



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION South Swan Street Bldg. South Mall, Albany, New York 12223 Information 518 474-0456

Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner

NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION South Swan Street Bldg. South Mall, Albany, New York 12223

Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner

OFFICE
OFFICE COPY

July 12, 1973

Mr. Charles Harrington
National Register Office
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Harrington:

I am resubmitting the Hamilton White House and the
Sag Harbor Historic District nominations with their corrected
maps.

The Hamilton White House in Syracuse is in jeopardy,
and when first preparing the form the staff felt it was
not wise to wait to prepare a district nomination. Already
the individual nomination has had an influential effect toward
the building's preservation, and it would help to proceed with
the designation at this time.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 24th.

Sincerely,

Cornelia E. Brooke

Cornelia E. Brooke
Research Assistant
Division for Historic
Preservation

CEB/aa

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE PROPERTY IS RESUBMITTED. DATE: 7-10-73
NAME OF PROPERTY Sag Harbor Village District, N.Y.

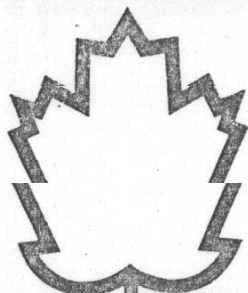
The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.
office for clarification of the information indicated below.

1. Name. _____
2. Location. _____
3. Classification. _____
4. Owner of Property. _____
5. Location of Legal Description. _____
6. Representation in Existing Surveys. _____
7. Description. _____
8. Statement of Significance. _____
9. Bibliography. _____
- ☒ 10. Geographical Data.
 - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. Longitude (or Latitude) appears to be off by about 4/secs. Please check.
 - b. Acreage. _____
11. Form Prepared By. _____
12. Certification. _____
- Photographic Coverage. _____
- Map Coverage. _____
- Other. _____

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy the National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked. Thanks,

SIGNED: Charles A. Harrington



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION

• South Swan Street Building, South Mall, Albany, N.Y. 12223

Alexander Aldrich
Commissioner

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Historic Preservation Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Sag Harbor Village District

The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Committee on the Registers in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the New York State Division for Historic Preservation, the officially designated Preservation Agency, would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER ALDRICH
State Historic Preservation
Officer

By:

F. L. RATH, JR.
Deputy Commissioner

Form 10-301
(July 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME

COMMON

Sag Harbor Village
District

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

2. LOCATION

STATE

New York

COUNTY

Suffolk

TOWN

Sag Harbor

STREET AND NUMBER

Various

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

Village Map by Sag Harbor
Savings Bank

DATE

ca. 1972

SCALE

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York	
COUNTY: Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME					
COMMON: Sag Harbor Village District					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Various					
CITY OR TOWN: Sag Harbor					
STATE New York		CODE 36	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 103	
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Various					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Sag Harbor			STATE: New York	CODE 36	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Suffolk County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Riverhead			STATE: New York	CODE 36	
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: New York State Historic Resources Survey					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: N. Y. S. Division for Historic Preservation					
STREET AND NUMBER: Office of Parks and Recreation, So. Swan Street Building					
CITY OR TOWN: Albany			STATE: New York	CODE 36	
Representative: Otis G. Pike Congressional District: 1					

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

OFFICE COPY

 STATE: New York
 COUNTY: Suffolk
 ENTRY NUMBER
 DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

6. Representation in Existing ^(Continuation Sheet) Surveys

(Number all entries)

Long Island Landmarks
1970, Reprinted 1971 State
State office of Planning Coordination
488 Broadway
Albany, NY

The Architecture of Suffolk County
1971 County
Heckescher Museum, Huntington
Parrish Art Museum, Southampton
Guild Hall of East Hampton

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed (Check One)
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site (Check One)
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered (Check One)
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site (Check One)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hemmed in by hills, marshes, and bodies of water, Sag Harbor underwent a clustered, close-knit form of development. Since the principal movements in the Village's formative period were in a north-south direction, to and from the waterfront and its associated business district, the street pattern is dominated by major routes radiating from a point on the waterfront near Long Wharf. East-west movements between the radial streets was clearly secondary.

The lower (northern) section of what is now Main Street was first laid out in 1745. At the time of the Revolution, the Sag Harbor Settlement extended as far south as Union Street and an early map indicates the presence of the northerly section of Madison Street. Development of the waterfront was only beginning at this time, but there were already several docks and wharfs including what is now Long Wharf. Much of the central core of the village developed by the close of the 1840's, but "froze" to a large extent during the depression of the third quarter of the 19th century. With the economic revival that accompanied industrial enterprise, and the village's role as a summer colony, many of the remaining streets developed late in the 19th century in the area surrounding the old central core.

The present district extends southward from the waterfront along the major radial streets: Main, Madison, Division, and Hampton. West of Main Street the district includes portions of John, Glover, Bayview, Howard, Garden, Spring, Bridge, Rose, Meadow, and Nassau Streets. The district reaches eastward from Division and Hampton Streets to include parts of Rector, Burke, Love, East Union, High, and Hempstead Streets. The southern boundary is an irregular line drawn between Main and Hampton Streets with emphasis on the corridors along the north-south routes.

The central core of the village, which envelops the waterfront business district and spreads south along the major radial streets, is characterized by a heavy concentration of buildings of the colonial, Federal, and Greek Revival styles. It is this concentration, notable for its quantity as well as the quality of certain individual structures, which gives particular credence to the late 19th-century observer's description of Sag Harbor as a "finished village," which stopped growing c1850.

A common form in this district is the 18th and early 19th century, wood-frame, three-bay or "half house," found in both 1-1/2 and 2-1/2-story versions. Representative of the former are the Finker Alley Tavern and two dwellings on the west side of Church Street (north and south of the junction with Sage Street). These shingled and clapboarded cottages are generally plain with interior end chimneys and rectangular door enframe-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

7. Description p. 2 (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

ments incorporating four-or six-light transoms. Several cottages of this form also bear details expressive of the Greek Revival mode.

Also common in the village is the 2-1/2 story side-hall half-house which is represented by the Nathaniel Prime House (c 1797) and the Benjamin Glover House (c1810). The former, a shingled, gable-roofed structure, is ornamented only by the detail of its door enframingent. Built by and for carpenter-builder Benjamin Glover, the Glover House is a more elaborated example of this building type. Notable features include fascia board ornamented by applied blocks imitative of stylized modillions, door enframingents with fluted Tuscan pilasters, and a one-bay pedimental porch.

The finest example of the wood-frame, 1-1/2 story, 5-bay structures in Sag Harbor is the Jared Wade House (c1797), at the corner of Madison and Union Streets. Served by interior end chimneys, this form is usually very simple. The Wade House is distinctive for its well-proportioned, finely detailed door enframingent composed of molded architrave with leaded transom and side-lights surrounded by an elliptical fanlight. The Burdick House on Garden Street is similar although less sophisticated.

The two-story, five-bay building form of the Colonial and Federal periods is exemplified by the Custom House (1789) on Garden Street and the Sybil Douglas House on Main Street. The former is a very commodious but simple, shingled and clapboarded structure ornamented only by its mantel-frame door with wood-muntined transom in a fan pattern. More consciously elaborated, the gambrel-roofed Douglas House is distinctive for its modillioned cornice, pedimental facade gable with lunette window, elliptical windows canted toward the center in the gable ends, and the elliptical motifs of its door enframingent and pedimented porch.

The Greek Revival Mode of architectural design may be found expressed in a variety of structures from the simplest vernacular cottages to sophisticated designs such as the Benjamin Hunting House. In addition to the one and 1/2 story, three-bay cottage bearing Greek Revival Motifs, the vernacular expression of this style is also exemplified in Sag Harbor by the Hand House, representative of many similar dwellings. Sited with its gable end serving as the front elevation, the dwelling is characterized by a period door enframingent and two-story corner pilasters rising to a modillioned pediment which encloses a triangular, leaded window. The L'Hommedieu House at the corner of Main and Bayview Streets, is unique in Sag Harbor. Urban in its vertical, enclosed, cubical shape, the brick and brownstone dwelling stands nearly three full stories, with the top story lit by low horizontal

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET P. 2

Form 10-300a
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NATIONAL INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE New York	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

windows in a wide frieze. Especially elegant detail may be found in the door enframement.

The only temple-front Greek Revival structure in Sag Harbor, the Benjamin Huntting House, now the Whalers Museum, is a striking articulation of this style, significant for the elegance, attenuated grace, and rich multiplicity of detail. Attributed to Minard LaFever, the structure is irregular in outline yet balanced in composition. Worthy of particular note is the above-cornice cresting which employs the whaling motifs of harpoon and spade.

The architectural highlight of the district is the nationally significant Whalers Presbyterian Church situated on Union Street between Church and Division Streets. Attributed to Minard LaFever, the structure's battered walls exhibit Egyptian Revival tendencies as do the tall slit-like windows. Detail is varied and includes Greek Revival Motifs as well as above-cornice edging composed of adaptations of whaling implements. The structure's tall tower was destroyed in a hurricane of 1937.

One of the purest examples of the Gothic Revival Style in the village, the dwelling on the southeast corner of William and Henry Streets is characterized by high pointed cross-gables, C-scrolled barge boards, finials at the apex of the gables, and pointed windows with wooden tracery. The architectural modes of this period may be found expressed on numerous structures in the village by the simplification of the above motifs and by a proliferation of applied wooden ornament. The Hedges House on Main Street perhaps best illustrates the use of milled ornament common for much of the Victorian Period.

Constructed with the accumulated wealth of whaling prosperity just as the village entered its economic depression, the Hannibal-French House is a fine example of the Italianate style. Rich in detail, the structure is elegant yet not excessive. This period of construction in Sag Harbor also produced the Napier-Howell House, a large, clapboarded, hip-roofed dwelling crowned by a balustrade and ornate belvedere. Another structure dating from the third quarter of the 19th century which deserves particular mention is the mansard-roofed Crocket House on Main Street, one of the few examples of this form in Sag Harbor.

The construction which followed the fire of 1877 and the revival of the village's economy during the latter part of the 19th century, occurred in the outlying blocks of the village and in the waterfront business district. In addition to simple utilitarian structures such as the Murray Hill Hose Company building at the junction of Elizabeth and Atlantic Streets this period is illustrated in the southern regions of the village by structures

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GPO 921-724

Form 10-300a
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNTY	
Suffolk	
Suffolk	
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7. Description p. 4 (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

such as the Schuman House at the junction of John and Columbia Streets, and the three-story, clapboarded and shingled dwelling on the east side of Palmer Terrace at the bend. Compactly massed with a turret beginning at the second floor, the latter is a shingled structure varied by applied "strapwork" ornament, overhung second floor, and laticed porches. Also worthy of note is the John Jermain Library erected in 1910 in the classical revival style across Main Street from the Hunting House.

Long Wharf, located at the base of Main Street forms the focal point of the waterfront area today. A wood-framed windmill has been moved to a point in front of the wharf and from this point, a series of three-story, late 19th-century brick structures extend southward up Main Street to the convergence of Main and Madison where stand several commercial structures constructed of wood-frame and sheathed by shingles or clapboards. The streetscape of the business district is largely dominated by two buildings which substantially predate the last fire: the three-story, six-bay, crenellated, brick block begun after the 1845 fire and known since 1877 as the American Hotel; and the four-story, brick Municipal Building. Originally built following the 1845 fire, the latter structure has undergone some ornamental alterations during its long history as hotel, school, and municipal hall. Notable features are the cupola, clustered octagonal brownstone columns, and a bracketed cornice. Behind the main business structures are numerous largely wood-frame dependencies, with the notable exception of the Bulova Watch Company Building located at Washington and Division Streets. Begun in 1881 for the Fahys Watch Case Factory, the four-story brick structure, punctuated by a series of segmental-arched windows, is dominated by a five-story tower.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A whaling community which flourished during the first half of the 19th century, the Sag Harbor Village District is an historical environment of 18th and 19th century structures remarkably uninterrupted by 20th century intrusions. Maritime and cultural links with New England associate the village visually with ports of that region rather than with other communities of New York. Formerly a U.S. Port of Entry and a center of maritime trade and commerce, the village is extraordinary for the quantity of structures present from the 18th and first half of the 19th century, as well as for the quality of individual buildings.

Growth of the agricultural hinterland of eastern Long Island by mid-18th century created a demand for a convenient outlet for agricultural surplus and a depot for the importation of goods and raw materials. In response, the "Harbor of Saggs", well endowed with natural physical advantages, developed as a port which, by 1770, had generated a village of 36 dwellings. The relative ease of water-borne commerce with New England, and the opening of trade with the West Indies between 1760 and 1770 made Sag Harbor a seaport of substantial economic significance. The opening of a stage route between the village and New York City reaffirmed the importance of Sag Harbor's geographic position, a factor recognized during the Revolution by the British who occupied Long Island from the defeat of the Americans at the Battle of Long Island in August 1776 until evacuation in November 1783. Sag Harbor became an important supply depot as well as a base for the British fleet and site of a British fort constructed near the present Whaler's Church.

At the close of the Revolution the whaling industry belonged predominantly to Nantucket, with 150 vessels and 2000 men employed. At this time the industry on Long Island still constituted a small-scale, offshore enterprise for small ships. In 1785 Col. Benjamin Huntting and Captain Stephen Howell of Sag Harbor outfitted the brig Lucy and sent her on a whaling voyage to the coasts of Brazil and Africa. By the end of the 18th century Sag Harbor's home fleet amounted to only four vessels but whaling was exhibiting considerable promise.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL KEYSTONE NOMINATION FORM
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
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8. Significance p. 2 (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Although Whaling was still in its infancy for Long Island, Sag Harbor's shipping prospered and in 1788 brought to the village designation as a United States Port of Entry, the first in New York State. (The village ceased to function in this capacity in 1913.) Between 1790 and 1800 some 100 vessels called at the port and registered tonnage more than quadrupled during the decade 1795 to 1805. By 1810 Sag Harbor's population totaled 850. Trade at this period consisted of exports such as wood, grains, leather, and fish, while imports included lumber, stone, brick lime and general merchandise.

The War of 1812 temporarily interrupted the quarter-century of growth which had occurred in Sag Harbor following the Revolution. With the close of the war in 1814 whaling resumed on a small scale and in 1817 the first ships of Sag Harbor sailed to Cape Horn and the Pacific. On May 26th, 1817, the village was struck by the first of three destructive fires which on separate occasions were to consume major portions of the business district. Recovery from the debilitating effects of both war and fire was slow, and the port did not regain its former importance until the 1820s and early 1830s when whaling vessels increased noticeably in quantity.

The burgeoning whaling industry developed rapidly, and with it the economic wealth of the port. Shipping records from 1820 to 1850 indicate the arrival of 490 ships with total value estimated at nearly \$15 million, nearly half of which occurred in the decade 1837-1847. At its peak in 1845 the Sag Harbor whaling fleet numbered 63 vessels, operated by twelve firms, and two years later, a total of 32 whaling vessels returned to the port laden with cargo valued at nearly one million dollars. In the 1840s Sag Harbor employed more than 1000 seamen in addition to village residents in the whaling industry and ranked as a whaling port behind only New Bedford and Nantucket, thus surpassing the ports of New York, Mystic, and Providence as well as the other ports of Long Island. In addition to the volume of its commerce, Sag Harbor's shipping history includes two other distinctions: in 1845 Capt. Mercator Cooper is believed to have flown the first American flag in a Japanese port from the whaleship "Manhattan" of Sag Harbor, and in 1848 the bark "Superior" of Sag Harbor is understood to have been the first whaler of any nation to pass through the Bering Strait into the Arctic Ocean.

According to James Fenimore Cooper, "the true Maritime character of...all Suffolk, was derived from the whalers, and its proper nucleus was...at Sag Harbor."² By the time the industry reached its height at the close of the 1840's much of the wealth which produced the statelier dwellings had been amassed and much of the central core of the Village, between Jermain Avenue and the

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 2

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STATE	
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Suffolk	
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8. Significance p. 3 (Continuation Sheet)

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waterfront had developed. The population of the Village swelled from 150 following the 1817 fire to more than 3,600 by 1845. The completion of the Main Line of the L. I. Railroad to Greenport in 1844, combined with the bridge to North Haven, built in 1834, helped to fix Sag Harbor's position as a communications line and point of transportation interchange for eastern Long Island.

By the year 1845 there were some 80 firms doing business on Main Street in the compactly developed area of the waterfront. On November 12 fire destroyed approximately 95 of the densely packed wooden structures of Main Street and the Waterfront, which constituted the entire lower western part of the village. Re-building began almost immediately but placed a severe strain on an economy which in 1848 began an abrupt decline with the whaling industry throughout the country. By 1850 the number of whale ships enrolled in the Sag Harbor Customs District had dwindled from a peak of 63 to 14. Only four whaling vessels arrived at the port in 1851, with a cargo valued at only \$175,000, and by 1869 no whaleships left port.

With the 1850's and 1860's the once prosperous village dwindled into a severe economic depression. Contemporaries described it as:

...one deserted village--a seaport from which all life has departed..." and, in 1876, "merely a place in which farmers do a little trading... The houses all have a comfortable, cozy look... [Sag Harbor] is a finished village. It stopped growing a quarter century ago..."³

On February 18, 1877 the third of Sag Harbor's major conflagrations swept the wharves and business section of the Village, destroying 31 buildings including the music hall, Nassau House Hotel, Flour mill, residences on Rysam Street, and the remaining whaling warehouses. This fire marks the close of the village's depression, for although several manufacturing ventures had begun and failed, Joseph Fahys successfully relocated his watch-case factory in 1881 in Sag Harbor where it proved the village's economic mainstay until forced to close during the depression in 1930. It was this factory, together with Sag Harbor's position as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural area, and its appeal as a summer colony of small cottages that kept the village alive economically in the last quarter of the 19th and the early 20th centuries. At its lowest ebb in the mid 1870's, Sag Harbor's population had dropped to slightly over 2,000. In 1907 the Brooklyn Eagle observed that:

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Form 10-300a
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
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STATE New York	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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8. Significance p. 4

(Number all entries)

Sag Harbor has awakened from its moribund condition that followed the decline of the whaling industry and become a hustling manufacturing village of from 4,500 to 5,000 population, but not as important relatively as fifty years ago.

Today the village economy is based on four major industries, the influx of seasonal residents and tourists, and retail trade. In anticipation of the influx of population and resultant pressures upon the land which can be expected if the potential for suburbanization of eastern Long Island is fulfilled, the village of Sag Harbor is currently studying methods to control growth in order to safeguard the significant contribution made by its historic resources to the visual environment of Sag Harbor.

- 1 Historical material is drawn from Robert M. Pine's Report to the Sag Harbor Historic Preservation Commission, Of Whales, Wars, and Fires: Sag Harbor Past, Present and Future, June 1973.
- 2 Quoted in Pine, Of Whales, Wars, and Fires..., p. 28.
- 3 The Corrector, December 9, 1876, quoted in Pine, Of Whales, Wars, and Fires..., p. 58.
- 4 Quoted in Pine, Of Whales, Wars, and Fires..., p. 58.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pine, Robert M. Of Whales, Wars and Fires: Sag Harbor Past, Present and Future. A Proposed Historic Preservation Program for the Village of Sag Harbor prepared by the Sag Harbor Historic Preservation Commission of the Village Planning Board, June, 1973.

Rosebrock, Ellen Fletcher. Architecture in Sag Harbor, New York. A report prepared for the Sag Harbor Historic Preservation Commission, December 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41° 00' 17"	72° 18' 18"	0		
NE	41° 00' 17"	72° 17' 51"			
SE	40° 59' 30"	72° 17' 51"			
SW	40° 59' 30"	72° 18' 18"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 300 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Commission	
Lynn Beebe Weaver / Robert Pine (Sag Harbor Historic Preservation)		DATE	
ORGANIZATION		June 73	
N.Y.S. Division for Historic Preservation			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
South Swan St. Bldg./			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Albany		New York	36

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS