



Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities

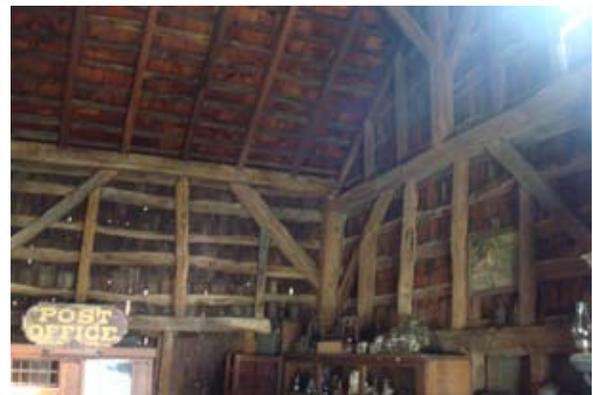
LONG ISLAND'S LIST OF ENDANGERED HISTORIC SITES: 2010

I. Sayer Barn (1739)

Southampton, 1 acre
(museum property with nine relocated historic structures)
Village of Southampton
National Register designated
Nominator: Southampton Historical Museum
Owner: Southampton Historical Museum (1953)

Directly connected to the Revolutionary War conflict and associated with the loss of the 1648 Sayer family homestead that catalyzed Southampton Village's preservation movement, the Sayer Barn was saved and moved to the Southampton Historical Museum in 1953. The building maintains most of its original material and is threatened by environmental factors – moisture, powder post beetles, failing wood surfaces, and a bad foundation built when the barn was relocated. The structure needs repair urgently, and the museum, managing five historic properties with a total of fifteen historic structures, is hard pressed to find funds.

Issues raised by this nomination: the national epidemic of local historical museums faced with maintenance responsibilities that out-demand capacity. A save would entail funding support for an historic structure assessment to prioritize and begin an appropriate work program.



Photos courtesy: Southampton Historical Museum

2. Bogheid, Prybil Estate (1938)

Glen Cove, 6 acres
City of Glen Cove
Not designated
Nominator: Zach Lemle (Old Long Island Blog spot)
Owner: Martin Cary (not aware of nomination)

A little known Delano and Aldrich commission built in 1938 for Helen Porter Prybil in the French Manorial style. The property is located on a privately-owned six-acre parcel within the Glen Cove Municipal Golf Course in an area where other estate houses have been reused for institutional purposes. Currently vacant, the property is threatened by advanced neglect and no known plans for rehabilitation. There appears to be no local interest in this building and it is not protected by landmark designation. *Issues raised by this nomination:* the need for effective planning and incentives to encourage the reuse of large historic country houses no longer in use as single family residences. A save would entail a coordinated effort between the property owner and city government to develop a feasible reuse.



Photos courtesy: Zack Lemle

3. Canoe Place Inn (1922)

Hampton Bays

Town of Southampton

Local landmark designation approved; owner's refusal overrides.

Nominator: Hampton Bays Historical & Preservation Society

Owner: Reckson Associates (early 2000s; not aware of nom.)

Marking the site of Native American portage and an important colonial era inn, the current building, designed by William L. Bottomley replaces the original that burned in 1921. A busy hot spot for NYC politicians and celebrities during the first half of the twentieth century, the property has become a cultural landmark and a place of deep affection for local residents. The property's current owner is a developer seeking demolition to create a time-share community (initiated in 2007). The owner claims the building is not sound for reuse but advocates (of which there are many including the Town Landmarks and Historic Districts Board) disagree. A town-issued moratorium on the project has suppressed the threat of demolition temporarily, but this ends in January 2010 when the moratorium is lifted. A save for this property involves rehabilitation of the Canoe Place Inn for reuse in the proposed new development. Rehabilitation tax credits and local incentives could play a role in project feasibility. *Issues raised by this nomination:* The role local advocates and residents play in defining their community's historic resources and the need for strong local landmark ordinance to protect them.



Photos courtesy: Hampton Bays Historical & Preservation Society

4. Booker T. Washington House (late 19th cent.)

Fort Salonga, 2-4 acres

Town of Huntington

Local designation, No National Register

Nominator: Friends of Booker T. Washington House

Owner: John Rice (2007; not aware of nomination)

Booker T. Washington's Long Island summer home from 1911 until his death in 1914, this house has been unoccupied since the 1990s and is located in coastal erosion hazard zone. In 2009, the current owner, who purchased the property three years after local landmark designation, petitioned the town to lift designation status in order to allow demolition. A huge public upheaval caused the petition to be withdrawn, and a new reuse plan is currently under development. The plan entails moving the building (required to stabilize the shoreline) and has yet to go before a public hearing. A save for this building involves ensuring that its reuse treatment is consistent with plans approved by the Hunting Landmarks Commission and that every effort is made to retain as much original material as possible. *Issues raised by this nomination:* the importance of valuing under-represented historic African-American sites on Long Island, and the need for buyers of designated historic properties to be supportive of their preservation.



Photos courtesy: Thelma Jackson Abidally

5. St. Paul's School, 1879

Garden City, within 48-acre designated parkland
Village of Garden City
National Register listed
Nominator: Garden City Historical Society
Owner: Village of Garden City (1993; not aware of nomination)

Designed by E. H. Harris, and built as a memorial to Garden City founder, Alexander T. Stewart by his wife Cornelia, the Gothic Revival St. Paul's School has been the subject of much community strife since it was purchased by the village in 1993. Vacant ever since, several redevelopment proposals have emerged over the years, but Village Trustees have failed to take a solid leadership role in developing a community approved reuse plan. Now seeking demolition, the village is currently preparing an EIS (Environmental Impact Study as per the SEQRA process) to establish that no alternatives can be found. For the first time, the building will not be heated during the winter. St. Paul's School is one of the most substantial historic buildings on Long Island and it is now one of the most threatened. *Issues raised by this nomination:* the need for government leadership to work with the community in developing reuse plan for historic properties in public ownership. A save would involve the community voting "no" on the allocation of funds for demolition followed by the development of a real plan for the buildings rehabilitation and reuse.



Photos courtesy: SPLIA