

383-01-013

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_000570
QUAD	_____
SERIES	_____
NEG. NO.	_____

Sa 43
green/red

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

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

ORGANIZATION (if any): Department of Planning and Development

IDENTIFICATION

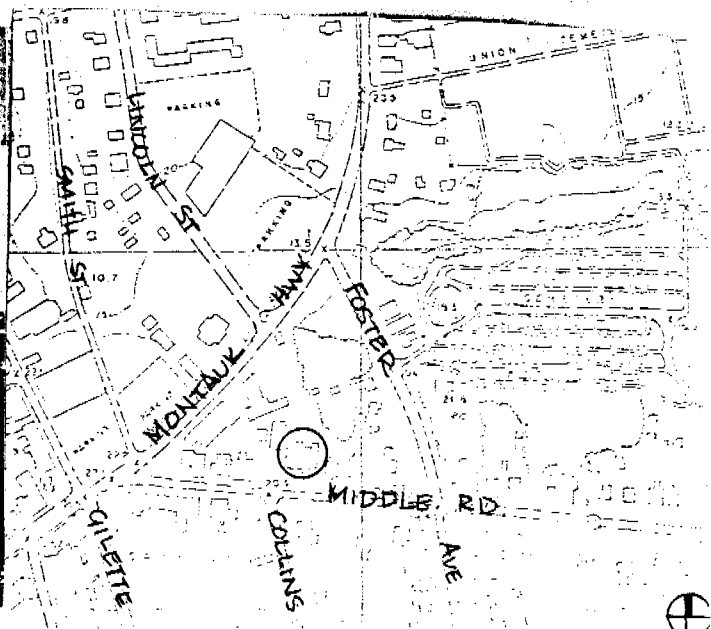
- BUILDING NAME(S): Sayville Congregational Church
- COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Sayville
- STREET LOCATION: Middle Road
- OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
- USE: Original: Church Present: Church
- ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public 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: a. wood frame with interlocking joints
(if known) 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): _____

PHOTO: N.W.-6, neg. 12a

13. MAP: Bowe-Anderson



HP-1 view from southeast

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: Parish house
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 Congregational Church is on the north side of Middle Road, across from Collins Avenue.

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

Cross-gabled Church with tall corner entrance tower that is topped by a pyramidal roof and cylindrical corners. 3 round topped stained glass windows on south facade, with decorative pattern-applied shingles throughout, particularly at entry.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1888
- ARCHITECT: (Designer) Deacon Robert Nunns
- BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The first settlers in Sayville were mostly Congregationalists who came from New England and Eastern Long Island. The first Congregational Church in Sayville was built on the site of the present Church in 1849.

Has Tiffany stained glass window reportedly made by Benjamin Sellers, an English artist.

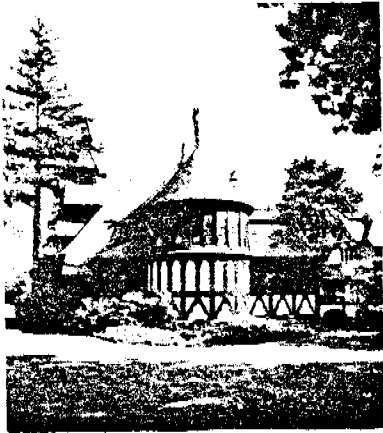
21. SOURCES:

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

E. Belcher Hyde, Atlas of Suffolk County, Long Island, vol. 1.

22. THEME: Ocean Shore, Brooklyn: 1902.

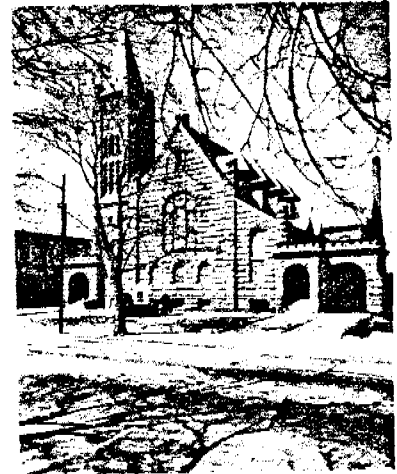
Prepared by: Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities
 Setauket, New York 11733
 Nina Monastero, Research Assistant
 August, 1979



39. SAYVILLE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Deacon Robert Nunns, Builder
1888



37. ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ISLIP
Richard Morris Hunt, Architect
1878-80



40. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PATCHOGUE



38. CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT, QUOGUE
Sidney V. Stratton, Architect
1883-84



41. NORTHPORT TRUST COMPANY

Myers & Gatling, The Architecture of Suffolk County, Hecksher Museum, 1971.

Island is a particularly good example of the type and dates from circa 1870-75. Behind the lacy upper porch the openings are pointed in the Gothic manner. The pierced-work trim gives an appropriately light and festive appearance to the house.

Airy wooden "gingerbread" trim was not confined to summer houses, as may be seen from the Leuthardt Barn in East Moriches. This especially elegant barn may date from as early as circa 1855 but is probably later. Few barns of its day surpassed it in attractiveness.

The St. James Station of the Long Island Railroad, a board-and-batten structure built in 1873 by Calvin L. Hommedieu, exhibits again the fondness for "gingerbread" trim. The elaborately convoluted brackets supporting the overhanging roof manage to be both fancy and robust. The railroad deserves credit for restoring this charming building, the oldest of its stations.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church at Islip, designed by the major New York architect Richard Morris Hunt, was built in 1878-80 with funds donated by William Kissam Vanderbilt. While Hunt used elements of mediaeval Norwegian stave church design in this remarkable wooden church, it is by no means a copy of any earlier church. The combination of horizontal and vertical elements creates a dynamic tension handled with consummate skill. The half-timber work of the apse presages the vogue for such work in the 1890's and later, and the continuous band of windows above it seems almost modern. The interior has a fine wooden open truss ceiling and several Tiffany windows, including his earliest ecclesiastical window (1878), representing Saint Mark.³¹ This edifice may fairly be termed the most architecturally distinguished nineteenth-century church in the County. The adjoining Parish House of 1890 by I. H. Green harmonizes well with Hunt's work.

An equally interesting and almost equally distinguished church, the "shingle-style" Church of the Atonement (Episcopal), was built at

Quogue in 1883-84 from designs by Sidney V. Stratton. This cruciform church sits low to the ground. The large, low square crossing tower with its concave roof and convex-roofed dormers is the focal point of the composition. This tower, and the overall shingled texture, unify the whole exterior. The dormer finials and the fine wrought-iron cross with weather vane provide lively accents at the skyline. The interior walls are clad with imbricated shingles, an unusual treatment. Several Tiffany windows³⁵ and a handsome "jewelled" hanging chancel cross, probably by the Tiffany firm, enrich the interior of this remarkable church.

The difference between the work of highly sophisticated architects and the competent but conventional designers is seen by comparing the two previous examples with the Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ, built in 1888 by Deacon Robert Nunns. This cross-gabled church with tall corner entrance tower is of the new auditorium type favored by Evangelical sects. Stylistically, it employs "Romanesque" clichés (an anomaly in wood), but it is a pleasing example of its genre. The tower is its most effective feature.³⁶

The Congregational Church at Patchogue, built of a warm red brown stone circa 1895, is the most imposing of a series of Protestant churches built in South Shore towns in the 1880's and 1890's in the Second Romanesque Revival manner.³⁷ Stone is certainly a more appropriate material than wood for the style, and the tower of the Patchogue church is really quite fine.

The Northport Trust Company (now an insurance office) at 45 Main Street in Northport combines two styles. The arch and stumpy paired colonettes of the brown stone first story and the third story windows over a corbelled sill are in the Romanesque manner, while the stepped gable and the escutcheon on it derive from Dutch Renaissance forms. Only a purist, however, would fault this quite handsome, solid, and dignified little commercial structure for its eclecticism. The contrast between the stone base and light brick superstructure works very well.

Sweden, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, China.

The artist is the grandson of Benjamin Sellers, an Englishman who came to the United States in the second half of the 19th Century and made a number of stained glass windows for Tiffany Studios.

THE Congregational Church and St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Sayville, as well as the Methodist Church in Patchogue, are among those in Suffolk County believed to contain examples of the artist's work.

Benjamin Sellers married

an American girl and had six children by her. The family lived in Sayville for a time, then returned to England. There the future cartoonist's father married an English girl and died when Paul Sellers was seven years old.

Paul qualified for the Royal Wolverhampton School, an establishment for boys with-

out fathers. When he was 18, he won a scholarship to the Birmingham College of Art.

While there, studying to be an art teacher, he decided to try cartooning. His first real success was "Enoch and Eli," a strip dealing with two Midlands workmen, which started in 1954 and is still going strong.

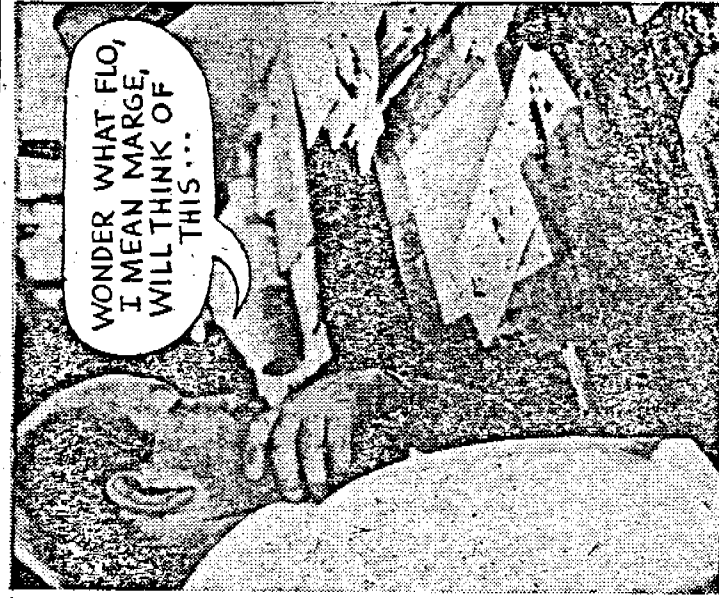
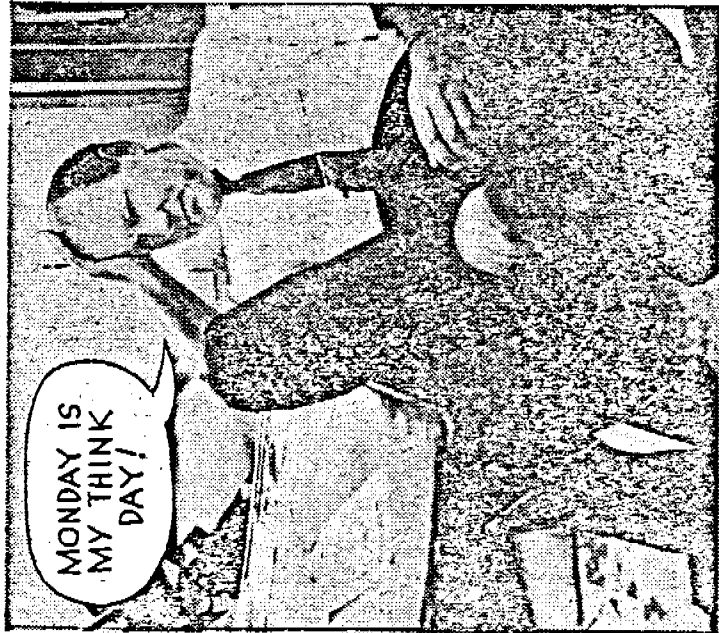
IN 1959 Sellers came across the Atlantic in an Anglo-American teachers' exchange program and taught art at Bound Brook, N.J., High School. Like his grandfather in the preceding century, he met and married an American girl—in this case the former Marjorie Spillane of Tamaqua, Pa., a physical

education teacher at the school.

The following year they returned to England. The have three children: Russell; Rachel, 5; and Benjamin, 20 months.

The family lives about 4 miles northeast of the heart of London. The actual address is: 12 Pyncheon Par-

PAUL SELLERS OF EBO AND FLO



2243

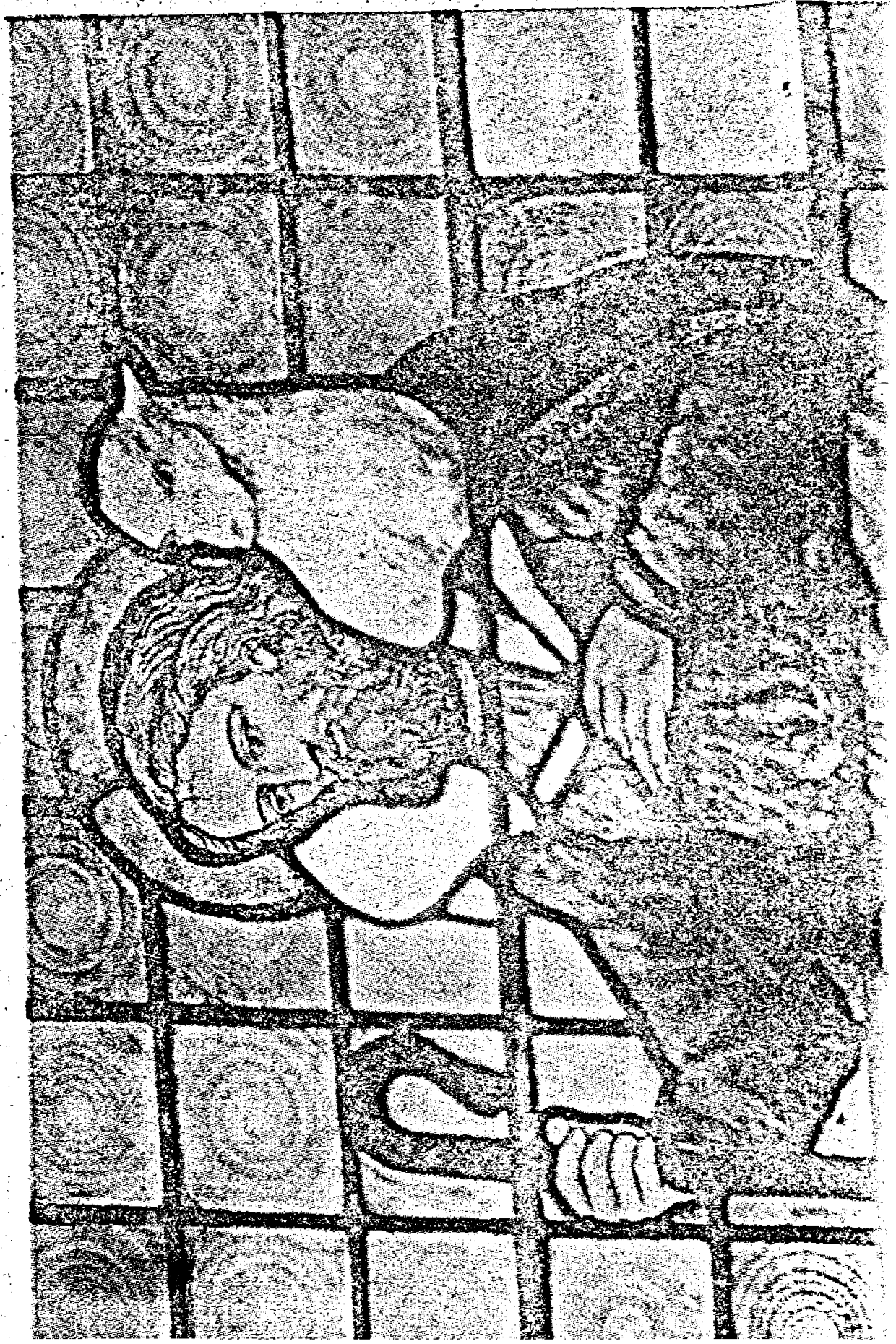


dawn

SUFFOLK SUN

Weekend Magazine

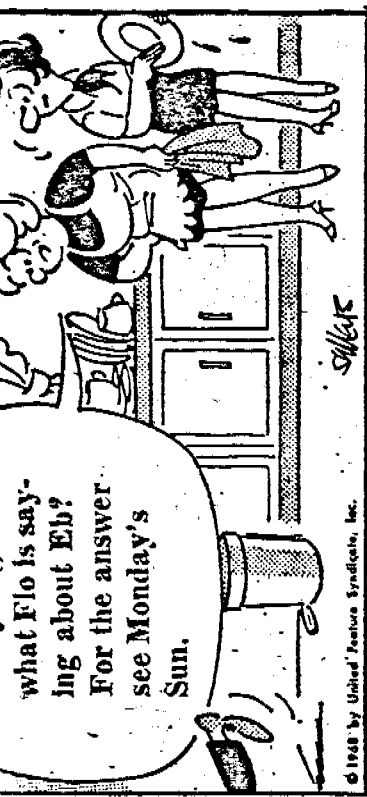
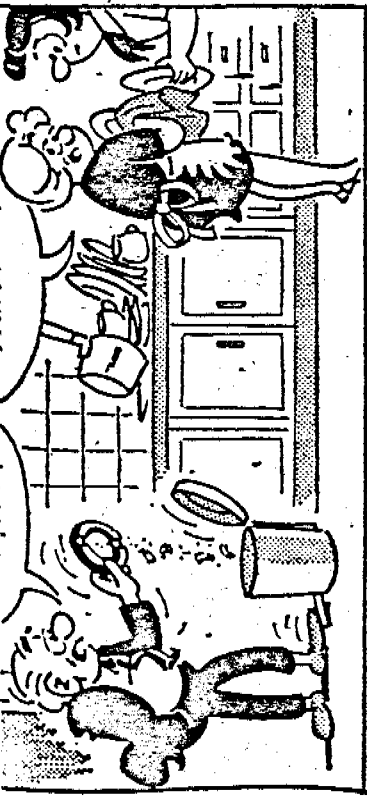
Saturday, September 21, 1968





Stained glass window, Sayville Congregational Church, given in memory of Benjamin Sellers
Dawn 9/21/68
credited to Benjamin Sellers.
Dawn 9/21/68
Two Artists in the Family
Credited to Benjamin Sellers
Page 4
Dawn

a future cartoon by Paul Sellers in the Sun and 165 other newspapers all over the world.



what Flo is saying about Eb? For the answer see Monday's Sun.

© 1968 by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. Sellers

Wright's Green, Littlebury, near Bishop's Cleeve, Hertfordshire, England. (Says Sellers, "Our own friends say, 'To write you. We're not to write you. The ad is too long'.")

HE STARTED 'Eb and Flo' as a weekly comic in 1961 but soon converted it to a daily strip. The couple is based partially on people Sellers and his wife know, but mainly on the cartoonist and his wife, themselves. Sellers recently achieved a long-standing ambition when he bought a vintage Rolls Royce. You may be

sure that Eb will acquire a similar model in the near future.

"Marge guards Flo's interests," the cartoonist says. "Monday is my think day. I come down with all these ideas and try them out on her. She says, 'Yughk!' Or she says very solemnly, 'That's funny,' and that's the one I use."

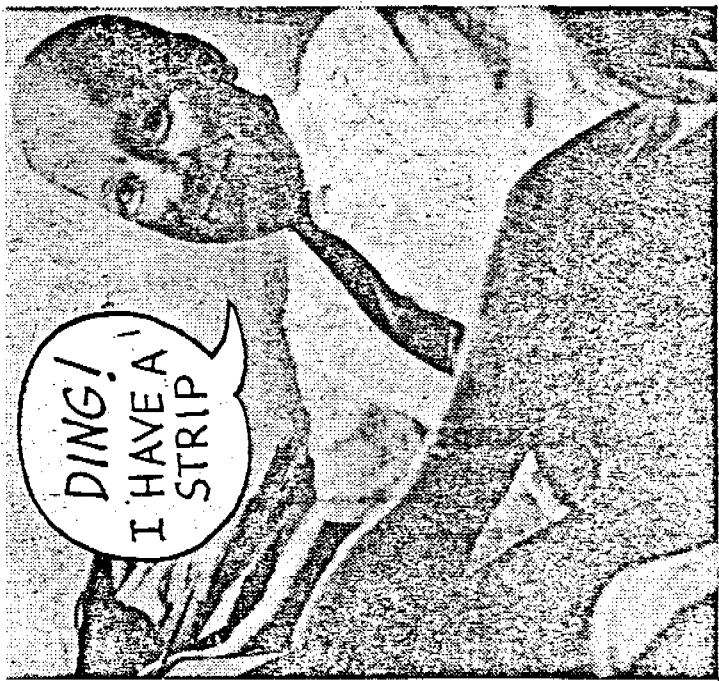
Sellers claims he is taking on Eb's characteristics and finds himself saying Ebisms. "I once remarked to Marge that Americans ate more than Englishmen. She said, 'Yes, at meals. But Englishmen eat all day long.' I said, 'I know, but eating makes me hungry.' Ding! I had a strip. I wish this happened more often."



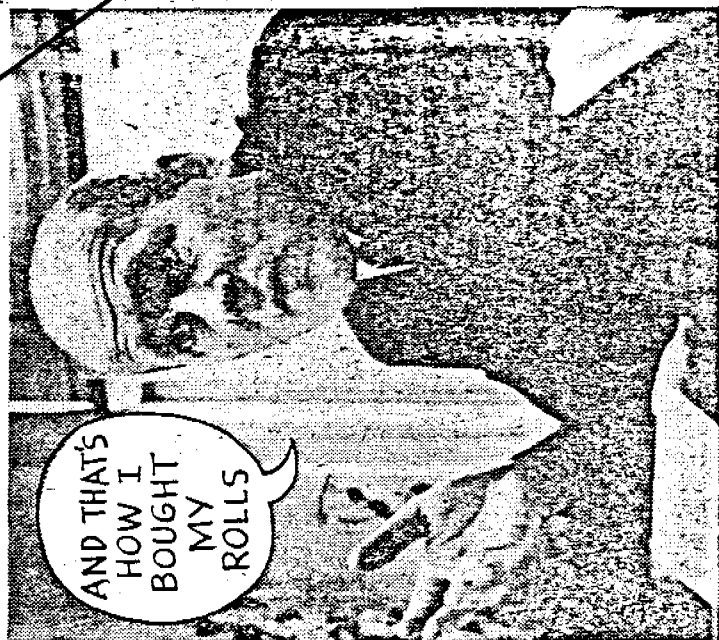
OUR COVER picture and the pictures on these pages were taken by Sun photographer Bob West. The cover shows a portion of a stained glass window credited to Benjamin Sellers, which graces Saxville Congregational Church.



HE'S SOLEMN, THEN IT'S FUNNY



DING! I HAVE A STRIP



AND THAT'S HOW I BOUGHT MY ROLLS

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TOWN OF ISLIP
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

TO: *Orelia Smyth*

DATE: *6/28/05* *Piccolo*

RE:

The attached papers are referred for the purpose indicated below:

- As requested
- Please note and file
- Please review and advise
- Please handle
- For your information

REMARKS:

Gene Murphy

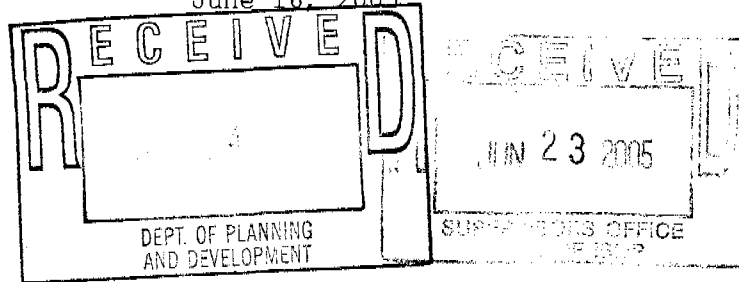
Signature



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

June 16, 2005



Mr. Pete McGowan
Town Supervisor
Town of Islip
655 Main Street
Islip, NY 11751

Re: Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
131 Middle Road
Sayville, Nassau County

Dear Mr. McGowan:

Following a detailed review, the State Review Board has recommended to the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, who is the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), that the property identified above be listed on the New York State Register of Historic Places and nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

After reviewing the nomination, the SHPO has agreed with the recommendation of the State Review Board and has listed the property on the State Register of Historic Places. We shall now forward the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D. C.

If the Keeper of the National Register approves the nomination, the property will be listed on the National Register. You will be notified when this decision is made.

Information about the results of State and National Register listing were included in our earlier notification letter. If you have any further questions, please contact your field representative Virginia Bartos, at the New York State Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau or call (518) 237-8643 ext. 3256.

Sincerely,

Ruth L. Pierpont
Director
Historic Preservation
Field Services Bureau

RLP:lsa