

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. 103-05-0574
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

Sa 42

green/yellow

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip Town Hall DATE: 8/10/79

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

ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning and Development

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Columbia Hall

2. COUNTY: suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Sayville

3. STREET LOCATION: 75 Middle Road / S. Main St.

4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private

5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____

6. USE: Original: commercial/theater Present: residences

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: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____

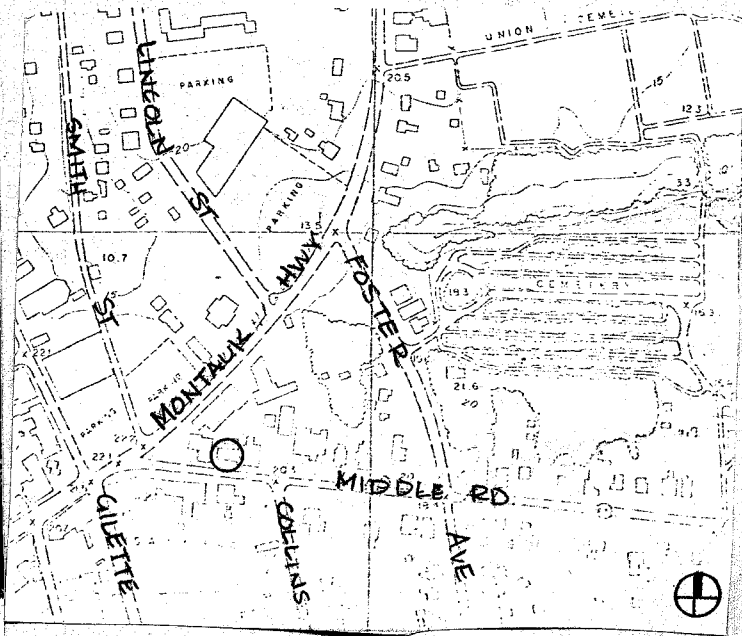
10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated

11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

Entrance stoop and first floor front windows are modern.

12. PHOTO: NJM-6, neg, 11a

13. MAP: Bowe-Anderson



HP-1 front south) 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: _____
 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: _____

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

Columbia Hall is located on the north side of Middle Road, formerly South Main Street, just east of the intersection of Middle and Main Street.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
 2 story 7 bay symmetrical Italianette commercial building with two low wall gables on front facade, original 4/4 2nd floor windows. It is 2 bays deep with wall gables on each end.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: shortly after the Civil War
 ARCHITECT: _____
 BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Columbia Hall was the founding forerunner of the theater in Sayville. The upper floor was a large open room with a small stage. Here for over thirty years were held most of the amateur theatricals, minstrel shows and entertainments given by the clubs and churches of the community.

In addition, Columbia Hall was a public meeting place.

21. SOURCES:

Charles P. Dickerson, A History of the Sayville Community, Suffolk County News, 1975.

- 1888 Map from: Charles Stevenson, But as Yesterday, A History of
 22. THEME: St. Ann's Church, Sayville: 1967, p. 5.

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

Sayville

80 Years Ago

W.K. Vanderbilt had been notified by the Board of Assessors of Islip Town that the valuation of his property was to be increased and that he was to be assessed for \$100,000 on personal property. Mr. Halliday, his superintendent, appeared before the Board of Islip and said that Mr. Vanderbilt had no objections to offer except that his neighbors, Mr. Robert and Mr. Cutting, who had more bayfront and consequently more valuable real property than his, were paying proportionately less. Mr. Vanderbilt paid about two-thirds of the school tax in the Oakdale school district.

"An x-ray apparatus has been installed at Columbia Hall," the News said. Unfortunately it did not say why. Columbia Hall was a public meeting place.

About 100 people had come to Chataaugua (now Point O'Woods) on the steamer netport to see a comedy put on by an amateur group.

70 Years Ago

The Bayport Fire Department had elected the following officers: Fred Smith, chief; C.W. Hawkins, assistant chief; W.D. Bishop, foreman of Hose Co. No. 1; Clifford Smith, assistant; J.H. Smedecor, foreman Hose Co. 2; Frank T. Arnold, assistant; Bertram G. Smith, foreman of Bayport Hook and Ladder Co.; Howard Smedecor, assistant.

ANCIENT HISTORY

W.K. Post, secretary, M.J. McMath, J.O. Savercool and Charles A. Post, trustees.

The News vehemently contradicted a report published in a metropolitan newspaper that man-eating sharks had appeared in the bay and offered \$100 for a well-authenticated case of any person having been bitten by a shark in the Great South Bay.

Otto Hinckman, of Speonk, had been convicted of the murder of his father. He was the first murderer in Southampton township since it was settled in 1640.

Forest Bishop had succeeded William Alexander, who for many years had been in charge

A delegation of 50 men and women from Great River and Islip, many owners of estates there, had assembled at the Town Hall to urge the Town Board to adopt measures to prevent the spread of infantile paralysis. The Town Board sitting as a Board of Health had passed a resolution forbidding the presence of children under 16 years at moving pictures, Sunday school or any public gathering.

The traffic policeman at the corner of Ocean Avenue and Main Street, Patchogue, had been provided with a railed pedestal with a parrot above it and a mirror attached.

50 Years Ago

Long Island was suffering from heat wave with Patchogue reporting a temperature of 110 in the shade.

The Roosevelt Republican Club had rescheduled the following officers: President, Dow Clark; Vice President, Frank H. Geiger; Second Vice President, Miss Daisy DeGruet; Treasurer, Herman Miller; Secretary, Edmund T. Canley.

Affected by the extreme heat, Joseph Matti, a respected resident of West Sayville, had been found dead by his employer, H.H. Green. Dead from a heart attack, he was 47.

Mrs. Emma Somerinczyke, a Sayville resident for 76 years, had died following a paralytic stroke.

40 Years Ago

Bohemia had won the town ship's Fireman's tournament.

The young crew of the Draco, competing in Olympic elimination sailing races off Sayville, had missed a European trip by 55 seconds, when they were defeated by two professors from the University of Southern California.

Pot roast of beef was selling at 19 cents a pound, rib roast at 25 and lamb at 23.

Meetings of the Oxford Group were being held regularly here and in this vicinity.

30 Years Ago

A \$100,000 dock project on the east side of Brown's River had been approved by the Suffolk County Highway Department. A road was to be cut to it through the marshland west from Seaman Avenue.

Street No. 100 had died at his home in Oyster Bay.

Miss Josephine M. Whitton, 90 of Lake Nonkontonka, had also died last week.

20 Years Ago

At the annual school meeting a record gross budget of \$1,353,741 was approved. Percy Hook won a seat on the Board of Education and two bus proposals were defeated.

Wolford C. Koman, a resident continued on page 27

Suffolk County News, 12/24/75.

SUFFOLK COUNTY NEWS

Wednesday, December 24, 1975

A History Of Sayville

By Charles P. Dickerson

Copyright by Charles P. Dickerson 1975

All rights reserved

CHAPTER 10 THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Early in the spring of 1878 a fire destroyed the barber shop on South Main Street owned by Mr. Klaassen, indicating the immediate need for a fire fighting organization.

On October 14th 1878 the Charter of the Sayville Hook and Ladder Co. was signed on the top of the grand piano on the second floor of Columbia Hall on So. Main Street. There were nineteen charter members. It was the first incorporated fire company on the south shore of Suffolk County.

In 1879 they erected a fire house on the west side of Railroad Avenue at a cost of \$300. After 1887, the building was occupied by the German Benevolent Society. It still stands today opposite the Sayville Theater now occupied as a private residence.

The first hand drawn truck was built by Fred Munkelwitz who owned a blacksmith shop just south of the Fire House. When a fire occurred the men pulled the truck to the fire by a rope, followed by a man beating a drum to waken the people. The first fire truck cost \$120.

In 1887 a new Fire House was erected on the south side of Main Street just east of Greene Avenue.

When the Great South Bay Water Co. laid water mains in the village in 1889, a Sayville Hose Co. #1 was formed with 11 charter members. They purchased a hose cart and 500 feet of hose. The Hose Co. purchased a piece of land from Morris J. Terry on the east side of Candee Avenue just south of Main Street where they stored the hose cart. Local theatrical folks were interested in building a large theater for the community, and working with the Hose Co. they raised sufficient money to erect the Sayville Opera House on the Hose Co. property at a cost of about \$8000. The Hose Co. was given a section of the south side of the new building to store the Hose cart. In the long run, the operation was not profitable and in 1921 the Hose Co. sold the building to Court Bayside, Foresters of America.

A second Hose Co. called the Resolute Hose Co. had been formed on Sept. 1, 1891.

In 1916 Frederick G. Bourne, President of the Singer Sewing Machine Co. who lived in Oakdale, gave the Hook and Ladder Co. their first motorized fire truck.

On May 5, 1905 the Sayville Fire Dept. was formed by combining the three fire fighting organizations, with Woodhull N. Raynor as Chief. In September 1922 an official Fire District was formed.

The present Fire House was erected in 1937 on the site of the old school-house, on the corner of No. Main Street and Lincoln Avenue.