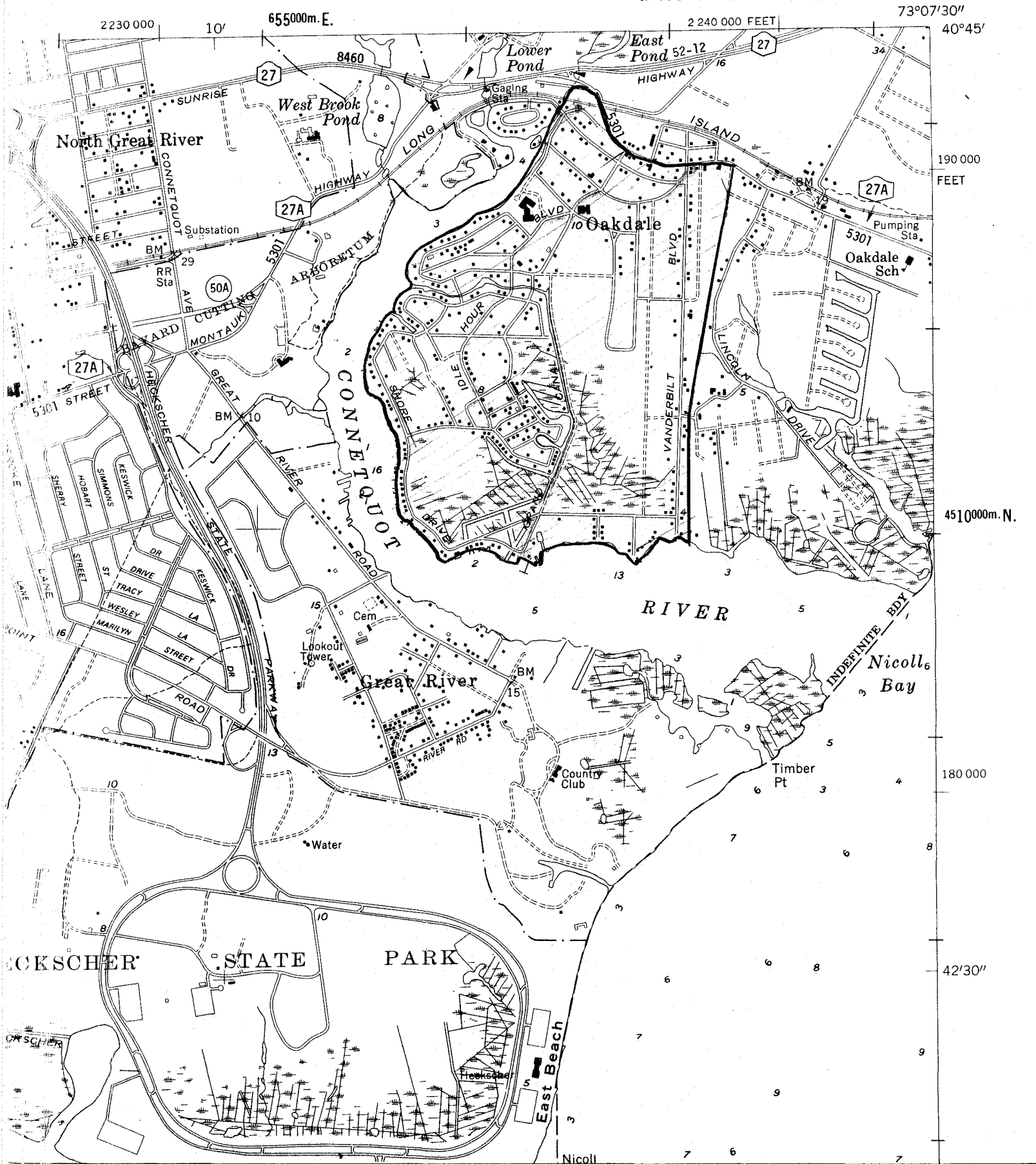
The architect for the first house erected by William Vanderbilt was Richard Morris Hunt (1827-1895) (FAIA) who was one of the most distinguished 19th century architects in the United States. R. M. Hunt also designed the New York residence of W.K. Vanderbilt which was built in 1878.

His son, Richard H. Hunt (1862-1931) continued the work at Idle Hour, designing the present mansion after fire destroyed the earlier building.

Oa. 1

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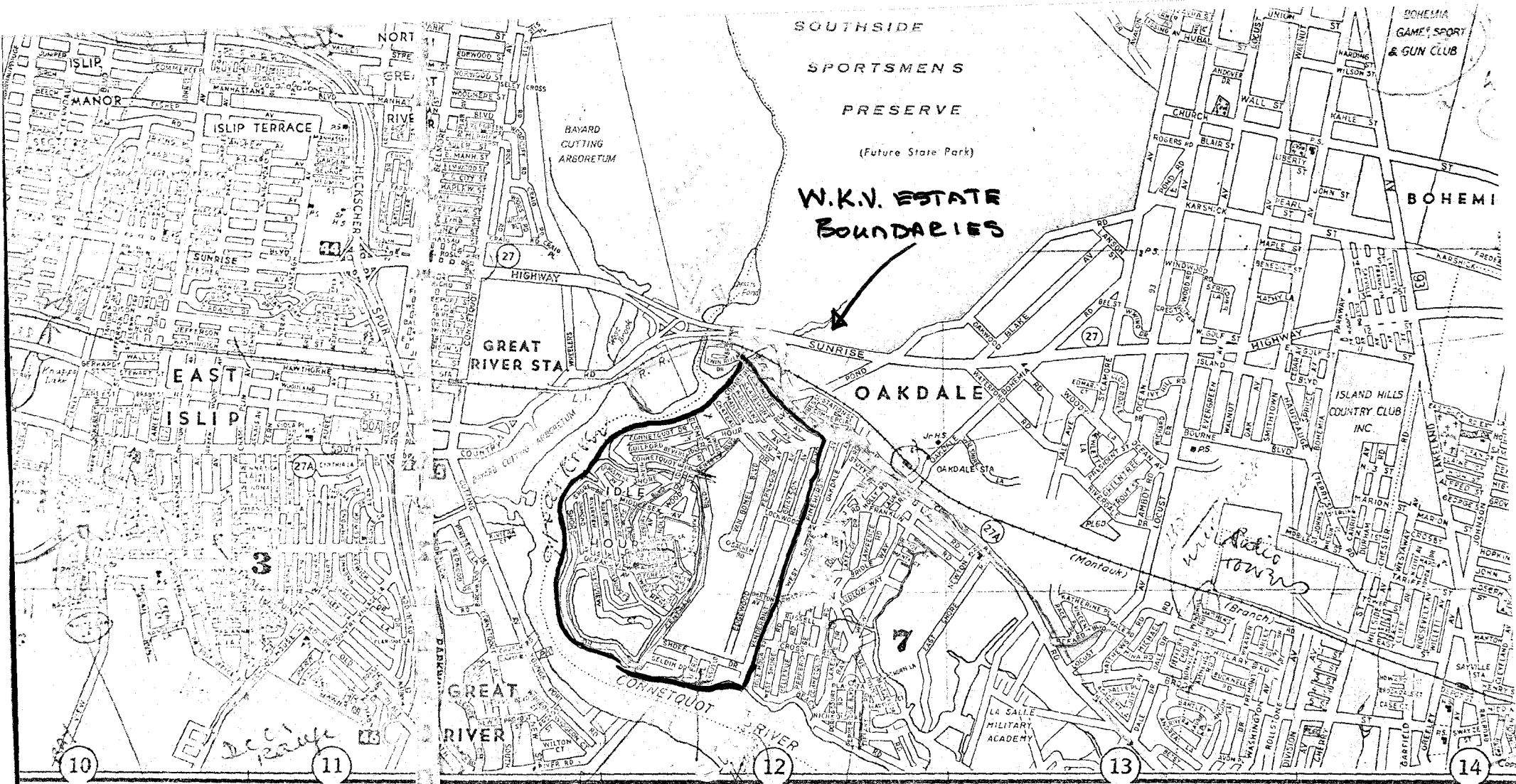
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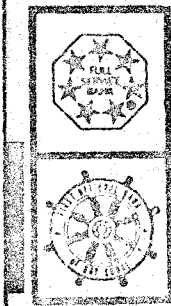
FOR ADJOINING AREA SEE MAP NO. 11 PAGE 43

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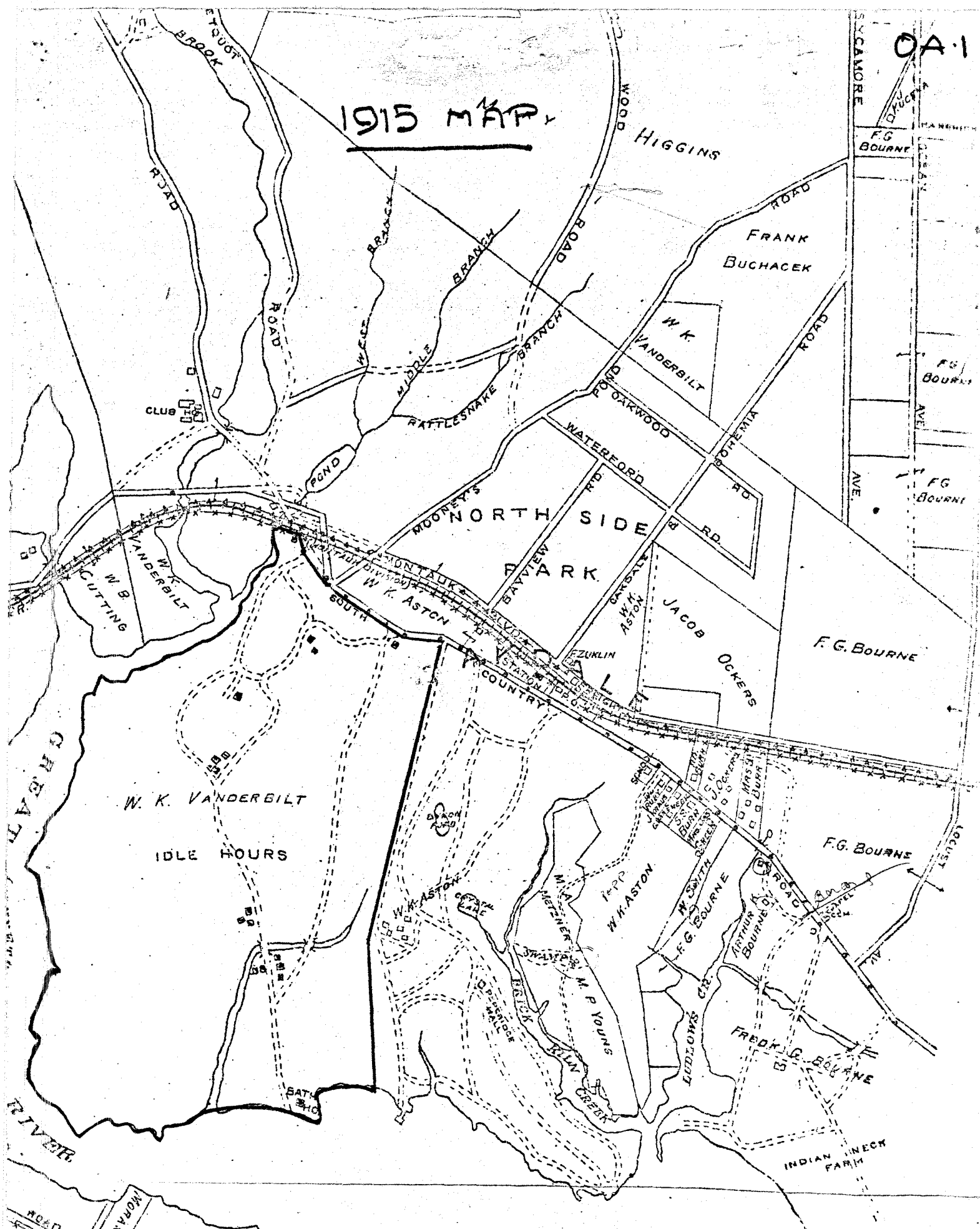


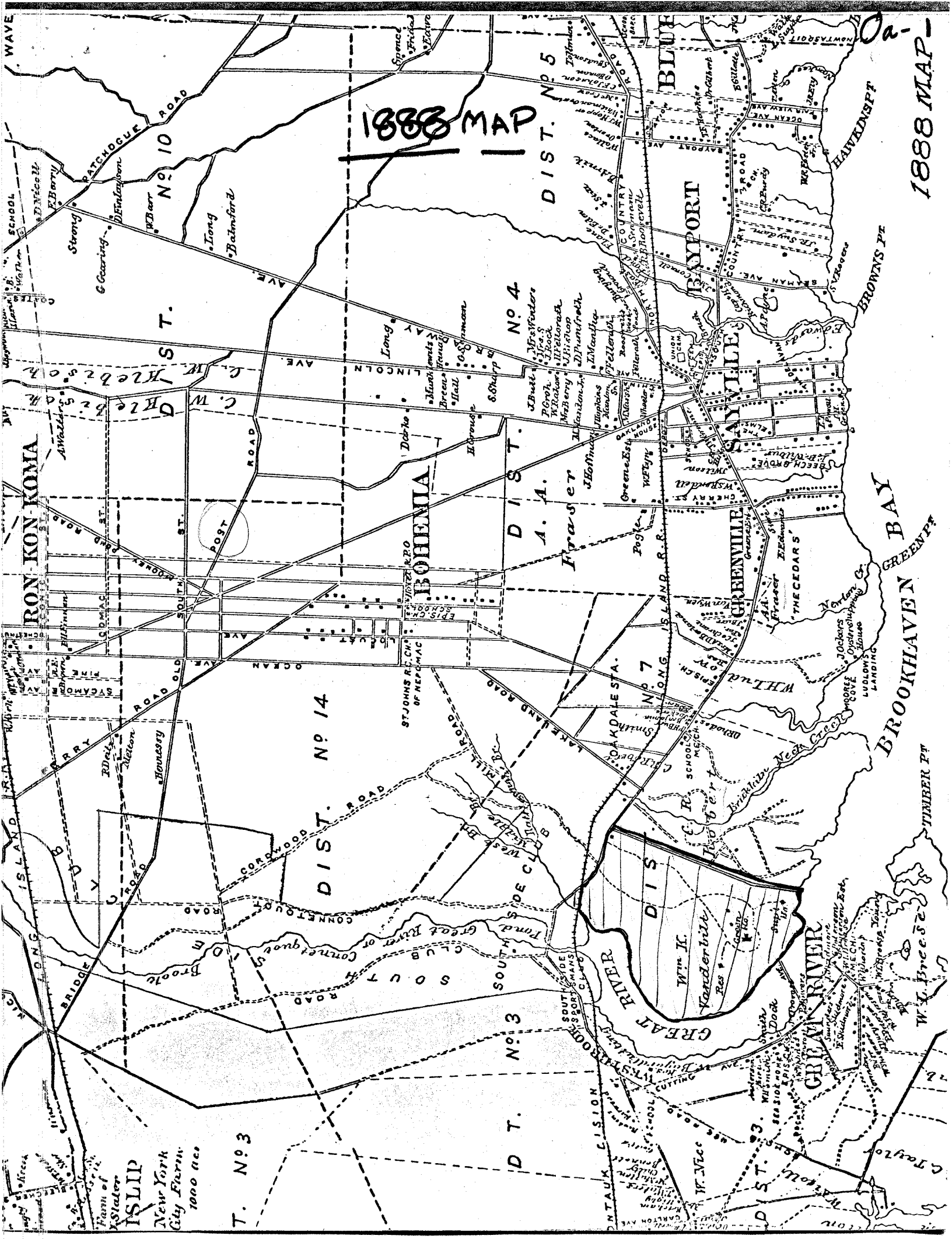
- MAIN OFFICE: 128 West Main St. at Ocean
- COMMUNITY OFFICE: 340 Howell's Rd. at
- BRENTWOOD OFFICE: 1090 Suffolk Aven
- DEER PARK OFFICE: 140 Bay Shore Rd., 1
- SOUTH SHORE MALL OFFICE: Sunrise H
- OAKDALE OFFICE: 4600 Sunrise Hwy., 21

1969 - HAGSTROM

*De 1*

1915 MAP





1888 MAP

1888 MAP

RON KON KOMA

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REPORT

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T. No. 3

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TIMBER PT

W. T. Breezer

C. Taylor

Oa-

BROWNS PT

GREEN PT

LUDLOW HOUSE

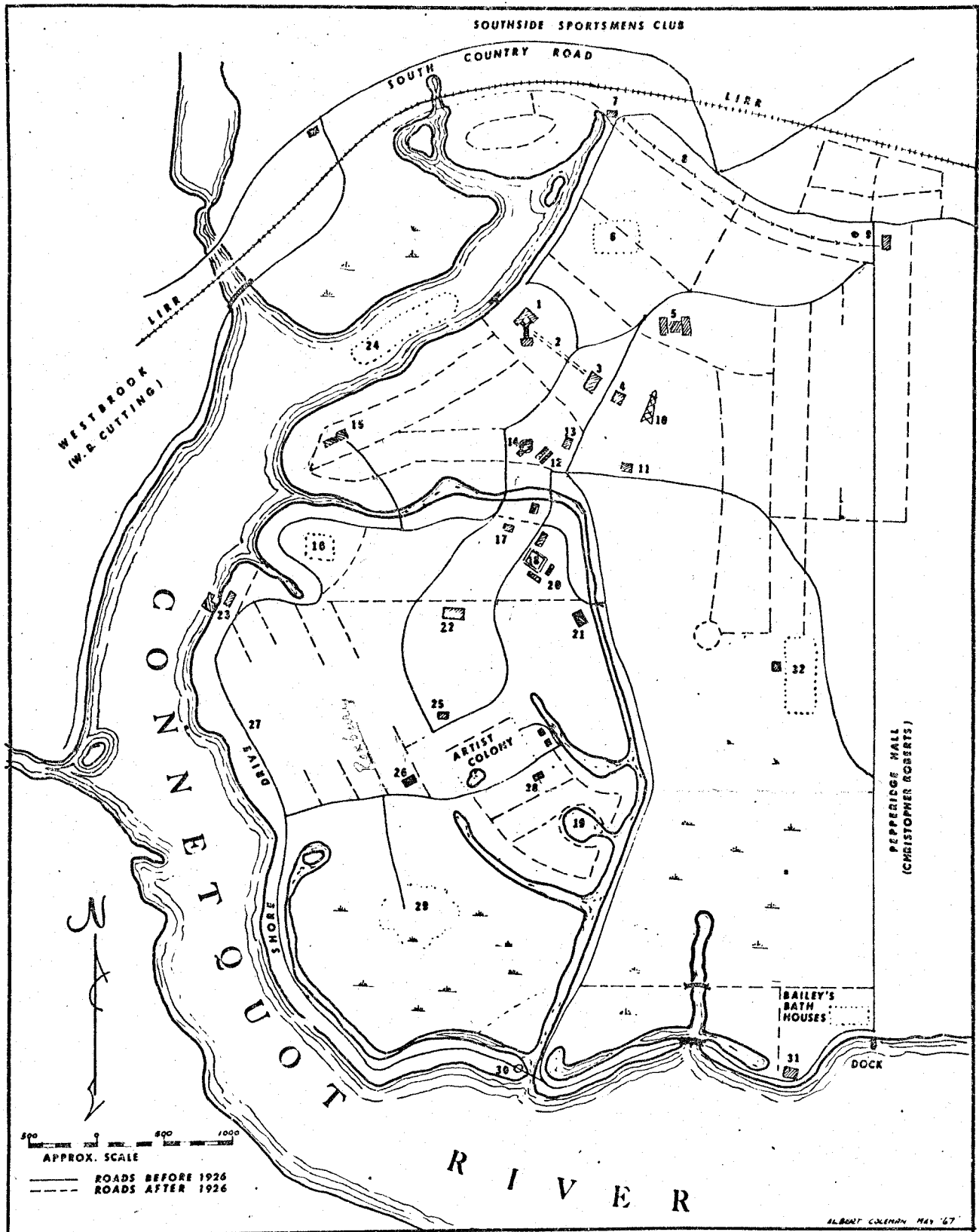
MOORE'S COVE

WATER NECK

SEA SIDE

W. T. Breezer





ALBERT COLEMAN MAY '67

1967

### Idle Hour . . The W.K. Vanderbilt Estate

- |                        |                           |                           |                   |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| - 1. MANSION           | 9. EAST GATE LODGE & WELL | 17. GUEST LIVERY QUARTERS | 25. HAY SCALE     |
| - 2. TUNNEL ("SUBWAY") | 10. WATER TOWER           | 18. WALLED GARDEN         | 26. ORCHARD HOUSE |
| - 3. POWER HOUSE       | - 11. ICE HOUSE           | 19. TURN AROUND BASIN     | 27. SHORE DRIVE   |
| - 4. ENGINEER'S HOUSE  | 12. FLORAL GREENHOUSES    | 20. GARDEN GREEN HOUSES   | 28. EAGLE HOUSE   |
| - 5. COACH HOUSE       | 13. ENGINEER'S TOOL HOUSE | 21. COAL PACKETS          | 29. ASH PIT       |
| 6. CEMETERY            | - 14. PALM HOUSE          | 22. LAUNDRY               | 30. TURN BRIDGE   |
| 7. WEST GATE LODGE     | 15. BOWLING ALLEY         | 23. DOCK & BOAT HOUSE     | 31. TEA HOUSE     |
| - 8. FENCE             | 16. MAZE                  | 24. BASS HOLE             | 32. GAME PEN      |

the homes on this map are private residences.

This building was started in 1900 to supply light and heat to the new Vanderbilt mansion by indirect radiation. There was a tunnel connecting it that was dug with a team of horses and a scoop.

At the time it was built, four nine tonboilers with 125 horse power were set in their place. By December of that year, the work of making all the electrical connections was nearly completed and in a short time the new Mansion which had over one thousand lights was ready for illumination.

On December 23, the steam from the Power House was turned on for the first time. It was sent through the 800' viaduct and into all parts of the immense house and found to be in perfect order.

In 1901 the mass of marble of which the switchboard of the power house was constructed was being torn out and replaced by better material. The electrical power had become very ineffective and puzzled the electricians and it was finally discovered that the hundred cubic feet of marble from which the switchboard was set had a vein of iron running through it which diminished the electrical force and the change was made at considerable cost to the electricians. Besides the cost of materials, the work occupied a full month's time for 16 men.

#### CARETAKER 'S HOUSE

4

The house for the Caretaker was built in 1904.

In 1907, a steam pipe burst with a report that could be heard for some distance. The break was mended as soon as possible.

#### THE COACH HOUSE

5

This building was constructed around 1888. In 1889 a new brick addition was added for wash-carriages, etc. The clock on the building cost \$ 500 and there were pneumatic speaking tubes from the Mansion to the barn.

It was considered completed by 1890 and valued at \$ 400,000. It was filled with thorough-breds, manned entirely by Englishmen and boys, and furnished in the English style. There was a kitchen and mess room for the men and a bath and tan bark riding ring under glass for the horses. It was considered the finest stable in the U.S.A.

The roads on the Estate were mostly oyster shell until 1914. There were also two electric cars, regular cars, horses and buggies, early tally ho coaches, motor boats, the paddle wheel-er, canoes and sleighs.

#### THE VANDERBILT GRAVE YARD

6

According to a letter in the file of Mr. Peter Van Weele, dated 1913, Mr. W. K. Vanderbilt gave instructions to Mr. Premm, Superintendent of the Estate, to have a private burial ground surveyed and set aside for the bodies of the two Sands boys, both of whom were killed in tragic accidents. They were the second Mrs. Vanderbilt's sons by her first marriage.

The cemetery was surrounded with the same blackwrought iron fencing and later on the bodies were removed to the Vanderbilt plot in New York City.

#### WEST GATE HOUSE AND ENTRANCE

7

This was built in 1889 at a cost of \$ 30,000. At the same time, a new road was built along the edge of the water by a crew of fifty workmen after Mr. Whitman's mud digger dredged the river.

7 0a1

This Gate House was called the "Pouting House", according to local talk. When Mr. Vanderbilt left for New York, Oliver H. P. Belmont would come to visit Mrs. Vanderbilt. After Mr. Vanderbilt found out about it, this is where he came to "pout."

In 1899, when the first Mansion burned down, Wm. K. Vanderbilt Jr. and his new bride stayed here until they took a train to New York. Mrs. Thompson was the occupant at the time.

This house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bennett.

NOW DOWLING College

EAST GATE HOUSE AND WELL

9

Built before 1888, this house is now owned by Mr. Powers. This was the first Gate House. The Well, which has now been moved to Adelphi Suffolk College's campus, after being purchased by the Adelphi Historical Society, was the 50 mile mark for the Century Runs, bicycle runs from New York to Oakdale at the turn of the century. They would sign the log book kept at the East Gate house and after a drink of water from the Well or a stop at "Shady's Rest", where Arthur Premm's gas station now stands, they would cycle back to New York.

The iron and stone fence and entrance gates were put up in 1890, and considered to give the Estate a very attractive appearance.

WATER TOWER

10

Built in February of 1901, when the timbers and material arrived for an immense water tower and tank to supply the new Vanderbilt Mansion.

It was situated behind the Engineer's house, directly across from the Power House. The tower has been torn down but the base remains.

The pumping machinery was placed by John D. Clark, one of the eldest and best known firms of steam fitters, in order to supply the house with water from driven wells.

ICE HOUSE

11

There were two ice houses on the Vanderbilt estate. We do not know the exact location of the first one, but it was probably on the same spot. We do know that in 1890 six cars of ice for W.K. Vanderbilt were brought by railroad from New Jersey.

In 1890 the Suffolk County News states "The new brick ice house is to be built on the Idle Hour Farm near the greenhouses. William Bason and Sons have the contract." In 1901, the paper states "The new ice house on the Vanderbilt Estate has been filled with ice from Cutting's Pond. It holds 100 tons of ice." This building had no windows. On each end were four doors, one over the other, so as the level of the ice went down, the proper door could be opened. The ice was swung in and out by a pulley and the walls are still two feet thick. The building is owned by Mr. Skogsberg.

GREENHOUSES

12

The second series of greenhouses on the Vanderbilt Estate were built in 1903. Mr. John Kropp's home is the last remaining one. To the north of his home lay five more which burned.

This building was known as "The Greenery", a small restaurant at the time of the Artist's Colony.

TOOL HOUSE AND POTTING SHED FOR GARDNERS

13

This house was built December 26, 1902, by Wm. Bason and Sons. The rear side had no windows, and was used for a potting and tool house, as well as locker room for gardners. In the rear, there was the remains of two power plants completely abandoned. It is now owned by Mr. & Mrs. William Trautwein, who completely renovated it in 1946.

This building was constructed in 1901, after the Vanderbilt family decided to turn the Conservatory at the Mansion into the "batchelor's quarters". In 1901 the Suffolk County News states "A truck laden with ten tons of circular plate glass and drawn by eight horses arrived from the city at Idle Hour at midnight yesterday. The glass is for the sliding circular windows and doors of the iron Palm House and garden. This building was completely renovated by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fernandez and sold to Dr. and Mrs. Goldman.

Across the street was a walled in area with valuable trees, such as a swamp maple, apple, etc.

## BOWLING ALLEY

15

This building was one of the early Vanderbilt buildings. Originally it lay across Connetquot Drive and when the road was put in, it was turned around. Mr. Vanderbilt sent the entire building here from Europe on one of his trips. He was especially proud of the fact that the slate roof had moss growing on it. When it arrived here in Idle Hour, the workmen who were noted for their efficiency, very carefully scrapped off all of the moss. Mr. Vanderbilt returned, saw what had happened, and sent to Europe for more slate with moss on it.

This building is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Holzman.

## ENGLISH MAZE

16

Lay in back of Connetquot Drive by Mr. John Novinski's house. Going around the bend of the road, you reach the Canal that was fenced off to raise terrapin for Mr. Vanderbilt. These diamond terrapin may be found in the water occasionally, and are in high demand for soup.

## BOARDING FOR WORKMEN

17

This building is dated 1893, and replaces three wooden structures which lay across the road in a "C" form. Since fire was a great cause of destruction, after the original Mansion burned down, all of the buildings were replaced with brick structures.

This building is owned by Mrs. Leinhop.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S HOME

18

This building was probably built after the first green house fire, when rare orchids were consumed. This happened in 1891, when eleven out of twelve greenhouses burned. When this area was rebuilt, a wall ran from both sides of this house and along the back to a small house used for a heating plant. Inside the wall was also a spice and herb garden. Mr. Premm, superintendent of the Estate lived here. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Pieter Van Rixfoord.

## LAUNDRY

22

The Vanderbilt Laundry was built in 1904, at the same time as the home for the operation of the Power House. These two buildings cost \$16,000, according to the Suffolk County News at that time.

It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer Thompson. Mr. Thompson's mother, Mrs. Lucy Sawyer Pritchard Thompson and her son, William, founded the Artist's Colony when they bought the entire farm area in 1926.

At the foot of Vanderbilt Blvd was a floating dock where Mr. Vanderbilt used to tie up his small paddlewheeler steam boat, named the 'Mosquito'. He used it to ferry guests, such as the New York Coaching Club up and down the river. It was sold in 1894 to the Sayville Steam Ship Co. and ran back and forth across the Bay to Point of Wood Chatauqua.

## BOAT HOUSE

24

The Boat House was a wood structure on Shore Drive and now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Karmann.

## THE ORCHARD HOUSE

26

This building was constructed at the time of the Farm area, around 1892. There is a date in the cellar of the building. The man who was in charge of the Vanderbilt orchard lived in here.

On Roxbury Road, which lies along side of this house, north, were berry bushes on one side and the orchard on the other.

Across from this house was the road to the Ash Pit, where the valuable bottle collection was found.

This house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Hetzel.

## THE VANDERBILT ASH PIT

29

Directly across from the "Orchard House" on Oceanview Avenue was a road which led toward the Bay. Most of the ashes and refuse on the estate were taken down there and dumped.

As the Adelphi Historical Society began to investigate the area, we started excavating and among other things, we developed one of the best bottle collections on Long Island, which was on display at the College two years ago.

## SNAPPER INN BRIDGE

30

This bridge operated on ball bearings and swung back and forth across the canal. When it was torn down at the time of the Metaphysician, Dr. Schaeffer, Mr. Wittlock, (a member of the Adelphi Historical Society), remembers they played shot-put with the ball bearings from it.

Under here barges of coal were towed to supply the Power House with energy. Half-way up the canal, a large basin was dug for boats to turn around in. This entrance was also used to bring the bricks and building supplies up to the "Clock Tower" area when it was built in 1890.

## THE "T" HOUSE

31

The Vanderbilt "T" House, now the location of Saxon Arms Restaurant, was one of the original buildings which dates before 1888. It was also called "The Singing Kettle" because of a huge tin kettle which hung over the door. There was a canal dug from the Snapper Inn bridge to the "T" House with an opening half way down into the Bay, so Consuelo didn't have to go out into the Bay and get wet in order to have a picnic or a clam bake there. This was filled in right after the 1938 hurricane.

Mr. and Mrs. W.K. Vanderbilt also used this building for entertaining and clam bakes.

## COAL POCKETS FOR POWER HOUSE

Coal pockets were on the bank of the canal across from Mr. Gianquinto's house where coal was brought in on huge barges and dumped in, then taken out as needed and carted to the Power House by donkey and cart, led up the ramp and dumped into the hole.

Oa. 1

## VANDERBILT GAME PEN

32

About two thirds of the way down Vanderbilt Blvd. on the right hand side was a large fenced in area where Mr. Vanderbilt kept deer, elk, and other wild animals. The game keeper lived inside in a small wooden house inside the enclosure.

## ARTIST COLONY

### THE "CLOCK TOWER" FARM AREA

This farm area was built in 1890 at a cost of \$ 100, 000. There was one million and one half bricks used. It was built by Wm. Bason and Sons in order to compete with Mr. Cuttings establishment across the river.

Mr. Everett Terry came from Islip once a week to wind the clocks on the estate. The large clock in the clock tower was restored by a previous owner, Mr. Claude Gonvierre. This building is now the home of Mr. Gary Townlen, noted concert pianist.

On the right side of the tower was the stable for the finest herd of 50 Alderney cows and bulls. The farm horses were kept in the buildings on the east end. Other buildings here were the forge, the duckhouse, the calving house, the piggery, with the large pond or wallow beyond it, the bull pen, creamery, kennels, etc. The farm area itself, ended with Featherbed Lane, which was all fenced off into a complete square. In 1926 this area was purchased by Lucy Sawyer Pritchard Thompson and her son, William, who created the "Artist Colony".

# Historic Long Island

by Carl A. Starace

Oa'1

## LOAFING DOWN LONG ISLAND

Charles Hanson Towne authored a charming book titled "Loafing Down Long Island" which was published by The Century Co., in 1921. The drawings are also delightful and are by Thomas Fogarty. Towne enjoyed "loitering" on Long Island, as he called it; leaving the city, either alone or with one or two companions, and traveling as the mood dictated, train, trolley, passing motorcar or truck, and often by foot.

Perhaps you would be interested in a bit of his reaction and comments while "loitering" through the Town of Islip. We'll take up his story a bit to the west:

"All the towns and villages along the South Shore between, say, Lynbrook and Bayport are but a means to an end—the reaching of the real outskirts, those more fascinatingly informal places that lead to Shinnecock Hills. Such spots as Freeport, Massapequa, Merrick ... Babylon, Bay Shore, and even Islip, are too hard-heartedly decent in aspect to give one any sense of comradeship; and Jim and I, like everybody else, had motored through or to them so often that they were an old story to us...

"There are some splendid estates along the Merrick Road, and I suppose the total wealth here would amount to an unbelievable sum; but mixed in with places that the architects have striven to make lovely, and succeeded in their efforts, are too many nouveau-riche dwellings that must belong to the period of Brooklyn renaissance. Oh, how I detest Mansard roofs, and one sees plenty of them here.

"Bits of water, like little mirrors, break the monotony of a long motor ride through this region, and a bridge and a stretch of hedge every now and then do much to vary the scene. Yet, taken all in all, it is an area that has never thrilled me. William K. Vanderbilt kept up a vast park at Islip, and seemingly for miles there is a high iron fence, and a warning to keep out (as if one could ever get in), and a statement to the effect that this is a private preserve, where birds and fish and game are raised, and allowed to increase and multiply like so many dollars in a remote vault."

Towne and, on this occasion, a friend named Jim were picked up by a fellow named Peter, driving a huge truck. He was headed for Bayport and offered to take them

along. Let Towne continue his account:

"Off the main road at Bayport, which used to be the home of John Mason, the celebrated actor, there is (a) French inn, not generally known, and boasting no fashionable exterior, but a plain-enough building, with a comfortable verandah, and kept by a young man and his wife who can cook to perfection, who never have a crowd around them, and who love to have their guests walk right into the kitchen and select their steak or their lobster, and make suggestions for a dinner that is beyond parallel.

"It was for this inn that we were headed, and many a time I had arrived at its door by automobile. Now, however, we came up in this lumbering truck, and monsieur and madame could not believe their eyes when we alighted thus informally. Nothing would do but that Peter should lunch with us. When he washed up, he was as personable as any one would wish to have him. We all had a meal to delight the gods and then Peter had to hurry back to Brooklyn.

"Jim went in bathing at Blue Point, a few miles away, while I strolled about Bayport, through lanes where the trees look, oddly enough, like kneeling camels, and where the sidewalks, as in Douglas Manor, are built to go around them, and where there is a hush that must be like the quiet of heaven, so far are you from the railroad, with its iron clamor.

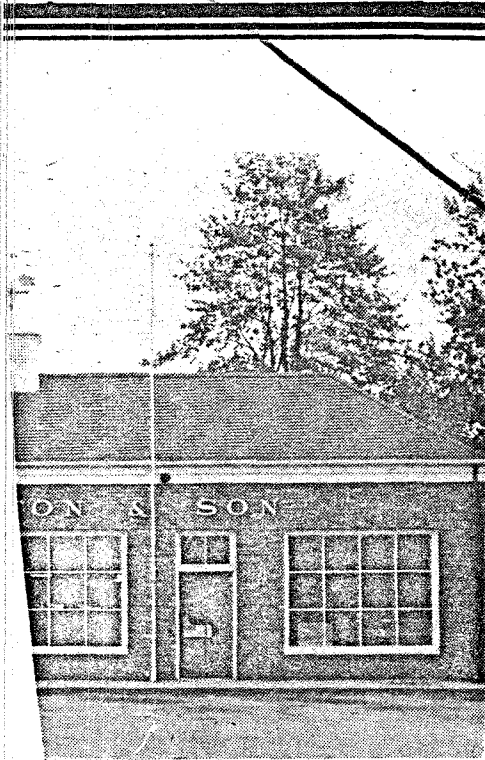
"That night the moon came up like a big pearl out of the sea, half hidden by a galleon of clouds, and Jim and I went loitering about the half-lighted roads; for we liked the spot so much, and monsieur and madame were so gracious, that we were determined to stay the night. Dim, cool rooms awaited us, with the whitest of linen and the best of baths.

"I recall a circular summer dining-room on the outskirts of Bayport, surrounded with hollyhocks and lit with candles, which we could see from the road at a turning. It looked like a crown that would never crumble, and we could hear the people laughing within its happy circle, and though we had no wish to pry upon them, we couldn't help pausing and listening to their gay chatter ... To think that people lived so excellently and wisely all the time; that their days went so gladly for them, year in and year out, and that this simple experience should be for us in the nature of an adventure."

Islip Collection 3/15/79

# idle hour

Locust Valley Leader MAY 24, 1979



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acres "to provide an oasis of beauty and quiet for the pleasure, rest and refreshment of those who delight in outdoor beauty; and to bring about a greater appreciation and understanding of the value and importance of informal planting". Two years later she gave 401 additional acres to the state and in 1947 sold the Westbrook area, the part with the Stanford White stable, to Mrs. Thomas Mordacai. Mrs. Cutting died in 1954. Two years later the arboretum was opened to the public. In 1968 the Westbrook area was sold to the state. South Side, the Cutting property including Westbrook, and the Heckscher State park, all together make a varied state preserve of nearly 6000 acres, most of which is wild and much of which is traversed by the lovely and valuable Connetquot river.

Across the Connetquot to the east is Idle Hour, once the residence of William Kissam Vanderbilt, a South Side member and close friend of Cutting. In "The Glitter and the Gold", Vanderbilt's daughter Consuelo Balsan spoke of spending "The early summer and autumn months" at Idle Hour which she said was "welcome liberty" from the formal life at Newport and New York. Consuelo said Idle Hour "was a rambling frame house close to a river (Connetquot); green lawns swept away to the gardens, stables woods and farms. Here we crabbed and fished in the river and learned to sail a boat. We had ponies which I rode side saddle, and a garden to plant, but we were bad gardeners, for my brother Willie, who was of an impatient nature, would pull up the potatoes long before they were ripe".

This is the same Willie who grew up to organize the Vanderbilt cup race and build Long Island's famous motor parkway, America's first modern highway. Willie K. also built a huge estate at Centerport on the north shore where today his 24 room Spanish Moroccan mansion serves as a museum. About 50 feet from the ornate house is the two-story hall of fishes which contains more than 17,000 varieties of marine and wild life gathered by Vanderbilt and his associates during two round-the-world expeditions. Some specimens are the only ones in existence.

The first tee of Willie K's seven-hole golf course was on the roof of what now is the hall of fishes. When Willie K died in 1944 he left his 43 acre estate to Suffolk county with a \$2,000,000 trust fund to help run it. Open year round it is a popular place which now boasts a planetarium that was added in 1970.

The Idle Hour of today is not the same "rambling frame house" where Willie K and his sister Consuelo found "welcome liberty". The house of their youth was destroyed by fire in 1899. This was the second time Vanderbilt had lost a house by fire and he did not want it to happen again. His new Idle Hour was designed to be as fire proof as possible. It had terra cotta tile ceilings, 20-inch-thick brick walls and 10-inch steel I beams running through the ceiling, 110 rooms, 45 baths, a garage large enough to hold 100 cars and cost \$6,000,000. Fire struck again in 1974 and destroyed priceless paneling and other treasures within the mansion but caused no damage to the building which serves as Dowling College. Many of Idle Hour's outbuildings have been torn down or converted to housing but the house has been restored and is back in full use by the college.

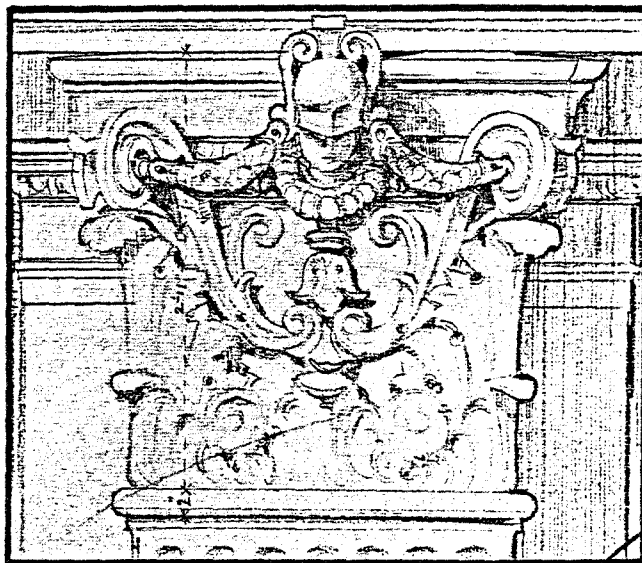


have been destroyed.

A discussion of Hunt's significance would not be complete without mention of his contribution to the office building, acknowledged only recently. Heretofore unknown competition drawings for the Equitable Life Insurance Society, the Western Union Telegraph, and the Drexel Buildings, all dated before 1873 and proposed for New York City, firmly established Hunt's pioneering efforts in early skyscraper design, nearly a decade before the office buildings of Chicago architects Daniel Burnham and William L. Jenney. The archives holds Hunt's office building competition drawings and a complete set of drawings of the New York Tribune Building erected in 1873.

Hunt evolved a more eclectic idiom and is credited with transforming, as Montgomery Schuyler wrote in 1895, "the Newport cottage of 1855 into the Newport palace of 1895..." The palatial estates Hunt designed for America's rich (Biltmore, The Breakers, Ochre Court, Belcourt, Chateau-sur-Mer, Idle Hour, Marble House, to name a few) exhibit historical sources ranging from the French chateau to the Moorish to the Italian Renaissance palazzo. Notable Hunt clients included Vanderbilts, Belmonts, and Astors.

With the exception of the base of the Statue of Liberty, Hunt's achievement as a designer of pedestals and bases is not yet well-recognized. Working in conjunction with sculptors such as John Quincy Adams Ward and Henry Kirke Brown,



Hunt's realm comprised unusual commissions for an architect. Hunt-designed pedestals include the famous Yorktown Monument in Virginia, the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument in Portland, Maine, the Commodore Perry statue in Newport, Rhode Island, and the Shakespeare in Central Park. The archives has drawings, sketches, and perspective renderings of most of Hunt's monuments and temples, material especially interesting to American art historians. In addition, sketches and photographs document many of the sculptures in progress.

The only written data, aside from notes taken at the Ecole, is 46 small sketchbooks dating from 1844 to 1887. The beautifully drawn sketches range from figure studies to architectural details of buildings visited by Hunt; a study of these sketchbooks will help reveal Hunt's sources.

Another resource of the archives is Hunt's extensive collection of photo-

graphs of his own works as well as of European and American buildings. At last, scholars can document what Hunt's sources were and evaluate their influence.

A shelf list containing more than 18,000 items will have been completed by the expiration of the National Endowment for the Arts grant in July. Physical arrangement of the archives will occur as soon as flat files for storage are available.

The next phase of the archives project goes hand-in-hand with the physical arrangement of the collection. Using the shelf list and aided by the highly detailed worksheets funded by NEA and the College of Fellows grants, the drawings and photographs will be arranged by architect, building type, and project in a chronological sequence.

The AIA Foundation has applied to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for funding assistance. In addition to caring for the photographs and drawings in an archivally correct manner, a published microfilm edition and guide to the archives are planned. A major exhibition will take place later.

Proper archival care for these fragile

A detail (above) from the main hall of the Vanderbilt home in Newport, Rhode Island; this early elevation (opposite) of the New York Tribune Building (c. 1872) shows a sculpture of a seated figure on the second story.

"The Drawings of Richard Morris Hunt" by Susan Stein Ganelin. American Preservation April-May 1979

## Posters Of Vanderbilt Houses Available

On sale at the Vanderbilt Museum, the 43 acre summer estate of the late William K. Vanderbilt Jr., is a unique full color poster of 16 notable houses built 1881 - 1901 by the grandchildren of "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Packaged in a mailing tube for easy handling or mailing, the poster is accompanied by a description of the buildings. While it does not include the later Vanderbilt Museum, it does show no less than three houses in which builder William K. Jr. lived, his father's New York town house and the Newport and Oakdale summer houses.

During the period of the poster the Vanderbilt family assured itself posterity by commissioning from the foremost American architects structures of impeccable quality and architectural significance. Indeed, many of the houses shown are national landmarks, being pictured in every book on

American architecture. The most spectacular were designed by Richard Morris Hunt, the first American architect of note to study abroad.

Today, most renown for his base for the Statue of Liberty, Hunt was in effect the "court" architect for the Vanderbilts. Also building for the grandchildren of the "Commodore" was McKim, Mead and White, the greatest architectural firm of the period, noted for their Boston Public Library and the late Pennsylvania Station in New York.

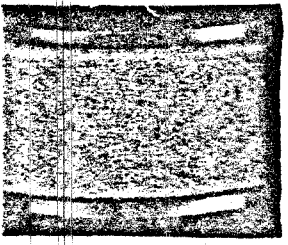
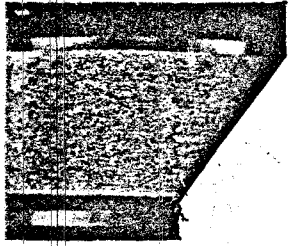
The structures are located in Staten Island, Newport, the Berkshires, Vermont, Long Island, North Carolina, the Hudson Valley, and New Jersey. They vary in style from French Chateau to "Shingle Style" to Beaux-Arts Renaissance Palazzo to Georgian Revival.

While Marble House in Newport was the most expensive house built in America at the time, it and the other houses were not merely up-to-date stylistically, but of genuine architectural quality, to the extent that Mrs. Alma Vanderbilt, the mother of the builder of the Vanderbilt Museum, was awarded the gold medal of the American Institute of Architects.

The poster available at Vanderbilt Museum is handsome enough for framing, and not only serves as a souvenir of visiting the Vanderbilt Museum, but also a checklist for touring the other great Vanderbilt houses.

For information, call 261-5656.

*Helom. Blawen 8/23/77*



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wood

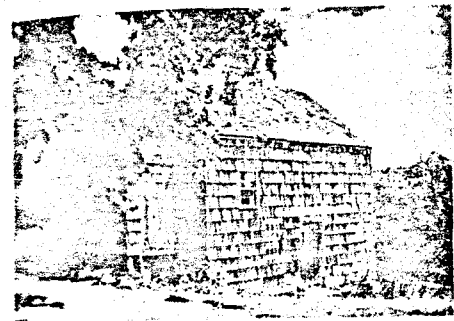
to an observer of social mores  
community, "The arrangements of  
were, of course, left entirely to  
and women themselves. They  
married formally or otherwise,  
same or separate houses, and  
relationship known or un-  
the rest of the village. . . . It was  
dered polite to inquire who  
the father of a new-born child, or  
husband or wife of any individual  
The time: 1850. The commu-  
ern Times, founded by Josiah  
reformer and anarchist. The  
modern Times lasted about ten  
is place grew the more conven-  
community of Brentwood.

architectural survivals remain  
earlier era. Among them are the  
Christ Church (Third Ave.), a  
d-and-batten church with a  
ched roof and vigorous decora-  
Christ Church Rectory (1769  
I Rd., off Third Ave.), a simple  
octagonal structure with a  
rof. Across the street from the  
the News and Sentinel Com-  
h mid-nineteenth-century car-  
n on its central gable and dor-

d Cutting  
etum

: Highway (Rte. 27A),  
ver  
Wed.-Sun., holidays,  
10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
(516) JU1-1002

yard Cutting, a railroad execu-



Mill, South Side Sportsmen's Club

ive, began to develop 690 acres of wood-  
land next to the Connetquot River in  
1887, along the lines of the plan laid out  
for him by Frederick Law Olmsted. He  
hired architect Charles Haight, who  
specialized in city clubs and offices for the  
very rich, to design a suitable mansion for  
the lavishly landscaped setting. West-  
brook is impressive, a freely massed  
Shingle-style structure with Tudor detail-  
ing.

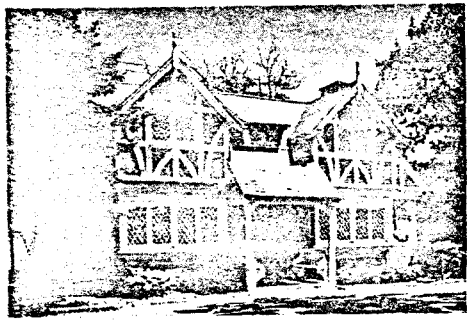
Today the property belongs to the Long  
Island State Park Commission. Westbrook  
has refreshment facilities, and the grounds  
have been developed as five nature walks.

**South Side Sportsmen's Club** (Sunrise  
Highway, Connetquot State Park, Oak-  
dale). Connetquot State Park now oc-  
cupies the site of the South Side  
Sportsmen's Club, founded in 1864. But  
the spot was a favorite one for hunters and  
fishermen as early as 1836, when New  
York City Mayor Philip Hone recorded in  
his diary that "we went to Snedecors after  
dinner, where we found the house so full  
that, if we had not taken the precaution to  
write in advance for beds, we might have  
lain on the floor." Snedecor's Tavern is  
now the northerly end of the clubhouse, a

much-added-to building. Diverse struc-  
tures from other periods remain—  
masculine, utilitarian masses with weath-  
ered shingled surfaces. The earliest is  
a mill that was old even in Hone's time.  
The mill, which used three primitive tub  
wheels, is currently being restored by  
the New York State Division for Historic  
Preservation.

**Dowling College** (Montauk Highway  
[Rte. 27A] and Idlehour Blvd., Oakdale).  
Idlehour, the country estate of William  
Kissam Vanderbilt, Sr., was designed  
about 1900 by architect Richard Howland  
Hunt. Though intended as a simple coun-  
try retreat, the lavish brick-and-limestone  
mansion had flamboyantly curved gables  
and a grandiose palm court. The expan-  
sive plan was determined by the necessity  
to separate bachelor guests from married  
couples. Elaborate as it was, Idlehour was  
more modest than many such estates. The  
quality of a home was the goal; and, the  
*Architectural Record* pronounced, "De-  
spite the money spent on it, this is what it  
is."

Until a recent fire, the mansion was  
used by Dowling College for classrooms  
and administration, and it will be restored.  
The powerhouse is now used as a per-



Gatehouse, Idlehour

Ripkins &  
Larkin

Mansions Mills & Main Streets, 1975

Oa. 1

CONTINUED

forming arts center, the icehouse for the president's residence, and the carriage house as a gymnasium.

A fanciful Tudor-styled gatehouse (corner of Idlehour Blvd.), designed a few years before the house by the architect's father, Richard Morris Hunt, is now a beauty salon.

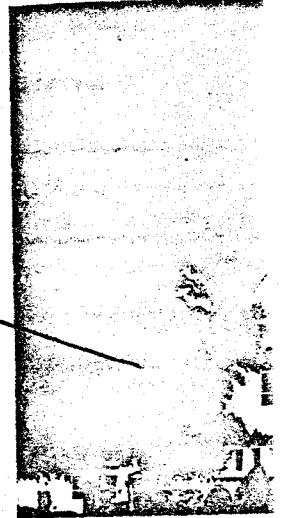
### Edwards Homestead (Sayville Historical Society Museum)

89 Edwards St., at Collins Ave., Sayville  
OPEN: Wed., Sat., 2-5 p.m., June-Labor Day; first Sun. of each month, 2-5 p.m. winter months

**St. John's Episcopal Church** (Montauk Highway and Locust Ave., Oakdale). Originally named the Charlotte Church, in honor of George III's queen, St. John's is a diminutive country church with forthright vigor. Built in 1769, it follows the Georgian formula of a rectangular mass preceded by a square tower, but its New World sensibilities are reflected in its stark geometry and its unadorned shingled surfaces. The door surrounds and heavy pediment probably date from 1843, when the church was enlarged.

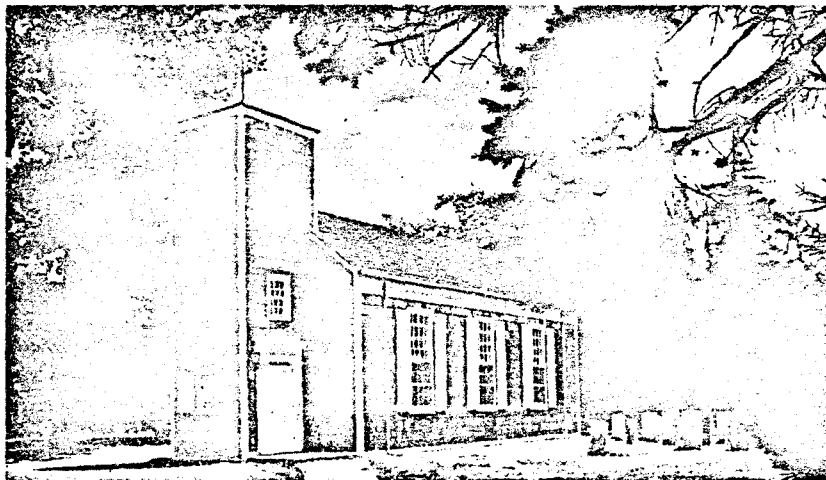
This forthright country homestead belonged to seven generations of the Edwards family and is now the museum of the Sayville Historical Society. Built in 1784, it is shingled on a low brick foundation. Its original three-bay plan was expanded in the 1840's with a two-bay addition. Only the detailing around the door relieves the simplicity of its design. There are several outbuildings on the property.

Congregational United Church



**Congregational United Christ** (Middle Rd. [Rte. Collins Ave., Sayville). Shingling patterns contribute to the tallity imparted by this broad-towered Shingle-style church. 1888 by Deacon Robert Nur

*St. John's Episcopal Church, Oakdale*



**Suffolk County News** (23 just south of Main St., Say some Greek Revival styling this newspaper office. Its fe have fine carved Ionic capita

**Middle Road, Bayport.** sion of nineteenth-century architecture, from formal Greek vigorous Victorian, is on pr along Middle Rd. and the Ocean Ave. A particularly ample is the Edwards-Bush dle Rd., near East Lane), built by a sea captain who broug for three houses from Barb columns with unfolding acan

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NEWSD.

14A

Q. Did an Indian tribe ever live in the Idle Hour section of Oakdale? If so, what was its name and when did they inhabit the area?

—E.G., Islip

A. The Secatogue band, whose high chief was known as Winnaquaheagh, inhabited the area in the late 17th and 18th Centuries. William Nichol, who owned much of the land that is now the Town of Islip, deeded a portion of that area to the Secatogues in 1683. According to Walter Saxton, supervisor of the museum laboratory at Garvies Point, not much is known about the behavior or the culture of those Indians.

~~Q. What is the oldest known spoken language and which is the oldest written one?~~

—F.F., Medford

~~A. Anthropologists have evidence that the Cro-~~  
new day 5/21/74

SEE Sa 54

## THE LARGEST TREES ON LONG ISLAND

91

## THE LARGEST TULIP TREES ON LONG ISLAND 1952 - 1972

Location	Circumference — Ft. In.			
	1952	1962	1972	Taken at
1. Centre Island; 100 ft. S.W. of J. R. Howard residence	N.R.	N.R.	19' 4"	3' 0"
2. Lake Success; East end of property of Great Neck School District Hdqtrs.	N.R.	N.R.	18' 6"	3' 0"
3. Lloyd Neck; North of West end of Lloyd Lane, Brand property	N.R.	N.R.	17' 2"	4' 6"
4. Queens; Alley Pond Park, N.W. cor. Long Island Expressway & Belt Parkway	N.R.	15' 10"	16' 5"	4' 6"
5. Oakdale; 99 Connetquot Dr., J. Ferguson res.	N.R.	N.R.	16' 0"	2' 0"
6. Glen Cove; West end of Sun View Drive on M. B. Jacobs property	N.R.	N.R.	15' 8"	5' 0"
7. Port Washington; 44 Orchard Farm Road	N.R.	14' 8"	15' 6"	4' 6"
8. Great Neck; Entrance to Locust Drive, West side Bayview Ave.	15' 5"	Gone	Gone	4' 6"
9. Nissequogue; Short Beach Rd., G. T. Hall Est.	N.R.	N.R.	14' 10"	4' 6"
10. Brooklyn; Greenwood Cemetery Sec. 51 at Daisy Path	N.R.	N.R.	14' 10"	4' 6"
11. Lloyd Neck; North of West end of Lloyd Lane, Brand Property	N.R.	N.R.	14' 9"	4' 6"
12. Glen Cove; former H. I. Pratt Estate, East of Garage, in woods	N.R.	14' 3"	14' 9"	4' 6"
13. Lloyd Neck; 150 ft. East of Morris Hadley Manor House	N.R.	14' 4"	14' 6"	4' 6"
14. East Williston; 200 ft. N.E. of L.I.R.R. Station, in Park	N.R.	N.R.	14' 3"	4' 0"
15. Lloyd Neck; North of West end of Lloyd Lane, Brand property	N.R.	N.R.	14' 0"	4' 6"
16. Old Westbury; Old Westbury Gardens, 450 ft. S.W. of Main House	11' 9"	13' 6"	13' 11"	4' 6"
17. Queens; in mall of Belt Parkway, South of Long Island Expressway	13' 6"	13' 9"	Gone	4' 6"
18. Queens; Alley Pond Park, 100 ft. W. of Belt Pkwy., 500 ft. N. of L. I. Expressway	12' 6"	13' 1"	13' 6"	4' 6"
19. Glen Cove; former H. I. Pratt Estate, East of Garage, in woods	N.R.	13' 5"	13' 6"	4' 6"
20. Lattingtown; Bailey Arboretum North end of Arboretum	10' 4"	10' 11"	13' 6"	4' 6"
21. Lattingtown; Bailey Arboretum, 50 ft. South of Lake	N.R.	N.R.	13' 6"	4' 6"
22. Lloyd Neck; East side Lloyd Lane, 50 ft. West of C.C. MacLean residence	N.R.	N.R.	13' 6"	4' 6"
23. East Hampton; N. of E. H. Free Library, 50 ft. West of Edwards Lane	N.R.	N.R.	13' 3"	4' 6"
24. Lloyd Neck; 150 ft. S.E. of Morris Hadley Manor House	N.R.	N.R.	13' 2"	4' 6"

We had a wonderful tour of the Sportsmen's Club, the old mill, Westbrook Farms and the Clock Tower area of Idle Hour, with Lynn Weaver from the N.Y. State Historic Site Commission, and have filed in the necessary papers, photos, slides, etc. to make these buildings part of the trust if they are accepted. Our thanks go to Mr. Harthorn L. Bill of the Park Commission for getting us permission to go thru, and to Gil Bergen and John Bucek for their generous hospitality in showing our visitor such a part of our history. Meeting Lynn was great. She is going to try and come down for the auction and even to go diving with us. Once these buildings are secure, our next step will be the definite abolishment of that abysmal cloverleaf, scheduled to take off the whole front of the South Side Club property, wipe Westbrook farms off the map, fill in half of Cuttings pond, all of the Herring pond, exterminate Bubbles Falls and generally destroy the character and history of the whole area. We believe there must be a far more intelligent way to handle north-south traffic across the new Sunrise Hwy. and we intend to try and find it. If we succeed, it will give us an even stronger buffer zone along that side of the river, for concrete is not the answer to everything, even though I am sometimes tempted to use it.

One of the highlights of this winter has been cataloging for sale a very fine Lincoln and Civil War collection. Rad and Peggy Sprague, Ted Kolhek, and I have enjoyed the whole job and our one quarter share for the sale will be taken in material for the Historical Society. Just for the record, Rad is our new addition to the Bd. of Directors from Sayville and he does a very fine job as President of the Sayville Historical Society. Another added benefit has been the continuous knowledge garnered about the Civil War, Lincoln and the Booth family. How can you look at the furniture from Ford's Theatre, a piece of Lincoln's coat, lace from the box in the theatre, an inkwell from Lincoln's law office, the funeral bill for the final burial of John Wilkes Booth, and an issue of the "New South", printed on wall paper because of the blockade, telling of Grant taking Richmond, and not be fascinated and grow. We have also enjoyed our association with people from Old Bethpage like Art Belstrone and Arnold Gates. One thing is "for sure". History is not dull.

Our new Historical Society collections include a group of original W.K. Vanderbilt letters on the buildings during the period of the first mansion from the Vanderbilts to Mr. Greene, their architect, given by Roger Archibald, maps of the original Nicoll property and the South Side Club from Helen & Fred Griffiths. 5 old photos of the Club from Mr & Mrs. Jerry Thuma, twenty old postcards for our local postcard collection, and a copy of the Verity history from Dick Baldwin.

Our March meeting packed 112 people into the "Hunt room" to hear Mr. Harthorn Bill, Gen. Mgr. of the L.I. State Park Commission, speak on the future of the Connatouct River and the former S.S.S.C.

My Herald Tribune 11/21/65

Oa. 1

It was nicknamed "Shady Rest."

Shady Rest, on the Montauk Highway near the Oakdale railroad station, served bicyclists until 1904, when it was destroyed by fire. During its brief life, dozens of bicycle paths were cut through the Long Island pine barrens. When the auto succeeded the bike, these paths became auto roads.

Oysters and bicyclists were overshadowed in the Oakdale social spectrum by the onset of the great estates. For a period lasting roughly from the 1830s until World War I, Oakdale was an enormous barony, consisting of a few immensely rich families and hundreds of workmen who built or maintained the estates. William K. Vanderbilt was the most spectacular of the group.

### Wealth

In the 1880s, Mr. Vanderbilt was said to be worth around \$300 million. When he began laying out "Idle Hour," an 800-acre estate along the Connetquot River, he did not spare the cash. Ten miles of roads, boat canals, stables, a large main house and a small colony of outbuildings were constructed.

The main house, completed in 1882, burned down in 1899 with a loss of \$500,000. Mr. Vanderbilt, not at all discouraged, set to work immediately to replace it with an even larger house—the 110-room building now used by Adelphi Suffolk College. More than 100 workmen toiled on the project, which included a power house, conservatory and palm garden.

The new house was ready in 1901. Mr. Vanderbilt

until 1923, but two attempts to sell it ended in foreclosures. Edmund C. Burke developed a large part of the grounds as a high-priced residential development.

### Purchase

Mrs. Lucy Pierce Thompson; her son, William A. Thompson III, and Betty Miller, a saleswoman and architect, bought the Vanderbilt stables and 16 acres of ground in 1926 to establish the Idle Hour Artists Colony. The stables were subdivided into apartments and the buyers got a piece of land with each apartment.

Thirty artists—the term included writers, painters, sculptors, and almost anyone who enjoyed artistic surroundings enough to pay for them—took up residence there. Among them were Harry Alan Weston, water colorist; De Witt Reed, lawyer and writer; George Elmer Browne, painter; Neil Z. Bryan, interior decorator; Myron VanBrunt, artist and decorator, and "Broncho Charlie" Miller.

"Broncho Charlie" merits special mention. He built his own cabin on the grounds and regaled the colonists with stories of his experiences as a Pony Express rider and a performer in Bill Cody's Wild West Show. His cabin lives on as part of an Oakdale restaurant. Broncho Charlie himself headed for the last roundup in 1954, at the incredible age of 105. Charlie, though often incredible, was always entertaining.

The Artists' Colony held fairs and art shows, ran a tavern and operated a theater, continuing its work for about ten years. The

### Adoption

Schafer had a flair for publicity, topping all his previous feats by "adopting" a three-month-old girl, "Baby Jean," who was to become the proof of his religious theories. He proposed to shield her from evil thoughts and deeds, and thus assure her of immortal life.

Baby Jean was to be raised in the nursery once used by Consuelo Vanderbilt, who later married the Duke of Marlborough. A disciple gave Baby Jean a \$25,000 diamond ring as a "love offering" and the infant began her uncertain voyage toward Life Eternal.

Schafer neglected to adopt Baby Jean legally, and when her mother demanded her return, he had to surrender the child. His followers began to dwindle; then the Federal government convicted him of stealing \$9,000 from one of his female disciples. He went to Sing Sing in 1942, serving a 2½-year sentence. In 1955, Schafer and his wife committed suicide at a West Nyack, N. Y., estate where they were conducting a new cult.

Baby Jean, now married and living on Long Island, grew up in New York City and remembers nothing of her dedicated infancy. Her friends don't know of her early joust with immortality, and she avoids any mention of it. The Vanderbilt Mansion, firmly settled in the academic life, bears no trace of its connection with Schafer's Church of Radiant Life.

The Frederick G. Bourn estate, Indian Neck Hall, built in the 1890s, matched Idle Hour in sumptuousness and size. In 1926, the estate

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old farm wagon. Today these are a curiosity but they formerly were a part of our local economy. It was the era of the horse and buggy days.

**"Willie K" at Idle Hour**

A Dutch farmer named Jan Aertsen Van der bilt settled in Brooklyn about 1650. He was the ancestor of Cornelius Vanderbilt, born at Port Richmond, Staten Island, May 27, 1794 and died in New York on Jan. 4, 1877. He was known as the "Commodore." (One of the crack trains of the New York Central system is known as the "Commodore," in memory of Cornelius Vanderbilt.)

Commodore Vanderbilt married Sophia Johnson in 1813. She passed away in 1867 and his second wife was Miss Francis Crawford who died in 1893. His oldest son was William Henry Vanderbilt, born in New Brunswick, N. J., on May 8, 1821—died in New York Dec. 8, 1885. William married Marie Louisa Kissam and the subject of this article—William Kissam Vanderbilt, their son—was born Dec. 12, 1849—died in Paris July 22, 1920.

"Willie K," as he was known married Alva Murray Smith in 1874, the daughter of a wealthy merchant of Savannah, Ga. It was the ambition of Alva Murray Smith, after becoming Mrs. Willie K., to enter the inner circle of New York society. (Up until this time the Vanderbilts were not considered members of the "smart set.")

**Bought Idle Hour**

Willie K. bought several parcels of land at Oakdale, consolidating the property into the estate known as "Idle Hour." The 800 acres was in an ideal location for the sportsman to enjoy his leisure time.

It was during 1873 when William Jay and Thomas Newbold, while strolling down Fifth Avenue in New York, happened to observe in the windows of Brewster & Co. an English coach on exhibition. It was noted that the drag was tooled by T. Bigelow Lawrence of Boston, in the sixties. Two years later, the Coaching Club was formed and created tremendous interest in New York sporting life.

The other charter members of the club were James Gordon Bennett II, Frederick Bronson, William P. Douglas, Leonard W. Jerome, DeLancey Astor Kane, S. Nickolson Kane, and A. Thorndike Rice. Later J. Roosevelt Roosevelt, James J. Van Alen, August Belmont II and Perry Belmont joined. It was in 1883 that Willie K. extended an invitation to the members of the Coaching Club to spend, may we say, a weekend at Idle Hour.

Oa-1

### Sailed Side Wheeler

Willie K. had not broken into New York society but he was obviously able to entertain the whips in wonderful style, the object being to impress them. He had just been appointed board chairman of the Lake Shore system. Although he was an ardent yachtsman he did not have any large craft at Idle Hour. He did, however, run the small side wheeler "Mosquito" up and down Great River, just to amuse his guests.

The 800 acres were stocked with quail and other game, also blue ribbon cattle. He also maintained a retinue of maroon-clad servants in the mansion, teahouse, and stables (the buildings were designed by Richard Hunt, by the way).

After having booked "passage," as it were, on the "Mosquito," the coachmen no longer held the parade in the fall but met on the last Saturday in May, outside the Brunswick Hotel and proceeded up the avenue.

It was 11 months after visiting Idle Hour that the delicate question of admitting the master of Idle Hour to membership in the club came up. In 1884 Willie K was entitled to dignify the yellow body and red under carriage of his coach with the "Cs" of the club emblem. Other committees of admission now could acknowledge what the party at Idle Hour had accomplished for Willie K. In a short time the Metropolitan, Knickerbocker, Union, Racquet and Tennis, Turf and Field, and New York Yacht Club welcomed Willie K.

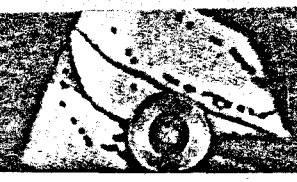
Now Mrs. Alva Smith Vanderbilt became a leader in society, but a trip to France and England resulted in divorce.

### Weds Nobility

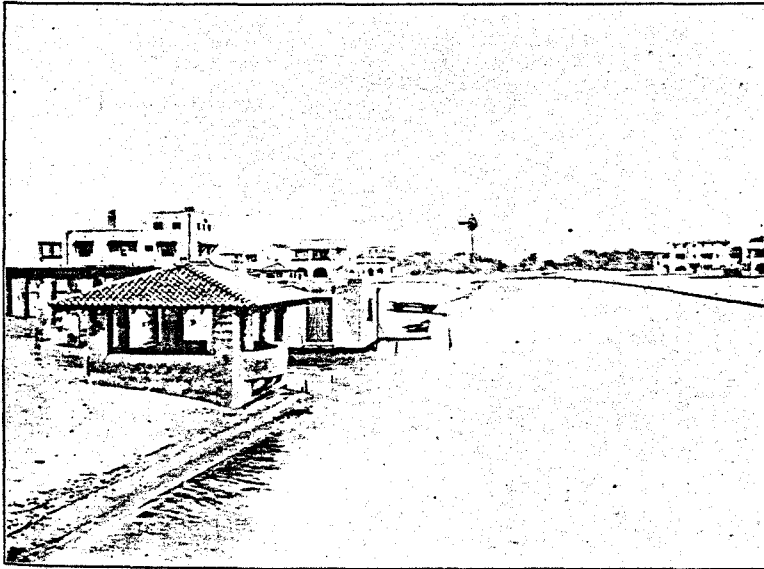
On the evening of Aug. 28, 1895, their daughter Consuelo Vanderbilt was presented to society. The reporters of that day did not fully appreciate the full significance of the presence at this affair of His Grace, the Ninth Duke of Marlborough. The Duke remained a fortnight as a guest of the family and when his visit ended, Mrs. Vanderbilt announced the engagement of Consuelo. The wedding took place Nov. 6, 1895 in St. Thomas Church. The only Vanderbilts at the wedding were Willie K, Consuelo's brothers and her grandmother. This event was the highlight of society in the Gay Nineties. The honeymoon was spent at Idle Hour.

Thus, the vivacious Alva had skillfully managed the alliance between American millions and British nobility.

OAI



ISLIP is quite like it in its surroundings. It has a large population during the summer, when the magnificent country houses located here are occupied by the families of their city owners. There are at Islip a number of comfortable hotels. From this section beautiful views may be enjoyed of the Great South Bay and the wooded points which stretch out like fingers from the main shore.



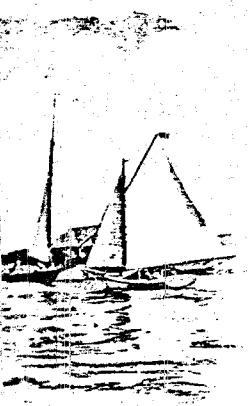
THE MOORISH HOUSES AT BAYBERRY POINT, ISLIP

The portion of Long Island which skirts the south shore hereabouts is heavily covered with pine forests, which give the air a double charm, combining the odor of the balsam with the tonic of the sea. It is a region which duplicates in general appearances and climatic values Lakewood, N. J., but with added advantages of being much nearer New York and more easily and quickly reached. Through the pine forest growth the roads run in every direction, and add to the delights of outdoor life, being ideal for vehicles of every description.

Prominent New Yorkers have been quick to realize that this immediate locality is an ideal one for the location of their summer homes, and, as a consequence, there are at Oakdale a large number

OAKDALE as a consequence, there are at Oakdale a large number of extensive estates, magnificent in both area and development. One of the most notable is that of Mr. W. K. Vanderbilt, at Oakdale. This estate includes a portion of what is known as the old Nichols grant, whose ownership runs back two centuries. There is also the immense and almost royal estate of Mr. F. G. Bourne. In addition to these estates are those of the Cuttings, and Mr. W. K. Aston, which are attractive and extensive.

The Vanderbilt estate, which is enclosed by a high iron fence is



AT BAYSHORE

to the east on the Great South Bay reached by steamer from Point o' Woods, a cottage situated at the very edge of the bay nothing it is unsurpassed. It is a lovely people from Islip, Bayshore, on the east, and

