

**BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

WI 21

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

UNIQUE SITE NO. 10305.006737  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NRE

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: February 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

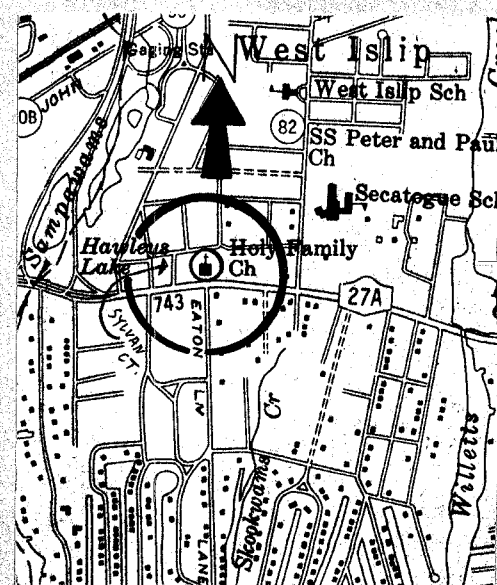
**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Christ Church/Ukranian Holy Family Church
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: West Islip
- 3. STREET LOCATION: South Country Rd., north side, opp. Eaton Ln.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. USE: Original: church Present: church
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain by app't.

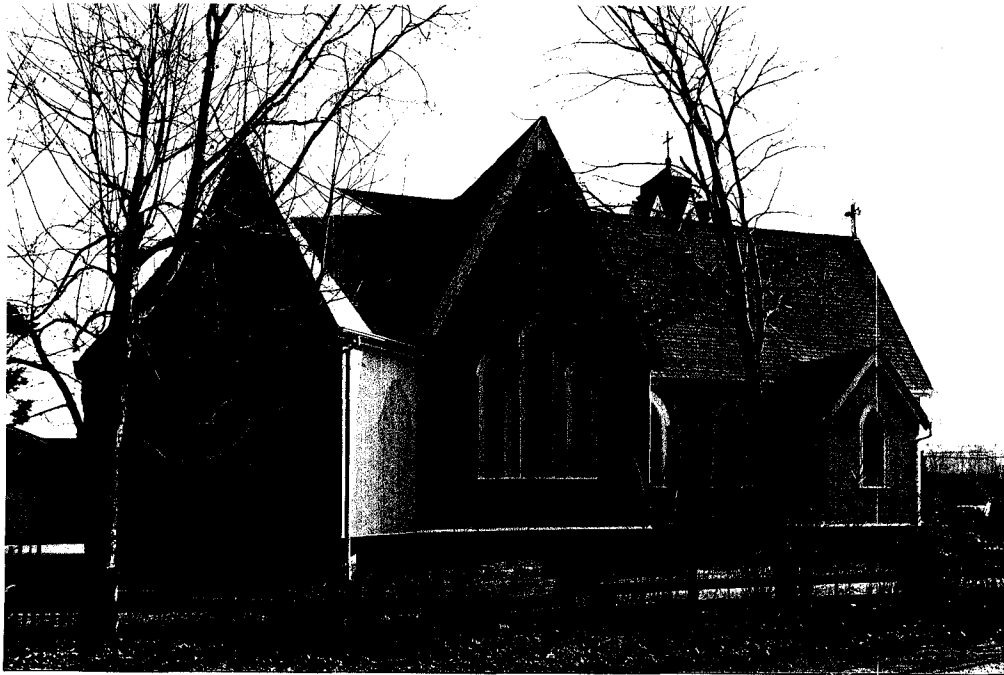
**DESCRIPTION**

- 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? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):  
steeple tip missing

12. PHOTO: Neg. KK IX-7, fm. SE 13. MAP: NYS DOT Bay Shore West Quad



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: mid 20th century rectory directly west
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 church building is located on the north side of the South Country Road among predominantly commercial buildings that line the north and south sides of the road. Residential areas lie to the north and south, containing a mix of both historic and recently constructed houses.
18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):  
 The church building is a 1½ story, steep gable roof, cross axial plan building with a dominating, three story entrance tower and steeple base. The tower's second story is finished with Gothic Revival flat arch gables on each facet. The steeple base above is octagonal with Gothic Revival windows and gables. Tripartied and single Gothic Revival windows throughout feature hood moldings of the period.
- SIGNIFICANCE**
19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1870/71
- ARCHITECT: \_\_\_\_\_
- BUILDER: \_\_\_\_\_
20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:  
 Built as Christ Church Parish, this was the second church to be built in West Islip. (The first was Presbyterian and was destroyed by the British during the American Revolution.) The site was donated by Dr. Wagstaff. In 1945 Christ Church was sold and the Parish activities were consolidated in the Village of Babylon. The property was purchased by the Holy Family Ukranian Catholic Church to serve the many Ukranians who had come to West Islip.  
 This building was listed in 1969 in Long Island Landmarks which was published by the NYS Office of Planning Coordination. It was the only listing for West Islip. The structure was considered as one of the best remaining examples of its architectural period and important for local
21. SOURCES: historical association.  
 Wilcox, Gerald and Judith. First History of West Islip, 1976.  
 Smits, E.J. Long Island Landmarks, 1969.
22. THEME:



Neg. KK XI-5, fm. NW, showing unusual arrangement of projecting bays.  
(rear and side view)

(Holy family)

The second church to be built in West Islip, was Christ Church Parish. On Aug. 28, 1869, a congregation met and organized a parish by electing the following men to serve as Wardens and Vestrymen; Alfred Wagstaff and Benjamin K. True, Wardens, Effingham B. Sutton, Thomas C. Lyman, Richard Arnold, John Tappen and Alfred Wagstaff, Jr., Vestrymen. Richard Arnold was made Treasurer and Alfred Wagstaff, Jr., Clerk of the Vestry.

At their first meeting, Articles of Incorporation under the title of "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Christs' Church, in the Town of Islip, County of Suffolk and the State of New York," were signed, sealed and filed.

Plans to build a church were started at once and ground was broken Aug. 6, 1870 on a site in West Islip donated by Dr. Wagstaff. The building was completed and ready for services on Easter Day, April 9, 1871, when the Rev. John R. Stanley, priest-in-charge, conducted the first service in the new church.

Christ Church was consecrated by Bishop Littlejohn on July 3, 1871, the first church to be consecrated by him, and the first to be consecrated in the Diocese of Long Island after its separation from New York. Christ Church Parish was admitted to the Diocese of Long Island in 1874.

When Christ Church, West Islip, was built, many Babylon residents felt that it should have been located in that village; and in the summer and fall of 1877 these people, under the leadership of the Rev. Thomas Cook of Riverhead, L.I. held services in the newly erected Baptist Church of Main Street and Carl Ave., Babylon. These services ceased on Nov. of that year and were not resumed.

By 1885 the Rev. Samuel Moran, then Rector of Christ Church, had overcome all opposition to holding services in Babylon, and evening services were held in rented buildings until 1889.

A site for a chapel was selected on George Street, Babylon and in 1889 a chapel was erected and opened for services on

September 29th of that year. All services were held there, except the 11 o'clock service that was held in the Church in West Islip. About 1931, it had become customary to close the Church in West Islip during the winter.

Finally in Oct. 1945, Christ Church building and property in West Islip was sold and the activities of the Parish were consolidated in the Village of Babylon.

The church building is now owned by the Holy Family Ukranian Catholic Church. The steeple of the church is now missing, it may have gone down in a storm, but this is not certain.

The following is a list of rectors and priests-in-charge with their terms of service as nearly as can be ascertained:

THE REV. JOHN R. STANLEY — April, 1871 to June, 1871, Priest-in-charge: June 1, 1871 to June 1, 1873, Rector.

THE REV. FREDERICK BREWTON CARTER — Sept. 1, 1873 to April 3, 1875, Rector. (Deacon and Priest).

THE REV. JAMES D. DRUMM — Oct. 1875 to April, 1876 Priest-in-charge: April, 1876 to Oct. 1877, Rector.

THE REV. JOHN MILTON STEVENS — Aug. 1878 to June, 1880, Rector

THE REV. CHARLES BRASSINGTON MEE — June, 1880 to July, 1881, Priest-in-charge.

THE REV. SAMUEL MORAN — Nov. 1, 1881 to July 1896, Rector.

THE REV. ISAAC NEWTON PHELPS — Nov. 1896 to Mar. 1897, Priest-in-charge. (Deacon)

THE REV. GEORGE DOWNING SPARKS — June 1897 to July 1908, Rector.

THE REV. EDWARD JONES BURLINGHAM — Nov. 15, 1908 to July 25, 1934, Rector.

THE REV. CRANSTON BRENTON — In temporary charge of the parish from Oct. 1934 to Nov. 1935

THE REV. JOHN ELLIS LARGE — Nov. 1, 1935 to Oct. 1936, Rector.

*Ukrainian Church, West Islip*





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

Joan K. Davidson  
Commissioner

RESOURCE EVALUATION

DATE: 08/11/94

STAFF: Peter Shaver

PROPERTY: Ukranian Holy Family Church

MCD: Islip

ADDRESS: South Country Rd., West Islip

COUNTY: Suffolk

PROJECT REF: \_\_\_\_\_

USN: 10305.000737

I.  Property is individually listed on SR/NR:

name of listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Property is a contributing component of a SR/NR district:

name of district: \_\_\_\_\_

II.  Property meets eligibility criteria.

Property contributes to a district which appears to meet eligibility criteria. Pre SRB:  Post SRB:

SRB date

**Criteria for Inclusion in the National Register:**

- A.  Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B.  Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C.  Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possess high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- D.  Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Ukranian Holy Family Church is architecturally significant as an intact, representative example of Victorian period ecclesiastical architecture in Suffolk County. Built in 1870-71 as Christ Episcopal Church, it exhibits characteristics typical of small Gothic Revival churches of the second half of the nineteenth century, including pointed arch openings with drip moldings, asymmetrical composition, high-pitched roof with molded bargeboards, and prominent tower. Although the stuccoed facades of the frame building may date to the early-twentieth century and the spire of the steeple has been removed, the building appears to retain a high level of integrity. It was identified as a significant landmark in the Town of Islip in a comprehensive Reconnaissance Level Survey completed in 1990 by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities.

West Islip

Part II

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