

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. 10305-0559-~~125~~
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

Sa 30a

green

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip - Town Hall DATE: 7/24/79

655 Main Street
YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, N.Y. TELEPHONE: (516)224-5450

ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning and Development

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): ~~Silverman House~~
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Sayville
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 191 Handsome Avenue
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Silverman ADDRESS: see #3
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain _____

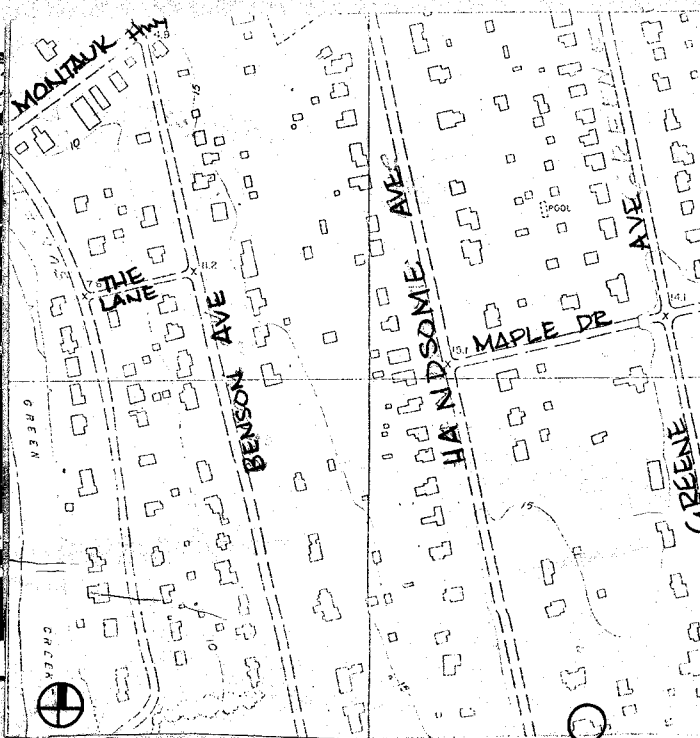
DESCRIPTION

- 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 _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? between 1902 & 1915
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO: NJM-5, neg. 36a

13. MAP: Bowe-Anderson

front (west) facade



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: carriage house with
 j. other: vertical boarding
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: _____

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

The Silverman house is located on the east side of Handsome Avenue, between Maple Drive and Elm Street.

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

2½ story, 3 bay, irregular plan Queen Anne Style house with square tower at south of front facade with high pyramidal roof. Hexagonal bay on front facade. Original wraparound porch with brackets, matching those on roof, with decorative square posts and sawn spandrels. Varigated decorative roof shingles. Unaltered carriage house with vertical boarding to the rear.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: prior to 1888

ARCHITECT: _____

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Owned by Frank Jones in 1915, as part of his large estate that occupied much of the surrounding area, this house is of particular interest for its well-preserved architectural details, such as those Queen Anne style fenestrations mentioned in 18, above. Also see Sa 27. Probably moved here by Jones between 1902 and 1915.

21. SOURCES:

E. Belcher Hyde, Atlas of A Part of Suffolk County, Long Island, New York, South Shore, Brooklyn: 1915.

1888 Map from endpapers of: Charles Stevenson, But as Yesterday,

22. THEME: the History of St. Ann's Church, Sayville, 1967.

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

Old Houses Exhi

Barbara Kreisler

Seven million dollars was the asking price for a 1914 21-room Georgian style mansion, and a 147-room Philadelphia estate built just a half century ago was advertised in the New York Times as giving the prospective buyer "a taste of an era which can never be duplicated."

What do finds like these share in common, besides their extraordinary asking price? It is age — that special ingredient that appears to be attracting buyers, even of more modest means, who willingly ignore the obvious drawbacks of an older home. Bitten by the bug, prospective buyers close their ears to reason and their eyes to stark economic realities. They trade material gains for exorbitant heating costs, endless repairs and the seemingly ill-placed rooms unsuitable for today's living.

Last winter's fuel bill for one circa home in Sayville averaged \$300.00, yet its new owners simply considered it a necessary expense. Miriam Silverman, a freelance textile designer, and her husband, Gary, a self employed certified public accountant, moved to Sayville with their two daughters, Marissa, 5, and Rachael, 3, and Miriam admits that their 100 year old Victorian, despite its charm, is cold. "That's why our jackets hang right in the kitchen," she says.

The Silvermans epitomize the typical couple bitten by the nostalgia bug, only Miriam considers it more than just that. "My home has charm, respect, heritage, tradition and personality. It is almost as if those people who built it did it for more than monetary reward," she explains, as the NEWS toured her fourteen room Victorian, comfortably situated on 1 1/4 acres in desirable south Sayville, with its high ceilings, oak sliding doors opening onto their 30 foot long livingroom, carved mouldings, wainscoting, wrap-around porch, parquet floors and tall windows which sun-drench the over-sized rooms which are still partially beset with decay, the house may be considered by some a "handyman's special" — one of those attractive homes suffering from years of

she says as she sits in her mammoth kitchen, a room which will at some time in the future be the target for all of her creative expertise. For those of her friends who are living comfortably in their typical suburban, middle-class homes and cannot bring themselves to understand her lifestyle, she simply tells them not to viist.

Total renovation isn't new to the Silvermans. After renovating their 65 year old Babylon home, they decided it was not longer suitable for their needs, so they sold it for a sizable price which they immediately reinvested in their Sayville home. The cost and in availability of labor forced the Silvermans to take to doing most of the repair work themselves. "Contractors have given us plenty of estimates, but when it comes right down to doing the work, they don't want to get involved with the extensive repairs that will probably take them much longer than they anticipate," says Miriam, who readily admits that her lovely Victorian must have suffered from at least 70 years of neglect.

Though For Sale signs seem to emerge across lawns on Long Island almost as rapidly as crabgrass, there just aren't too many older homes left in prime residential areas any longer. Invisible lines of demarcation slice up the South Shore, so that homes south of Middle Road demand a higher price than those south of Montauk Highway, and, likewise, homes south of Sunrise Highway demand less than those south of Route 27A.

"Seven to eight years ago, just before the renaissance, homeowners couldn't give away their old, Victorian homes," claims Pat Vincente, broker at Vincente Real Estate, in Oakdale. They were sold

Old Victorians are as original owners. unconventional buyer.

1/25/79

Suffolk County News

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191 Handsome Ave Sayville

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