

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. 16305,000788
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

LA 1

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: April 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

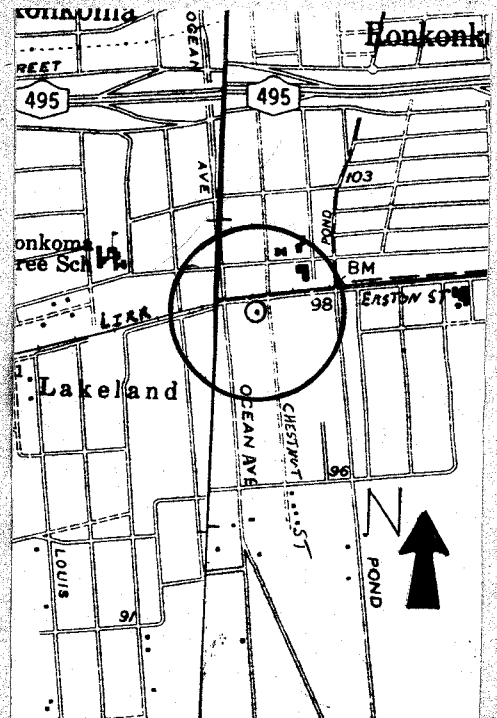
IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): J. Hazel House
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Lakeland
- 3. STREET LOCATION: SE corner Chestnut Ave. and Easton St.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: composition shingle
- 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):
modern projecting bay at the north

12. PHOTO: Neg. KK XVII-17, fm. SE 13. MAP: NYS DOT composite Central Islip & Patchogue Quads



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: _____
j. other: cottage to SW

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: Long Island Rail Road tracks directly north

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)
The Hazel House is located on the west side of the street just south of the Long Island Rail Road tracks and Easton Street. The house is surrounded by a mix of late 19th and 20th century residences.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
The Hazel House is a small, two story, three bay, center entrance plan Italianate house with a low gable roof. The principle (east) facade contains a single story porch and window/door surrounds that feature shouldered enframements. The south bay contains narrow paired windows on the ground and second stories. The bracketed cornice remains on the east facade.

SIGNIFICANCE
19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: Prior to 1873

ARCHITECT: _____

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
In spite of the inappropriate addition, the house retains its form and important Italianate detail.

21. SOURCES:
Beers, Comstock. Atlas of Long Island, 1873.

22. THEME:
Research by Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities - KEK

11083-1983

HISTORY OF LAKELAND (Ronkonkoma)

The Lakeland section of Ronkonkoma lies to the southwest corner of the inland body of water of Lake Ronkonkoma and west of the Pond Road boundary of Brookhaven township. It extends to the eastern boundary line of Central Islip Boulevard and is north of the Veterans Highway. It lies in the eastern part of Islip township.

The earliest authentic history of School District #11 may be traced to 1867 when a meeting to organize the district was held on November 23, 1867 at the home of a Mr. Johnson. This house was located on the west side of Ocean Avenue, south of the railroad track. The house later belonged to Mr. Sharkey. At this meeting a Board of Trustees was elected. It was agreed at this meeting, that a room in the house of Mrs. M. E. Kennard be rented for a school room. The school was taught by a son of Mrs. Kennard, who had previously "kept a select school" in Lakeland, as the village was called. Here the school was maintained until 1873 when a new building was erected on Johnson and Sycamore Avenues, now named the Edith Slocum School in honor of a long-time dedicated teacher. Because of the influx of many new residents and children a beautiful two room school was built in 1924 at a cost of \$25,000.00. After World War Two, the school had been expanded so many times that talk of consolidating with Bohemia and Oakdale became a reality. In 1945 the enrollment was 80 pupils and 360 pupils in 1954. District #11 became Connetquot Central School District of Islip with Ronkonkoma having approximately 7,000 families with 20,000 people.

A sizeable enclave of ethnic Hungarians came to the lake area around 1922. Most were blue collar and ex-peasants from the plains of Hungary who had come to this country prior to World War One. Many others came from the mine shafts of Virginia and Pennsylvania and the iron smelters of the Great Lakes Region. "Creative Salesmanship" or land speculators had enticed many to settle here. Families and friends wanted a social life so they formed a club. Their Charter read: American-Hungarian Literary Society of Ronkonkoma, Inc. In 1928 people with names like Becker, Sipos, Huszar, Hanak and Rosch began to build a club house on donated land on Ocean Avenue so they could have to place of their own to speak their native language, eat goulash and dance to gypsy music. They called it Liberty Hall. The club at present has 150 members and their activities consist of social dances, films and concerts. The big event is the annual "Grape Festival" held over the Columbus Day weekend in October. Through the years the club has been active in works of charity. They collected thousands of dollars and bales of used clothing to help the needy in war-torn Hungary at the end of World War Two. The club welcomed a group of escapees after the 1956 uprising in

Hungary and helped them find housing and jobs. They also help out with donations to many causes that are worthy of support and they have contributed generously to local charities.

During the depression days. The Republican Club was born as a reform movement against the Abraham Lincoln Republican Club. Mr. Louis Bodanyi, Jr. organized the club in 1932 and was active until his death in 1983. Since its beginning, under the leadership of its presidents, it has maintained its consistent activity in behalf of both the party and the community. The Ronkonkoma Republican Club through its committeemen has achieved the first town beach on the lake, the addition of Duffields Beach and the Berger house. It has proposed the dedication of 80% of the dedicated roads in the community and their improvement. It has supported the school boards and fire department at all times in bettering community services and fought against proposals it deemed detrimental to the best interests of the community.

In the early 1930's, forest fires were everyone's fear. The Ronkonkoma Fire Department had the whole territory to protect. Manpower was scarce and equipment was primitive. Mr. Louis Bodanyi, Jr. was appointed Fire Warden and that gave him access to some Indian Tanks, fire rakes, shovels and brooms and also the right to draft spectators to fight fires at twenty-five cents an hour to make it legal. Mr. Bodanyi bought a Model A Ford and with the help of Mr. L. Holzaphel, Joseph Cipp, Sr. and Emil Becker, Jr. and many more, a truck was purchased and is still serving the community. The Lakeland Fire Department had their first organizational meeting at Liberty Hall in September 1938. Mr. Bodanyi served as chief from 1938 to 1952. The department now has 105 members, five of whom are charter members. The department expanded in the past 45 years from a one truck department to nine pieces of fire fighting equipment and two ambulances. The Lakeland Fire Department now answers more than 1500 emergency calls per year. There are also two fire houses, the main firehouse on Johnson Avenue and a sub-station located on 13th Avenue and Peconic Street.

In 1947 the Medical Service Unit of the fire department was established with the purchase of an ambulance from the Ronkonkoma Fire Department for one dollar. The Rescue Company as it is now called has evolved from a transportation type service to an Emergency Advanced Life Support Service. The advanced life support ambulance carries equipment that has the capability of sending all pertinent data regarding a patient's condition to a receiver-equipped hospital where a doctor evaluates the information. The doctor can then give the medical technicians orders so the patient can be treated immediately by the paramedics. The system allows the patient's elec-

Lakeland (cont.)

tro-cardiogram to be transmitted from the scene of a call and in the ambulance while enroute to the hospital. This quick action has saved many lives. The paramedics that ride the ambulance have over 240 hours of training before they are certified by New York State as Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians.



Our First Fire Truck, Circa 1930.

In 1947 the Ladies Auxiliary of the Lakeland Fire Department was organized. Eight members were present at the first meeting. The purpose of the Auxiliary was to make coffee and sandwiches for the firemen at major fires. They attended parades and helped raise funds at the annual Fireman's Fair. The Ladies also sponsored the cost of instruments for the Drum and Bugle Corps. The Auxiliary started a community Loan Cabinet that includes hospital beds, crutches, wheelchairs and many other comforts for the sick that can be borrowed in time of need. The Loan Cabinet is still ready to serve the community.

After World War Two, a group of veterans from Lakeland got together and decided that, Ronkonkoma should be represented in the sports world. Not only did they wish Ronkonkoma represented but that it should be among the leaders and so the Ronkonkoma Pirates Baseball Club was formed. Les Hanak was elected president and manager of the team. He brought four of his brothers and local names such as Peters, Kilgour, Neyssen, Blydenburgh, Rosch, Rudge and Thelan filled the roster. Together they leveled and graded a piece of property on the corner of Johnson and Ocean Avenues called "Diller Field," now Country Valley Shopping Center. The Pirates joined the Suffolk County Baseball League in 1946 and travelled as far east as Westhampton, and east to Amityville. In 1947 the Pirates won first place in their division in the Baseball League which was a feather in their caps. The Baseball League started with seven teams and grew to thirty-one teams. As the years progress, prices began to rise for equipment, umpires and insurance fees and slowly teams had to disband for lack of funds. By 1968, the League had dwindled to seven teams, so baseball met its demise. The Pirate

players have fond memories of playing with great stars such as Bobby Wine, Art Luce, Bill Oster, John Curtis and Carl Yastrzemski, who made names for themselves in the big time sport of baseball.

Ronkonkoma was once known as the millionaire's playground with the terminus of the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, a private toll road in earlier days. It was a hamlet consisting of many summer cottages and bungalows until the late 1950's and early 1960's when migration eastward hastened development. Little master planning and quick housing development brought many problems to our locale. Floods, lack of schools, water and garbage services were some of the problems. The residents formed Lakeland Civic Association to preserve the flora and fauna of the headwaters of the Connetquot River. Their success is today called Lakeland County Park. Two years later in 1970 Lake Hills Civic Association was formed to protect and enhance the quality of life north of the Long Island Expressway. Both Civic Associations cooperated and coordinated together over the past ten years and combined to form what is now known as the Ronkonkoma Civic Association. Presently the Association has over 300 families and is growing healthier. There have been many accomplishments, overall upgrading of the quality of life and the esthetics that contribute to an area a desirability to live and raise a family there. These groups are a credit to our Town Officials and dedicated officers and public servants.

During the 1920's many beach pavilions were built and Lake Ronkonkoma became a resort area. From Decoration Day through Labor Day, the summer people took over. This continued for many years. World War Two with its total war effort and gas rationing caused the momentum to slow down. In the 1950's original owners began to sell their beaches to others. Many of the pavilions which were left unattended burned down. In 1963 Duffield's West Park Beach was taken over by the Town of Islip. Additional parcels of land were purchased to enlarge it. Picnic grounds, tennis courts and swimming areas were developed. Later Mr. Louis Bodanyi, Jr. with Mr. Norman DeMott of Islip Town were instrumental in acquiring the Berger House that adjoined the Town Beach for a Senior Citizen Center. In March 1975, the Ronkonkoma Senior Citizens had their first organizational meeting. One hundred fifty-eight senior citizens signed up and to this date there are four clubs, The Lakers, Rosevales, Amity's and Islanders. They each meet on different days of the week and also have joint cooking, sewing and many other arts and crafts classes. Bingo games, luncheon dates and speakers on various topics are presented to keep senior citizens in unity with each other. The men have a repair shop and game room downstairs and as one senior said, "Everyone who steps inside our doors has gained much in life and friendship just by being at our center."

Emma Hanak