NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Field Club and Farm

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 86 West Meadow Road ☐ not for publication

city or town East Setauket ☐ vicinity

state New York code NY county Suffolk code 103 zip code 11733

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

Ruth A Pruyent DSHPO 12/10/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

for Alexis Abernathy 2/2/16
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Old Field Club and Farm
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

X	private
X	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

	building(s)
X	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
95	4	buildings
1	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
97	5	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL / Clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE / Sports Facility
AGRICULTURE / Animal Facility
EDUCATION / School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL / Clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE / Sports Facility
AGRICULTURE / Animal Facility
DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS / Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Clapboard, Shingle
roof: Asphalt, Metal
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Old Field Club and Farm is located on West Meadow Road on the northern edge of the hamlet of Stony Brook and the southern edge of the Village of Old Field within the Town of Brookhaven in Suffolk County. Located on east central Long Island, Brookhaven is the only town in Suffolk County that extends from the North Shore to the South Shore. Stony Brook is situated on the North Shore on the northwestern edge of the town and Old Field is situated on a vaguely half-moon shaped peninsula that extends into Long Island Sound; West Meadow Road forms the boundary between these two entities. Due to its geographical and political interconnectedness, this region, which is framed by Port Jefferson Harbor and the Smithtown Bay and includes Stony Brook, the Setaukets, Old Field, and Poquott, is often referred to as the Three Villages. The relatively low-lying, coastal land features a series of peninsulas and harbors, natural creeks, and wetlands. Particularly north of 25A, the main east-west route along the North Shore, the land in the Setaukets has been developed over the past hundred years into upscale suburban residential developments with winding, tree-lined roads; following the peninsula north, homes are sited on increasingly larger lots, particularly in the Village of Old Field.

The Club and Farm property is bounded to the south by West Meadow Creek. The creek forms a pond at its northernmost extent by the club and another pond alongside the horse show / farm grounds; although a natural waterway existed here, both of these ponds appear to have been created or modified as part of the landscape design for the club. West Meadow Road runs north of the club and farm property and turns south to parallel the beach. As the road turns south, it splits slightly to form the driveway to the Old Field Beach property. The parcels which make up the 22.5-acre nominated Club, Farm, and Beach property were historically maintained for the use of the club and its members.

Narrative Description

The Old Field Club and Farm is a private recreational club organized in 1930 as an amenity for residents in the Old Field area. The club is made up of four parcels which each have a distinct identity: the Club, Schoolhouse, Farm and Horse Show grounds, and Beach Club and Cabanas. Each parcel, most containing multiple historic resources, is described within this section in turn, proceeding from east to west. All properties are considered contributing unless noted otherwise.

Old Field Club

The Old Field Club parcel is located on the northeastern end of the district, at the intersection of West Meadow and Mount Grey Roads. Trees and a wooden fence line the roadway along the edge of the club's 4.5-acre parcel. Two driveways provide access to the club's large crushed stone parking lot. The clubhouse and a small, grassy park are located in the southern portion of the parcel; a pro shop and tennis courts are located to the northeast. The club extends right up to the shore of West Meadow Creek. A planting of evergreens are situated in a semicircle along the eastern edge of the creek; another small grove of evergreens and deciduous trees screens the southern and eastern tennis courts from adjacent private property and the road.

Clubhouse, 1930, 1936, ca. 1947

The Old Field Club clubhouse is a two-story, frame, sprawling, multi-gabled building covered in clapboard. The club is essentially made up of three sections based on periods of construction. The primary, historic core of the club is essentially made up of three front-gabled sections connected by wide, side-gabled sections; it is approximately twelve bays wide and four bays deep, with some variation. A substantial brick chimney is visible over the roofline. A side gabled, one-story, four-bay by two-bay addition extends from the building on the southwest. Originally built in 1936 as a two-story addition with a canvas-roofed patio on the second floor, a side-gabled, one-story five-bay by two-bay addition with multiple hyphens connects to the building on the southeast.[1]

On the façade (west elevation), the central front-gabled primary section of the club has a one-story front gabled section with slightly curved eaves offset from a one-and-a-half story front gabled section with a central square vent. A one-story, front-gabled porte-cochere with an octagonal vent extends from the one-story front-gabled section; a semicircular window lights the covered front gable and a set of French doors leads into the club. Four sets of twelve-pane casement windows capped by fourteen-pane semicircular windows fill the four bays west of the entrance; the fourth bay is located within the westernmost front gable, which has a small rectangular vent in the gable. A three-bay-wide, side-gabled section is located east of the central entrance; the westernmost bay is lit by a pair of twelve-pane casement windows. The easternmost, three-bay front-gabled section has three sets of twelve-pane casements on the first floor, a six-over-six sash on the second floor, and an exterior brick chimney running on the outside of the gable. A three-bay-wide, shed-roofed dormer extends from the east side of the gable; this section of the building originally accommodated a caretaker's quarters.[2] A one-story, front-gabled attached shed with slightly curving eaves, an eight-pane fixed window, and a roof that slopes dramatically to the east extends out two bays from the façade of the easternmost front gable.

On the interior, an entrance foyer leads to a large ballroom flanked on both the north and south walls by four sets of French doors with round top windows above. This configuration allowed both sides of the ballroom to have screening before the advent of central air conditioning. The interior floor and ceiling of the ballroom remain. At the east end was a brick fireplace and the west end had an open porch; this was later enclosed to form the one-story addition to the west. Local artist Patricia Windrow (1921-2013) painted a mural depicting the Old Field Lighthouse c. 1950s on the east gable of the now-enclosed porch. An office and kitchen and men's and women's locker rooms were initially situated to the east of the fireplace. The former kitchen, office, and part of the locker room area is now a hallway, restroom, meeting room and coat room. The remainder of the locker room area is now a kitchen. The office is now on the second floor, the former caretaker's apartment. The 1936 first floor addition was incorporated into a back (south) area of the first floor with updated windows on the south elevation. It is separated from the main ballroom by a set of doors. The open 2nd floor porch was removed many years ago, as was the interior and exterior stairs.

Tennis Courts Complex, Non-contributing

Each of the seven, regulation-size tennis courts is surrounded by a black, chain link fence. The surfaces in the courts vary and include both clay and synthetic hard surfaces. At least one court had been built on the property by the early 1940s when tennis star Alice Marble played there as HV Kaltenborn's guest. By 1958, there four tennis courts had been at the northeast corner of the property. The fifth, sixth, and seventh courts

[1] Richard Haviland Smythe, Addition to Old Field Club [architectural drawing], January 4, 1936, Old Field Club archives.
[2] Richard Haviland Smythe, Revised Plans for Old Field Club [architectural drawing], May 7, 1929, Old Field Club archives.

were built after 1965. An examination of the tennis courts indicates that all of the courts appear to have been updated or reconstructed with new materials. No readily apparent, pre-1965 features survive due to the need to update and maintain the courts over time for the use of the members.

Pro-shop, ca. 2005, Non-Contributing
The Pro Shop is a one-story, side-gabled cottage covered in wood shake siding that rests on a concrete block foundation. A shed-roofed porch supported by turned posts connected by a balustrade extends from the south and west elevations of the building.

Schoolhouse

The schoolhouse is situated on a one-acre parcel on West Meadow Road. A dirt and gravel driveway leads to the property. Evergreen trees screen the property from the road and to the north and south; the southeast end of the property abuts West Meadow Creek.

Schoolhouse / Winter Clubhouse, ca. 1931
The schoolhouse is a one-and-a-half story, three-bay by two-bay, side-gabled bungalow covered in wood shakes; an exterior brick chimney is located on the southern elevation. On the façade, the central entrance is flanked by one-over-one contemporary windows. A front-gabled dormer projects from the roofline. On the south (rear) elevation, a two-story hexagonal tower projects from the central bay; it is covered in shakes and has replacement windows. A small hyphen connects the original schoolhouse to a large, H-plan section. If this was an addition, it was constructed by ca. 1940, soon after the original portion as built. Two one-story, two-bay by five-bay front-gabled sections connect to a central one-and-a-half story, two-bay by four-bay side-gabled section. The semi-circular windows in the gables have been retained, but the remaining windows in the building, which extend across the east, west, and south elevations, are all replacements.

Old Field Farm

The Old Field Farm and Horse Show grounds are situated on 13.2-acre parcel framed by West Meadow Road, Trustees Road, and West Meadow Creek. A three-rail fence runs along most of the property line on Trustees Road; the remainder is lined by brush and trees. The flat, grassy land is divided into two primary functional areas: the main barn complex on the west side of the property and the horse show competition grounds on the east side of the property. The primary entrance into the property is through a wooden gate on Trustees Road. A gravel road leads from that gate, curves along the water, and heads straight into the horse show grounds. A line of trees partially separates the Main Barn Complex from the Competition Area. For ease of description, these two areas, and their associated buildings, are described separately within this section.

The Main Barn Complex is located along Trustees Road. The gravel road essentially divides the complex in two. The U-shaped barn and 14-stall stable are immediately south of the road; four long stables are located south of the barn. The eight 6-stall stables and a long stable converted into a caretaker's cottage are to the north. Although there is some influence from the Colonial Revival style, the complex is made up of simple, functional buildings connected aesthetically by their white clapboard siding and dark green roofing.

U-shaped barn, 1931.

The U-shaped main barn is covered in clapboard siding and has a gable roof with exposed rafter tails. The central section of the U is twelve bays long, while both of the wings are six bays long. Each of the sections is two bays wide; one bay forms the stalls while the other bay serves as an engaged porch that covers a stone dust aisleway. The roof is supported by square posts with simple angled square brackets. A stall is located in each bay of the building, facing in toward the courtyard excepting the corner rooms, which were used for feed and tack and saddle storage. Each stall has a Dutch door made of beadboard with a cross plank pattern; original door hardware features horseshoes on the locking mechanism. Three-pane windows at the rear of each stall provide light and ventilation. A cupola is located centrally on the longest section of the building; it has a triangular roof and vents on each of its elevations. A four-rail fence connects to the U-shaped barn and the fourteen-stall stable to form a rectangular enclosed courtyard.

Fourteen-stall stable. Ca. 1935

The fourteen-stall is located adjacent to the U-shaped barn and helps form the barn's fenced courtyard. The seven-bay by two-bay frame stable is covered in clapboard siding has a side-gabled roof covered in green asphalt shingles. Exposed rafter tails are visible under the roofline. A Dutch door provides access to each stall; each section of the door features an angled board. Seven stalls are located on each side of the building; an interior plank wall divides one side from another.

Six-stall stable (8), ca. 1935

The eight six-stall stables have an identical design and are organized in two rows of four. Four have been restored, while four others remain in various states of repair; all eight are considered contributing.

Each three-bay by two-bay frame stable has a shallow side-gabled roof with green asphalt shingles. Three stalls are located on either side of the building; a plank interior wall divides the two sets of stables. Each stall has a solid half door with a plank Z pattern on the right and a three-quarter height horizontal plank wall on the left; this pattern is repeated for each stall. The ends of the stable are covered in horizontal board on the walls and vertical boards in the gable.

Long stable (5), ca. 1935

(3 contributing, 2 non-contributing)

Four long stables are located in a row to the east of the barn and are in various states of repair; one is non-contributing as a result of its severe deterioration.

Each seven-bay by two-bay frame stable has a shallow side gabled roof covered in green asphalt shingles. Seven stalls are located on either side of the building; a plank interior wall divides the two sets of stables. Each stall has a solid half-door with a plank Z pattern on the right and a three-quarter height horizontal plank wall on the left; this pattern is repeated for each stall. The ends of the stable are covered in horizontal board on the walls and vertical board in the gable.

The fifth long stable, located west of the barn, has been rehabilitated and modified for use as a caretaker's cottage. Due to these changes, it is non-contributing. The two-bay by three-bay frame building is covered in horizontal plank siding and has a side-gabled roof with green shingles. Six-pane windows fill the upper section of each of the original stall openings on south elevation; on the north elevation, the central opening is filled by

a central door while the others are filled with six-pane windows. The six rear bays of the building have been removed.

The Competition Area is located along West Meadow Road. The majority of the area is divided into three competition rings, the Main Ring, Hunt Course, and Pony Course, and one warm-up area. The Main Ring, Hunt Course, and Pony Course are delineated by sheep hurdle style fencing that is a distinguishing characteristic of the show grounds. The grandstand and secretary building are located along the fence line of the main ring. The warm up or schooling areas is delineated by four-board plank fencing with an angled top cap board. A second warm up area that was in place historically is no longer present. The reconstructed rings are all counted as one contributing site for their accurate representation of the historic plan of the show grounds.

Ticket/utility booth, ca. 1935
The ticket booth is a one-story, one-bay by one-bay, side-gabled building covered in white-painted novelty siding. The west elevation has a door and a boarded up ticket window; a secondary boarded ticket window is located on the north elevation. Exposed rafter tails are visible under the roofline.

Secretary Building, ca. 1935
The secretary building is a one-story, two-bay by three-bay building with a hipped roof. The building is covered in beadboard siding and has beadboard covers for the windows during the off-season. The south elevation has a central beadboard Dutch door flanked by two windows. The east and west elevations each have a long window on the upper portion of the wall. Exposed rafter tails are visible at each of the corners of the roofline.

Grandstand, ca. 1940
The grandstand is a fourteen-bay by one-bay frame structure with a shed roof lined by a green and white scalloped decoration along the edge. The structure is supported by wooden posts, two to each bay, on its north and south elevations; the walls are open to the air. A horizontal rail connects each post approximately halfway up. On the interior, simple wooden rails denote boxes for spectators. On the east end of the building, a wooden staircase provides access to the roof. On the west end of the building, a one-bay by one-bay section extends toward the rear. This portion of the structure has simple counters and cupboards and was historically used as an awards table or refreshment station.

Main Ring
The main ring is a rectangular sheep hurdle fence enclosure with rounded corners. A dirt composite material forms the arena footing. The secretary building is located slightly within the fence line of the ring on the east and the fence connects to the grandstand on the south. The fencing for this ring was rebuilt in ca. 2000 in a location and style consistent with historic photographs ca. 1935.

Pony Course, Hunt Course, and Warm-up Area
These three rings are located north and west of the main ring. Sheep hurdle fencing bounds the competition rings, while four-board plank fencing with an angled cap surrounds the warm-up area. The competition fields are grass while the warm-up area has a dirt footing. The fencing for these rings was rebuilt ca. 2000 in locations and styles consistent with historic photographs ca. 1935.

Beach Club & Cabanas

The Old Field Beach Club and Cabanas are situated on a 3.5 -acre, triangular lot on the Long Island Sound. The parcel is bordered by West Meadow Beach, a public beach, to the south and wooded, private land to the northeast. A private, crushed stone driveway with an auto gate leads from West Meadow Road to a large, roughly triangular crushed stone parking lot at the center of the property. The cabanas are situated in five sets of courtyards on the beach and are connected by a series of courtyards and concrete paths; four of the courtyards (C, D, E, and F court) are squarish in shape, while the northernmost courtyard (AB court) is an elongated rectangle. Overlook Court, a set of connected cabanas built on a raised platform, is situated behind AB Court and C Court. The Beach Pavilion is built into a slight hill on the east side of the parking lot. A final line of cabanas and a boardwalk, called Hilltop Court, runs from the pavilion along the hill in an L-shape; concrete paths lead to the Hilltop Court boardwalk and to the Beach Pavilion.

Beach Pavilion / Steward's Cabin (Lagoon Room), ca. 1945 / ca. 1955 / ca. 1969

The Beach Pavilion is a two-and-a-half story, frame, side-gabled building with a raised, one-story patio and two-story, side-gabled, frame section (originally the steward's cabin) on the north elevation; both sections are covered in T-11 siding and rest on a cement block foundation. On the façade (west) elevation, a porch covered by a metal and cloth awning extends out from the first floor; a two-rail railing runs along the edge of the porch. Two contemporary doors lead into the building from the porch. A horizontal board runs across the elevation and forms the top trim board across the doors; this likely marks the top of the concrete first floor added ca. 1969. A green-painted wooden seahorse decorates the northernmost section of the wall. On the second story, a horizontal band of plate glass windows runs underneath the roofline. A wooden patio supported by wooden posts extends from the second story of the pavilion on the north elevation and connects to the west elevation of the steward's cabin. The first floor of the steward's cabin, underneath the patio, is composed of concrete block and has a contemporary door. The second floor of the cabin is covered in T-11 siding and has two sets of sliding French doors. A green-painted seahorse decorates the northernmost section of the cabin. The south elevation has a horizontal board marking the top of the first floor. On the second floor, the horizontal band of windows from the façade extends around the corner onto the south elevation. A large, green painted seahorse marks the center of the second story; it is flanked to the east by two small, fixed rectangular windows. A one-over-one contemporary sash lights the half story.

The Pavilion and Steward's Cabin was designed by Richard Haviland Smythe during the early 1940s but was not completed until 1945.[3] The pavilion's original location was on the beach, between the public beach to the south and the first court of cabanas. The pavilion was 40' x 36' and held an open air seating area/snack bar, kitchen, and locker rooms for men and women with showers. The Steward's Cabin, attached, was 25' x 16' with a bedroom, living room, bath and open porch. By the mid-20th century, the structure had grown into a larger snack bar with a screened area for eating. Its location on the beach was susceptible to high tides and storm erosion. The entire pavilion was moved across the parking lot and onto a new foundation/first floor ca. 1969. The new foundation of cement block gave weather protection and held new lavatories. The old pavilion, now the second story, is again a screened eating area with a kitchen in the rear.

[3] Richard Haviland Smythe, Pavilion and Steward's Cabin [architectural plans], January 10, 1945, Old Field Club archives. There is a notation on the plans for a revision dated February 26, 1941. It is very possible that the plans were put on hold due to World War II. The Melville's building company, Suffolk Improvement Co. did continue, but due to wartime shortages of materials and workers, some projects stalled.

Cabanas, courts, and boardwalks (ca. 1931 - ca.1980)

The Old Field Club cabanas are organized into seven different courts, each of which has a slightly different shape, organization and number of cabanas. In some cases, each cabana has its own small wood deck while in others each deck is connected into a larger boardwalk around the court; narrow concrete walks run on the ocean-side of each of the boardwalks and/or decks. A total of 89 cabanas are located on the beach. While the original layout for the courts was created by Richard Haviland Smythe, they have evolved over time in response to storm damage as well as an increase in demand for cabanas by the membership.

Smythe's original court layout included a square courtyard surrounded by eleven cabanas. Over time, the number of courts was expanded as necessary to meet the needs of the club. By 1947, aerial photography indicates that a total of five courts had been built on this general plan. Two courts, now D court and E court, largely followed this model; B court and C court had nine cabanas each and A court had 10 cabanas. A row of six cabanas on the hilltop had also been constructed by this time. By 1962, modifications had been made to the courts as a result of storm damage and increased demand. A and B courts had been combined to form one, elongated court, two cabanas behind C court were constructed, and more cabanas were built along the hilltop. After the pavilion was moved ca. 1969, F court was built in the pavilion's former location on the beach. Overlook Court, an elongated, raised set of twelve cabana-rooms designed as one building with shared walls and a shared boardwalk was built ca. 1980. As these cabanas reflect a departure from Smythe's design for individual, freestanding cabanas and postdate the period of significance, they are non-contributing.

Smythe's 1931 design for the beach cabanas, essentially a simple frame structure with an overhang and wood deck, remains evident in the earliest remaining cabanas and was replicated as new cabanas were constructed along the beach. Each cabana is a two-bay by two-bay, frame building with a shed roof sloping toward the rear. A one-story, shed-roofed frame overhang with a corrugated metal roof slopes downward from the cabana and is supported by two straight metal poles with an angle; the location of the angle in the post differs from cabana to cabana. Plank trim boards are located at each corner of the cabana. The façade features a door on edge of the left bay and a square window opening with a hinged door in the right bay; the door and window opening are both framed by simple, plank trim boards. Two narrow trim boards run vertically on the cabana's wood siding just inside the frame of the window. Each of the side elevations has two square or rectangular window openings with doors hinged at the top. Two narrow, vertical trim boards run centrally on the side elevations, between each of the two window openings. Two narrow, vertical trim boards run centrally on the rear elevation. On the interior, each cabana has a set of shelves and two changing rooms.

The cabanas, which have been maintained over time by the club, reflect subtle changes in preferred materials over different periods of construction and maintenance. Each cabana is painted white with a bright accent color on the doors, windows, and trim; each cabana lessee chooses the color. The doors and window coverings for the earliest cabanas are made of beadboard; over time, some have been replaced with T-11 siding, a modern material which replicates the verticality expressed by the beadboard. Earlier cabanas also feature solid, plywood siding; although also a design feature, the narrow vertical trim boards were intended to cover where these sections of board abutted each other. T-11 siding has been used as a replacement for the plywood as necessary. In some cases, a wood scallop design has been retained on the overhang; the majority of cabana overhangs are trimmed with plain boards. Despite these modest changes over time, the cabanas retain a remarkably consistent historic appearance, integrity of material class if not material type, and have a high degree of integrity of feeling and association. As a result, 77 cabanas, including the 17 cabanas in AB

court, two cabanas in B court, nine cabanas in C court, 11 cabanas in D court, 13 cabanas in E court, eight cabanas in F court, and 17 cabanas in Hilltop court, are considered contributing; the Hilltop Court, one building with 12 “cabana” rooms, is counted as one non-contributing building for its departure from the original design and construction postdating the period of significance.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY
ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1929-ca. 1969

Significant Dates

1930, 1931, 1936, ca. 1947

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Richard Haviland Smythe

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the Old Field Club in 1929 and ends when the Beach Pavilion was moved further away from the beach ca. 1969.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Old Field Club and Farm is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Recreation. Constructed in 1929-1930 as a membership-led amenity for Frank and Ward Melville's planned residential development, the Old Field Club quickly became a social center in Setauket. Situated on West Meadow Creek and just east of Long Island Sound, the club included a clubhouse, schoolhouse, beach, and horse show grounds. Summer parties and events were held at the clubhouse and its adjacent tennis courts, and the beach slowly filled with small cabanas which were leased to the members. The small schoolhouse was built to hold private classes for children in the area, but it also served as a winter clubhouse. While some members came from the residential development, upper middle-class families living in the area also joined to participate in the club's activities. Ward Melville spearheaded the creation Old Field Farm as the site of the North Shore Horse Show, a prominent competition held on Long Island from 1930 through the 1960s. An avid equestrian, Ward Melville was involved in horse sports throughout the region and strongly supported the North Shore Horse Show. Club members participated in the show and enjoyed the social events surrounding its activities. In the years after World War II, club membership increased substantially and the club remains an active part of the social and cultural life of the Three Villages. The district is additionally significant under Criterion C for its simple, consistent design and as an early example of Richard Haviland Smythe's architectural commissions for the Melville family in the region. Smythe, an architect from New York City, created simple designs with Colonial Revival touches for the clubhouse and efficient beach cabanas. Ward Melville was so pleased that he hired Smythe to design the primary buildings for Old Field Farm, notably its U-shaped clapboard barn with a central cupola, and later additions to the clubhouse. Over the next several decades, Smythe served as Ward Melville's architect both for the Melville Shoe Company and for buildings he sponsored within the Three Villages.

Easily accessible from the mainland, the north shore of Long Island attracted settlers during the eighteenth century. In 1655, a group traveled from Boston and, attracted by its protected harbor, established a new community in Setauket. Setauket and Stony Brook grew into hamlets that primarily relied upon agricultural, fishing, and maritime-related enterprises and remained so through the first half of the 20th century. The area also became known for its prominent shipbuilding businesses by the mid-19th century. After the Long Island Railroad was completed to the area in 1873, Stony Brook and Setauket's abundance of beaches on the Long Island Sound made them attractive destinations for New York City residents to spend their summers.[4]

Frank Melville (1860-1935), and his wife, Jennie (1857-1939), first came to the Old Field area of Setauket in 1900 to enjoy a summer respite from Brooklyn. Only a decade earlier, such a trip might have been an impossible extravagance for the couple. By the late nineteenth century, Frank Melville was working as a shoe salesman for a small New York City company. When debts brought down the company's owner in 1892, Frank took over the company's three stores and developed them into a small, thriving chain. As the Melville Shoe Corporation grew and the family's fortunes improved, trips to Long Island became an important part of their summers. The couple "immediately jumped into local life" in Old Field.[5] Frank and Jennie completed their large, Neo-Tudor-style Sunwood Estate in Old Field in 1919. Although they only lived seasonally in the area,

[4] Richard M. Bayles, *Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County with a Historical Outline of Long Island* (Port Jefferson, NY: Richard Bayles, 1874), 224-235.

[5] Ramin Jaleshgari, "Building A Village, Providing for a University," *New York Times*, January 4, 1998.

Frank Melville served on civic boards and Jennie's love of gardening inspired her to organize the Three Village Garden Club.

In 1909, Frank brought his son, John Ward Melville, into the family business. John Ward Melville, known simply as "Ward," married Dorothy Bigelow later that year and established a home with her in Manhattan. Ward and Dorothy, and eventually their four children, continued the family tradition of living in Setauket for the summer season. In 1924, they purchased the 19th century Old Field Manor, which they renovated and renamed Widewater.

Ward Melville became vice president of the Melville Shoe Company in 1916 and led many of the initiatives that helped the company grow from its initial Brooklyn stores to a prominent regional chain. During his army service in the First World War, Ward met J. Franklin McElwain, a shoe manufacturer from New Hampshire. The two men became friends and devised a profitable business relationship based on their strengths in mass-production and sales. They opened their first Thom McAn store, which was named after a Scottish golfer and had a small number of simple shoe styles at low prices, in New York City in 1922. The new store was an immediate success; by 1927, the chain had grown to over 300 stores located throughout the northeast.[6]

While in Setauket, Ward and Dorothy followed the model set by Frank and Jennie of active community involvement and philanthropy, even after Frank and Jennie's deaths in 1935 and 1939, respectively. Over time, the Melville Family left a lasting influence on the Three Village community by their commitment and support of the following educational and community institutions: the Frank Melville Memorial Park, the restoration of the Caroline Church of Brookhaven, the Long Island Museum, Stony Brook Community Shopping Crescent, the Old Field Club and Horseshow Grounds, the Setauket School (the design of which was used as the model for the additional six Colonial Revival schools built later in the area), the restoration of the Thompson House and the Brewster House, and the Frank Melville Jr. Library at Stony Brook University. The local high school was named for Ward Melville in honor of his years of dedicated support of local education.

Designing and Promoting the Old Field Club

Long Island's open land, beaches, and proximity to New York City had made it an ideal summer location almost immediately; during the 17th century, Governor Thomas Dongan and New York City Mayor Mathias Nicoll each established estates in Nassau County. While well-off individuals and families traveled to Long Island resorts and seaside communities throughout the nineteenth century, they began arriving in more significant numbers on the Long Island Railroad. Resorts sprang up as new sections and spurs of the railroad were completed; the railroad reached Stony Brook / Setauket during the early 1870s. After discovering land, a community, and/or a country or hunting club that suited their interests, families built summer homes which ranged from modest farmhouses to seaside cottages to grand coastal estates.[7]

[6] "History of Melville Corporation," Reference for Business, <http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/10/MELVILLE-CORPORATION.html>.

[7] Robert B. MacKay, Anthony K. Baker, Carol A. Traynor, *Long Island Country Houses and their Architects, 1860-1940 (*New York: Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, 1997), 10-11.

During the early years of the twentieth century, Long Island's attractiveness as not only a summer destination but a suburban enclave became more apparent. Planned residential developments began springing up; as the automobile began to supplant the train, proximity to the formerly dominant railroad infrastructure became less important for developers and prospective residents alike. Well aware of the potential opportunity presented by Long Island's housing boom, Frank and Jennie Melville gradually began buying up property in Setauket during the early twentieth century. In 1925, this land was consolidated under the Nassakeag Land Company, a multi-faceted real estate and building firm (it was later consolidated into the Suffolk Improvement Company); Frank Melville acted as president of the company, while Ward served as treasurer in addition to heading the Melville Shoe Corporation.[8]

During the late 1920s, Frank Melville began developing his 250 acres of land south of the hamlet of Old Field into a neighborhood he called Old Field South. The prospectus for the development indicated that one of the company's goals was to "provide for the growth of the neighborhood along congenial lines and to preclude the possibility of undesirable encroachments." Unlike the dense neighborhoods springing up elsewhere on Long Island, Old Field South featured large Colonial Revival style homes on lots of a half-acre or more situated within a landscape designed by the Olmsted Brothers. According to the prospectus these homes were intended to provide "a solution for the New Yorker's Country Home Problem," namely, how New York gentlemen "may enjoy the health and pleasure of country life while staying close to business." [9] Ward Melville founded the Old Field Club in 1929 as an additional amenity for new owners within the neighborhood and previous residents alike. The clubhouse was built on eight acres of ground adjacent to the Long Island Sound and included a club house, tennis courts, private sandy cabana beach, a newly built tidal bathing pool and deep waterways for boating and mooring.

The architect for the clubhouse, beach cabanas, and farm was Richard Haviland Smythe (1889-1965) who was well regarded for his Colonial Revival style designs.[10] Smythe received a degree in architecture from Columbia and earned a fellowship at the American Academy in Rome. While at Columbia, Smythe was Ward Melville's roommate. After returning to New York City, he worked for a series of other firms before opening his own practice in 1922. Smythe worked nearly exclusively in New York City before he began working for the Melville family during the late 1920s. In addition to the Old Field Club, Smythe worked on a number of projects for the Melville Shoe Corporation and designed several Melville family sponsored projects within the Three Villages. For example, Smythe designed the modern Thom McAn storefront and consulted on the designs for the Melville Shoe Loft building in New York City and its factory in Worcester. He also designed Stony Brook Village's shopping and community center, the first planned shopping center in the country, in addition to numerous private residences within the region. The Olmsted Brothers of Boston designed the original landscape for Old Field South as well as the design of the Old Field Club grounds. Formed by Frederick Law

[8] Richard F. Welch, "Old Field South," in *Gardens of Eden: Long Island's Early Twentieth Century Planned Communities*, ed. Robert B. MacKay (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2015), 240.

[9] Old Field South Real Estate Prospectus published by Suffolk Improvement Company, Inc. (Stony Brook, New York: Suffolk Improvement Company, no date) Old Field Club Archives; Cris Maffia, "The History of Old Field South," Old Field South Property Owners Association, <http://oldfieldsouth.org/history.html>.

[10] Richard Haviland Smythe Papers, Old Field Club Drawings, Old Field Club Archives.

Olmsted's two sons in 1898, the prominent firm designed municipal parks and landscapes and plans for subdivisions and suburban communities across the country. [11]

The Old Field Club main clubhouse was designed by Richard Haviland Smythe at the behest of Ward Melville, local resident and developer of the Old Field South community. The club was designed for use in the warm weather months, as the homes were sold as country retreats. The rambling, clapboard-covered clubhouse is composed of several different gabled sections, which subtly mimics 18th and 19th century New England farmhouses made up several sections pulled together or added on to over time. The revised plans indicate a 104' structure with gables on the north and south elevations at either end of the building and a double gable in the center over the front and rear entrances. [12] The front elevation faced south toward the West Meadow Creek, as the original development plans included a future marina on the creek side that was never built. The rear or north elevation fronted West Meadow Road and allowed the vehicle approach. Smythe's close relationship with the Melville family facilitated his return to design later additions to the Old Field Club, including the kitchen and dining room with an open sun deck on the south side of the building. In addition, Smyth also created the design for the individual cabanas to be built the club's beach.[13]

The club was intended to serve as the center of social life for the Old Field South community. The prospectus boasted that, "Few other shore places within reach of the city can give assurance of an exclusive community and none provides more facilities for the full enjoyment of country life and sport." It promised that the new development "provides an English country atmosphere, for summer or year-round residence, within practicable commuting distance of New York, and would be "available to a restricted membership only." The club promised opportunities for recreational activities, including ocean bathing, yachting, horseback riding, and polo.[14]

In addition to the clubhouse and beach facilities, the Old Field Club soon grew to include horse show grounds adjacent to the beach, creating a distinctive waterfront setting. Ward Melville, who moved to the area permanently in 1930, was a casual equestrian himself and likely thought the facility would help attract like-minded, upper-middle class families to the club and the development. Architect Richard Haviland Smythe designed the simple, Colonial Revival equestrian facility, originally known as the North Shore Horse Show Grounds, in 1931. The U-shaped barn is the core of the western side of the complex, which grew to include a series of small stable buildings. The design of the large, clapboard barn included a cupola on the roof, a deep overhang protecting the stables and storage areas, and a small paddock. The eastern side of the complex has the main show ring and grandstand at its center and a series of other competition and warmup rings around it.

Old Field Club (prewar)

[11] Old Field South Real Estate Prospectus; Charles E. Beveridge, "The Olmsted Firm – An Introduction," National Association for Olmstead Parks, <http://www.olmsted.org/the-olmsted-legacy/the-olmsted-firm/an-introduction>; Welch, 241.

[12] Smythe, Revised Plans.

[13] Anais Robinson, "Program Notes, 1979 Governor's Ball," Old Field Club, May 1979; "Questionnaire for Architects' Roster: Richard Haviland Smythe," American Institute of Architects, April 30, 1946 <http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/AIA%20scans/Rosters/SmytheRichardHaviland_roster.pdf>; University of Oregon, Richard Haviland Smythe papers, 1909-1965, collection notes, <http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv85171>.

The club opened its doors for its first season on Saturday, May 31, 1930.[15] The original roster included seventy-three members who paid annual dues of $50. Frank Melville Jr. was the president and his son, Ward, was the secretary. Family memberships were available for another 25 percent of the dues. While the partners of the Suffolk Improvement Company promised to cover club deficits for five years, the club was an independent entity. The club was a non-profit membership association and held a twenty-year lease from the Suffolk Improvement Corporation. The lease carried a full option to purchase the entire property at its actual book value at any time.[16] T.Bayles Minuse, the director of the Suffolk Improvement Co., was granted the right to give a limited number of regular memberships to owners of property in Old Field South, without initiation fee, subject to the election of each applicant by the Membership Committee of the club. That first summer, five of the ten available beach cabanas on the sound's shore front were rented for $35 a season, with an unlimited number of people able to use them.[17]

Although the club opened in 1930 with only seventy-three members, it was prepared to accommodate 400. The first year the club house opened, it also served as a winter school for select local children including those of the Melvilles and their friends. A dedicated school house was built the following year to the north of the club to provide a private local schoolhouse for residents within the area. It also served as the winter clubhouse and the summer residence for the tennis pro and other help. The school opened in September 1930.[18] The newspaper article described the interior as including a "large 'Council Chamber' with an open fireplace, four classrooms, a service department, including a modern diet kitchen and the headmaster's office."

Membership fluctuated in the early years. In 1933, it had dropped to 43 and the decision was made to rebuild the diving platform, add a new springboard, repair the float, repaint the living and locker rooms, and refinish the lounge. At the sound beach, the cabanas were repainted, a permanent sun yard was erected and fresh water and electric light connections were added. In addition, a telephone extension was run to the cabanas and sunbathers could summon waiters from the clubhouse to serve them.[19] Membership was back up to 81 by '35 and 107 in '36. That year the social committee offered a variety of events: a 4th of July dance, clambake, illustrated lecture, junior dance, treasure hunt, watersports, and the Periwinkle Players Show with "thrilling, gripping melodrama."[20] Behind the clubhouse was a lagoon with a small beach equipped with diving board and floats, which received considerable use at low tide. Originally, there was only one red clay tennis court, the scene of many invitation tournaments, featuring professional players. Early clubhouse functions included costume parties, ping-pong tournaments, bridge and dance lessons, theatrical offerings as well as private and community functions. Within a few years, the final highlight of the season became the North Shore Horse Show with its formal ball.[21]

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[14] Old Field South Real Estate Prospectus.
[15] "Old Field Club to Start Season," *Port Jefferson Echo*, May 22, 1930.
[16] Certificate of Incorporation, Old Field Club, New York, New York, May 26, 1930; Welch, 243.
[17] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," July 17, 1932.
[18] *Port Jefferson Echo*, September 8, 1930.
[19] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," July 2, 1933.
[20] The Old Field Club, "Newsletter," September 9, 1939.
[21] Anais Robinson, "Program Notes, 1979 Governor's Ball," Old Field Club, May 1979.

As members and local developers, the Melville family had an interest in ensuring the club's success and was very much hands-on in its daily business. In a note to his mother about an upcoming event, Ward states that, "Minuse and I bought the liquor, I bought cocktail olives, Dorothy bought ingredients for hors d'oeuvres. I have bought certain house supplies such as cocktail shakers, etc, you bought glassware..." [22] His financial concerns motivated him to recommend that the club lay in "kippers, canned salmon, smoked fish etc to limit purchases of fresh meat and groceries." He also recommended that the club renew the lease on the day school.

The Hurricane of 1938 seems not to have done much damage, and by 1944 there were "increased activities at the beach." For the first time, all the cabanas were rented.[23] That year's hurricane did damage the beach, and rebuilding was delayed "due to the fact that owing to the war condition, the contractor found it impossible to secure enough competent labor to complete the work on schedule."[24] The minutes also record that cabana dues were increased by $10 with the promise that "we will have one of the finest cabana beaches on LI." Scalloped edges would be added to the trim board and sand would be bulldozed up from the flats.

Old Field Farm and the North Shore Horse Show

Ward Melville was likely introduced to horse sports as a young man during his summer trips to Setauket with his family. Over time, he became actively involved in various aspects of horse sports on Long Island. He was an active member of the Smithtown Hunt, which was established in 1901, which he helped to revive in 1945 by purchasing hounds specifically for its use. Later in his life, he helped to found the Carriage Association of America with a few other historic carriage collectors. Organized in 1960, the group sought to save not only physical artifacts related to carriages and carriage driving but also driving techniques and culture.[25]

The North Shore Horse Show at the Old Field Club arose out of a dispute that took place at another nearby horse show venue in St. James, where the Smithtown Club hosted an American Horse Show Association show in 1930.[26] This disagreement led organizers to part ways, with one side establishing a new horse show nearby.[27] The North Shore Horse Show officially became the successor to the Smithtown Horse Show in 1930, after a determination by the American Horse Show Association.[28] The first North Shore Horse Show, which was held that year on the open land west of the Old Field Club, inspired Ward Melville to commission Smythe to design the facility and construct primary buildings, including the U-shaped barn, grandstand, and main ring, to improve the show the following year.

Despite this controversy, the early shows were well-subscribed. Ward Melville was heavily involved in the planning for the Second Annual North Shore Horse Show, held on September 5, 1931. A prize list from that year lists Ward Melville on the executive committee as the show's secretary. The prize list also has substantial advertising from prominent corporations such as Brooks Brothers, the St. Regis Hotel in New York City and

[22] Letter from Ward Melville to Mrs. Frank Melville, July 9, 1936. Old Field Club Archives.
[23] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," September 1, 1944.
[24] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," May 24, 1945.
[25] Alexander Mackay-Smith, Jean R. Druesdow, and Thomas Ryder, *Man And the Horse: An Illustrated History of Equestrian Apparel* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1987), 113; Paula Rodenas, "Smithtown Hunt Survives in Suburbia," *The Chronicle of the Horse* <http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/smithtown-hunt-survives-suburbia>.
[26] The American Horse Show Association is now known as the United State Equestrian Federation or USEF.
[27] "Life and Activities of Long Island Society," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 24, 1931.
[28] *Port Jefferson Echo*, 1930; *Port Jefferson Times*, August 28, 1936; *The Shoreham Sounder*, August 20, 1937.

other New York businesses. It also demonstrates the early involvement of prominent families who had seasonal homes in the region. The Good Hands Cup was presented by William H. Vanderbilt, and Mrs. J.V. Bouvier the 3rd is listed as a competitor in the Green or Qualified Hunter.

For over half a century, Old Field Farm was home to the North Shore Horse Show, which was typically held in August or September and figured among the most prestigious equestrian competitions in the country. By the 1940s, the North Shore Horse Show was recognized as one of the nation's largest and best attended shows.[29] The facility was considered unparalleled for horse sports and attracted thousands of riders and spectators to its competitions. The North Shore Horse Show was a landmark competition that held various divisions that are at the root of American Horse Showing today. The early days of hunters, jumpers, and equitation competition were held at the Farm, as well as carriage driving events. Important qualifier competitions for the National Horse Show held at Madison Square Garden took place at the farm. The equestrian culture and outdoor life colored the tenor of the community. It has been speculated that the show hosted either the first (on the East Coast or in the country) evening competition under lights at night; this was a popular innovation in Paris in the 1930s. The North Shore Horse Show served as the bedrock of American Horse Shows and attracted many Olympians (Steinkraus, Morris, Shapiro, etc.), international celebrities (James Cagney, Paul Newman, etc.), and prominent members of East Coast society (Bouvier, Phipps, Guggenheim, etc.).

Like many formal show grounds then and now, the Old Field Farm grounds were only engaged for the specific event (the North Shore Horse Show) and were generally dormant the rest of the year. During the off-season, Old Field Farm appears to have seen only occasional use by club members and the community. By the mid-twentieth century, the Town of Brookhaven YMCA began holding a summer day camp on the grounds. Campers enjoyed a very informal day camp where children were allowed to swim at the beach, change in empty stalls, play various ball games and sing along with guitar-playing counselors.[30]

Old Field Club (postwar)

In the decades following World War II, suburban development and residential construction increased nationwide. The scarcity of the economic depression and subsequent war had all but halted new construction. However, postwar economic prosperity, lack of urban housing, the increase in automobile ownership and new highways resulted in high demand for suburban housing. Long Island offered an ideal suburban location for families commuting to New York City, and developers began building on an unprecedented scale. Although much of this development focused on Nassau County, which had one of the fastest growth rates in the United States between 1940 and 1970, Suffolk County also began to see significant population increases as well. Ward Melville's significant investment and influence in the area helped to make the Three Villages area attractive to new residents. In addition to revitalizing Stony Brook Village in Colonial Revival style during the 1940s, he also pushed for the creation of Stony Brook University a decade later. [31]

[29] *Daily Journal* (Lawrence, Kansas), 1946.
[30] According to oral history from former camper Eliot Speiler.
[31] Kenneth Wayne, Erik Neil, and Sandy Isenstadt, *Long Island Moderns: Art and Architecture on the North Shore and Beyond* (Huntington, N.Y.: Heckscher Museum, 2009), 67-71; Edward J. Smits, *Nassau, Suburbia, U.S.A.: The First Seventy-Five Years of Nassau County, New York, 1899 to 1974* (Garden City, NY: Nassau County Museum, 1974), 194, 198.

The Old Field South development grew slowly as a result of the stock market crash; lots sold gradually and sales picked up during the 1940s. Membership in the Old Field Club increased accordingly as more families began living in the area, either as a result of the development or in nearby neighborhoods. By 1946, the club was still paying Suffolk Improvement Co. $350 for the rent of the day school/winter clubhouse and $3,000 for the main clubhouse, cabana beach, and tennis courts.[32] In 1947, some of the officers proposed a "plan for alterations in the Club House intended to facilitate the serving of meals and drinks." These would include alterations to the bar and dining room and the stairway to the sundeck. For $2,700, "proposed improvements would minister to the comfort and conveniences of members...increase bar business and particularly the restaurant business." However, others suggested a better idea was to "erect a service bar on the north side of the porch at the west end of the clubhouse" and install a dumbwaiter from the kitchen to the upper deck as well as screening in the upper deck. Ward Melville was ever mindful of the bottom line. He questioned the advisability of spending this much money and reminded them that he had talked them into abandoning a similar project at the winter clubhouse. However, the plan for the alterations was ultimately successful; Smythe designed the additions to be consistent with the original building. At this time, the liquor license from the winter clubhouse was transferred to the main clubhouse.[33]

By the 1950s, the club was rocking. "Last Saturday the formal dinner at the Old Field Club was so popular that the club couldn't accept all requests for reservations. And so many children turned out for swimming races and won so many prizes that nobody could keep count."[34] In addition to recreational activities, the club offered cultural opportunities as well. There were dance lessons for children as well as charitable events like the "Pink Coat" formal ball following the North Shore Horse Show. Ward Melville proposed that the club purchase its property from the Suffolk Improvement Co, valued at $85,000. The discussion was tabled for a month, but the club did purchase the property soon thereafter.[35]

Ward Melville became the mayor of the Village of Old Field in 1961 and began to lodge complaints about club members trespassing on village property adjacent to the cabana beach. Bayles Minuse also resigned from the club. The club requested a quit claim deed to the continuation of West Meadow Road from the village in order to expand the parking lot. The decision was made to put the clubhouse in year round condition so that it could be rented to outside groups. As it stood, winter meetings were being held in members' homes because the heat was so inadequate.[36]

The cabana beach remained popular. By 1963, there was a waiting list for cabanas. The club would refurbish the beachside Pavilion, or Snack Bar as it was popularly called, the lockers and the rest rooms. A boardwalk was also installed in AB Court. This would be followed by the installation of a complete fence and the maintenance of a single entrance gate. To facilitate outside rentals, a new heating system was installed in the main clubhouse, and that year groups like the Setauket Republican Club and Stony Brook Fire Department held events at the Old Field Club. Still, the club didn't have enough money to repair the screen deck installed during the late 1940s; it was deemed too unsafe and too expensive to fix so it was closed for use.[37]

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[32] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," December 7, 1945; Welch, 244.
[33] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," February 2, 1946.
[34] "Old Field Club is Popular Place," *The Independent Press of Stony Brook*, July 31, 1953.
[35] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," July 31, 1952.
[36] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," October 1, 1962.
[37] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," May 6, 1964.

In the 1964 Annual Report of the President, David Sipperly announced the club's plan to buy the school house property for $25,000 from the Suffolk Improvement Corporation. Beach activity was at an all-time high with all the cabanas rented, and the tennis courts were in higher use owing to some successful exhibition matches. The Teenage Dance Program was *too* successful - with 300 boys and girls crowding the dance floor. The House and Grounds committees reported that there had been renovations and improvements to the club house, including the installation of natural gas and the replacement of the ceilings in the kitchen and small bar.

In 1966, the board discussed whether the school house, newly purchased from Suffolk Improvement, should be sold back to Ward Melville because financial concerns continued to be an issue. But through both good times and bad, the membership wanted to preserve the original mission of the Old Field Club. "Right now the club is a fine family association united by common interests. A fancy club with a high priced dining area might take over if the present one ever failed, but that then would not be the one we have felt was our club over the many years...so what do we do?"[38] The club finished the locker room at the beach and added ten cabanas.[39]

The Old Field Club and Farm during the late 20th Century

By 1975, the cabanas had sustained damage from hurricanes and vandalism. However, they were always restored to the original design of Richard Haviland Smythe and any additional ones built during the years remained consistent with this design. At the clubhouse, the safety of the Lagoon Room, located close to the beach, came under discussion. Its deck was removed, but some of its roof beams were saved to use in rebuilding the roofs over the kitchen and small dining room.[40]

Some new social events were planned for 1981, including a family field day, a pig roast, a teen semi-formal dance, a Holiday Boutique, pasta party, fashion show, exercise classes and inter-club tournaments with St. George Golf Club. By then, the cabanas were in so much demand that members were asked to 'share.' A new hospitality deck was built at the beach to accommodate those members who were unable to lease cabanas. This decade saw renovations throughout the clubhouse that were "necessitated by the decrepit and dangerous condition of the bar area and deck behind the club house."[41] Much needed repairs and updating were completed, retaining the integrity of the original design, while bringing the structure to comply with safety codes.

By 1990, air conditioning and handicap access were installed. A new substructure was built for the Lagoon Room, and the large bar area was reconstructed. Currently, an indoor sprinkler system is being installed - as necessitated by the fire department. While the Old Field Club has needed to restore many sections of the clubhouse over the period of eighty-three years, the original footprint has been maintained and the Smythe's original designs have been respected.[42] In 1994, the club finally paid off its mortgage on the property.

[38] Letter from Carl Heyser to Ward Melville, November 19, 1969. Old Field Club Archives.
[39] Richard Haviland Smythe Papers, Old Field Club Drawings, Old Field Club Archives.
[40] The Old Field Club, "Minutes of the Board of Governors," December 15, 1977.
[41] The Old Field Club, "Newletter: The President's Corner," February 24, 1982.
[42] Richard Haviland Smythe Papers, Old Field Club Drawings, Old Field Club Archives.

Although the club continued to be successful, changes in horse breeding and equestrian competitions resulted in the gradual decline of the North Shore Horse Show by the late 1960s.[43] Horse shows had changed substantially from the time that Old Field Farm was built. After the war, a growing middle class looked for involvement in leisure time pursuits such as riding. Extensive suburban sprawl made more rural riding pursuits such as cross country and fox hunting more difficult and led to massive increase in interest in horse shows as a way to enjoy horse sports. The horse show competition circuit evolved in response, requiring more education, as newly interested riders were not "born in boots," and a better horse.

Early photographs of shows at Old Field Farm in the 1930s depict horses and riders traversing a course of four identical jumps equally spaced. Riders simply went twice around on a turf surface. By comparison, today's courses over fences are more technically challenging and composed of a variety of challenging obstacles and various twists and turns in the course, changes in direction, with more complex obstacles and variable distances between them. These changes require a more educated technically adept rider who will try to find a horse to match his or her skill set and possess the required athleticism to compete. This led to the practice of importing "Warm Bloods," or larger, sturdier, and easier to maneuver breeds; as a result, competition horses grew larger over time. Built during the 1930s, the stables at Old Field Farm were designed for smaller horses, and their size limited their use for the increasingly valuable horses coming to the competitions. Use of the stalls also declined as the result of a changing horse showing dynamic from the days when most competitors stayed at the show for a days on end, parking the trucks and trailers at West Meadow Beach, staying at the Three Village Inn and attending days of ancillary social events such as the Melville's formal tack room dinner for judges and officials and the well-attended Annual Horse Show Ball taking place at the Old Field Club.

After Ward Melville died in 1977, Hugh Cassidy, a nationally renowned local horse show judge, member of the American Horse Show Association and the first president of the Stony Brook University Riding Club, expressed an interest in purchasing the property. Cassidy had already brought six AHSA A-rated shows to the facility and it was his hope to continue the horse show tradition. On behalf of the Melville estate, the Stony Brook Foundation sold Mr. Cassidy the horse farm in 1981; proceeds of the sale went to the Museums at Stony Brook. Both the horse show business, as well as his health, were unfortunately on the decline. He died in 1986, after spending only a few years revitalizing the property.[44]

After Cassidy's deal, Suffolk County acquired Old Field Farm to prevent commercial sale of the property or possible subdivision and development. During this period, the facility stood vacant and continued to deteriorate. The county initiated a search to identify an appropriate entity to take on the extensive restoration required, manage Old Field Farm, and return the prized local institution to its rightful place in the community. In 1996, Old Field Farm Ltd was created and began restoring and revivifying Old Field Farm. Over the past twenty years, Old Field Farm Ltd has been an active steward of the property. The Smythe barn has been restored, the grandstand has been rehabilitated, and several stable structures have been rehabilitated. The facility has also become home once again to five United States Equestrian Federation sanctioned horse shows and is beginning to attract high-caliber equestrians and all members of the community and beyond. The equestrian community on Long Island remains robust despite extensive land development and Old Field Farm

[43] "North Shore Horse Show," *New York Times*, September 8, 1964.
[44] *Three Village Herald*, October 8, 1986.

represents one of the only permanent horse show grounds on Long Island and one of the older show grounds in the country.

Now over eighty years old, Old Field Club and Farm remain active parts of the community. The club boasts a successful tennis program, a busy cabana beach, and a clubhouse that still hosts Friday night dinners and all the traditional club activities, including the Governors' Ball, Mother's and Father's Day celebrations, and New Year's Eve Gala. It continues to provide recreational activities during the summer months and social and cultural activities during the winter. In addition to restoring and bringing horse shows back to the facility, Old Field Farm Ltd has emphasized social events associated with the shows, such as their "Hunt Brunch" and "Lobster Clambake," as well as educational programming. The club, beach cabanas, and farm remain a cornerstone in the social and cultural life of the Three Villages and have lived up to the promise of the Melville family's vision of a place that serves as a recreational and social center for the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 22.53
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	656765	4534616	3	18	656250	4534016
2	18	656781	4534461	4	18	656182	4534518

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nomination boundaries include the parcels historically associated with the Old Field clubhouse, schoolhouse, cabana beach, and Old Field Farm.

Old Field Club and Farm
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State

Old Field Club and Farm
Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., New York

86 West Meadow Road
East Setauket, NY 11733

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

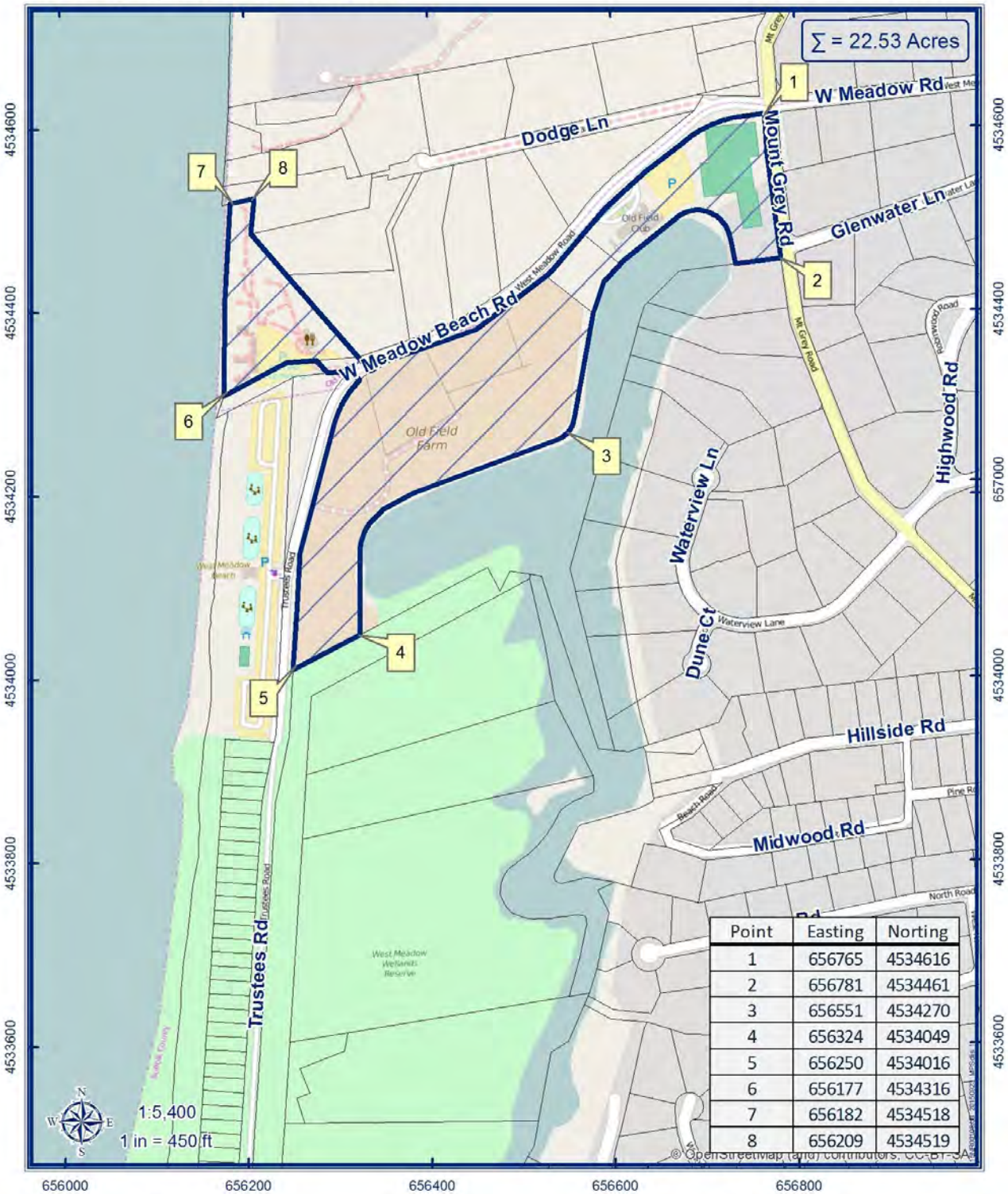
Feet
0 330 660 1,320

Club & Farm

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Old Field Club and Farm
Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., New York

86 West Meadow Road
East Setauket, NY 11733



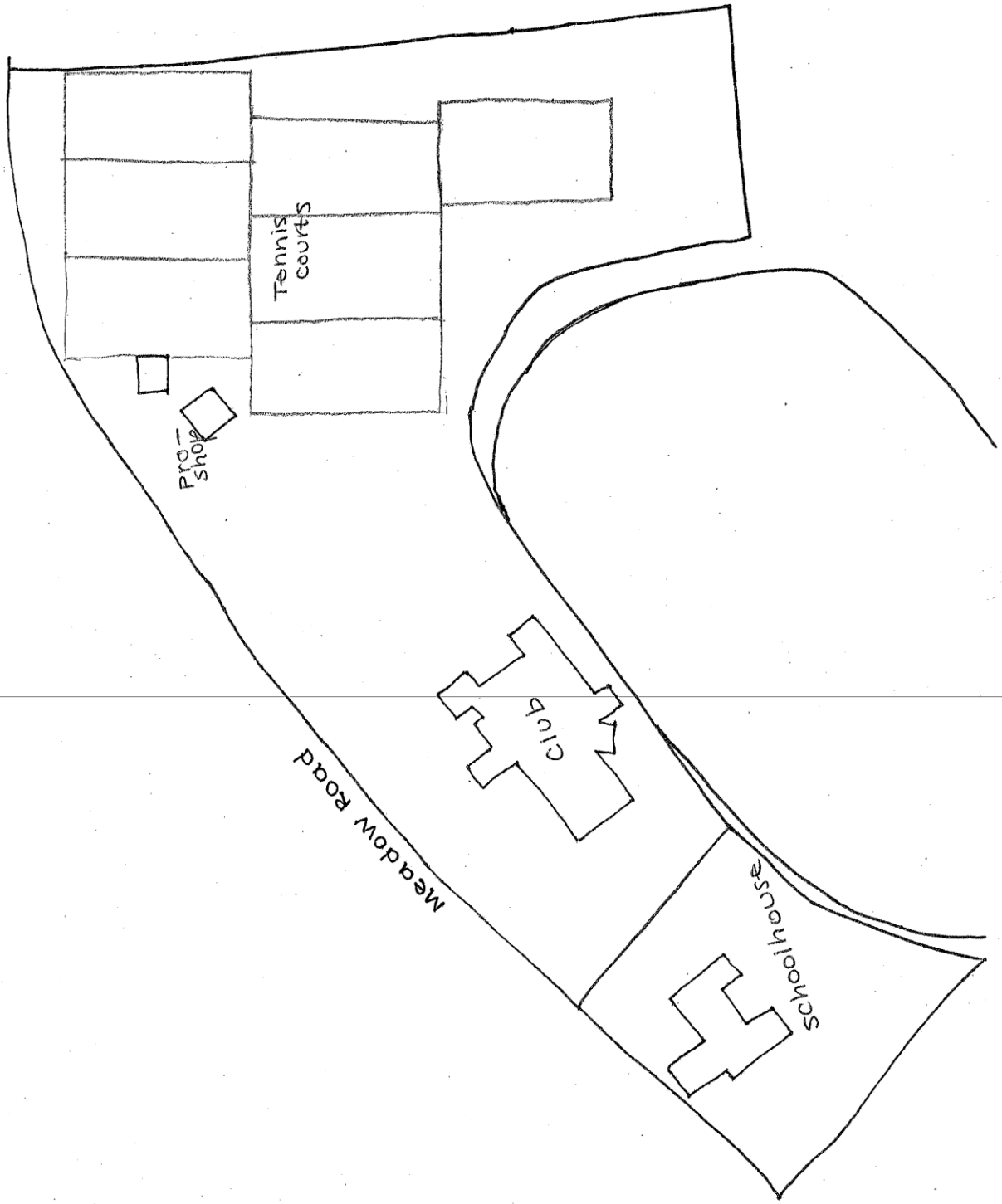
Point	Easting	Norting
1	656765	4534616
2	656781	4534461
3	656551	4534270
4	656324	4534049
5	656250	4534016
6	656177	4534316
7	656182	4534518
8	656209	4534519

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

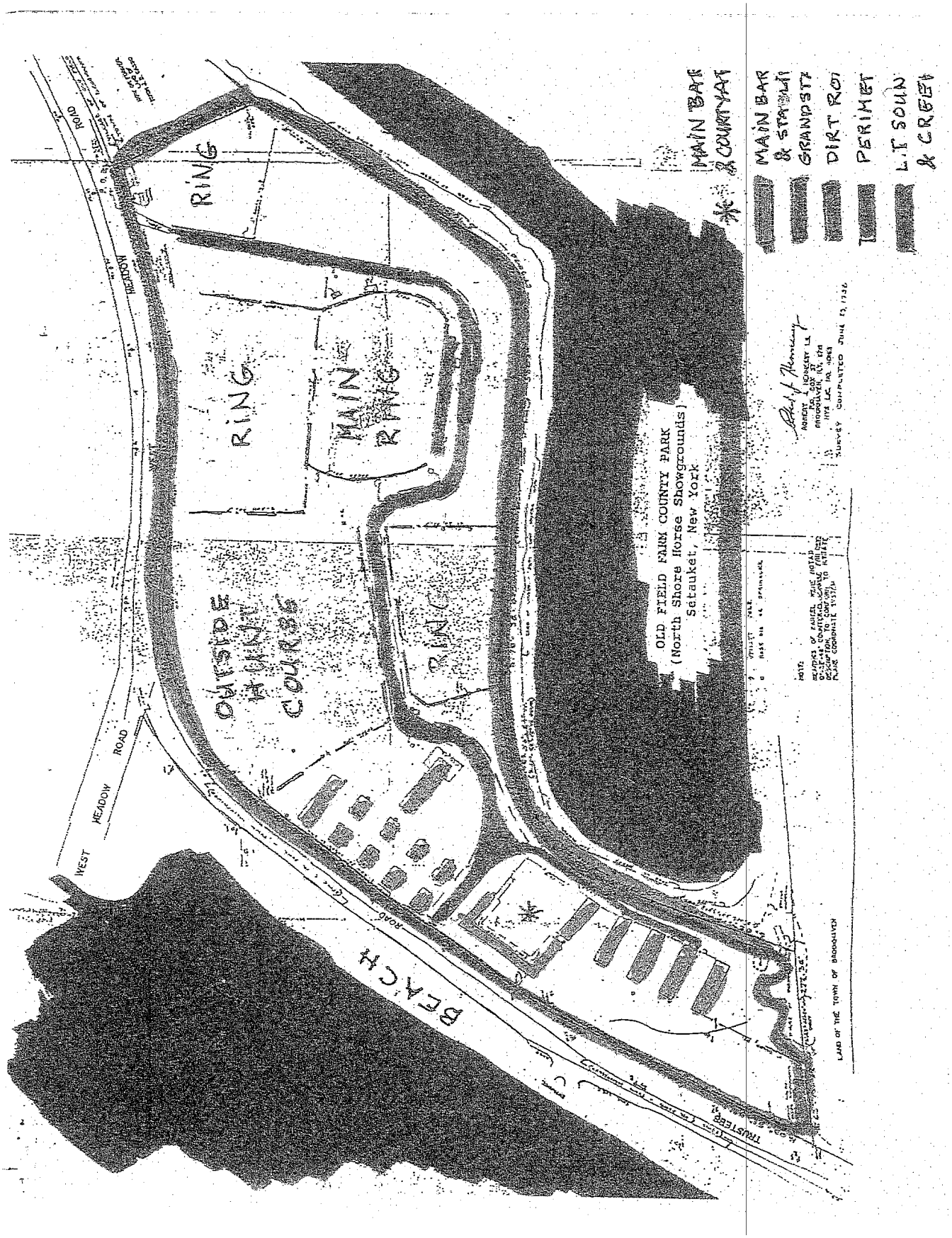
Feet
0 150 300 600

Club & Farm

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

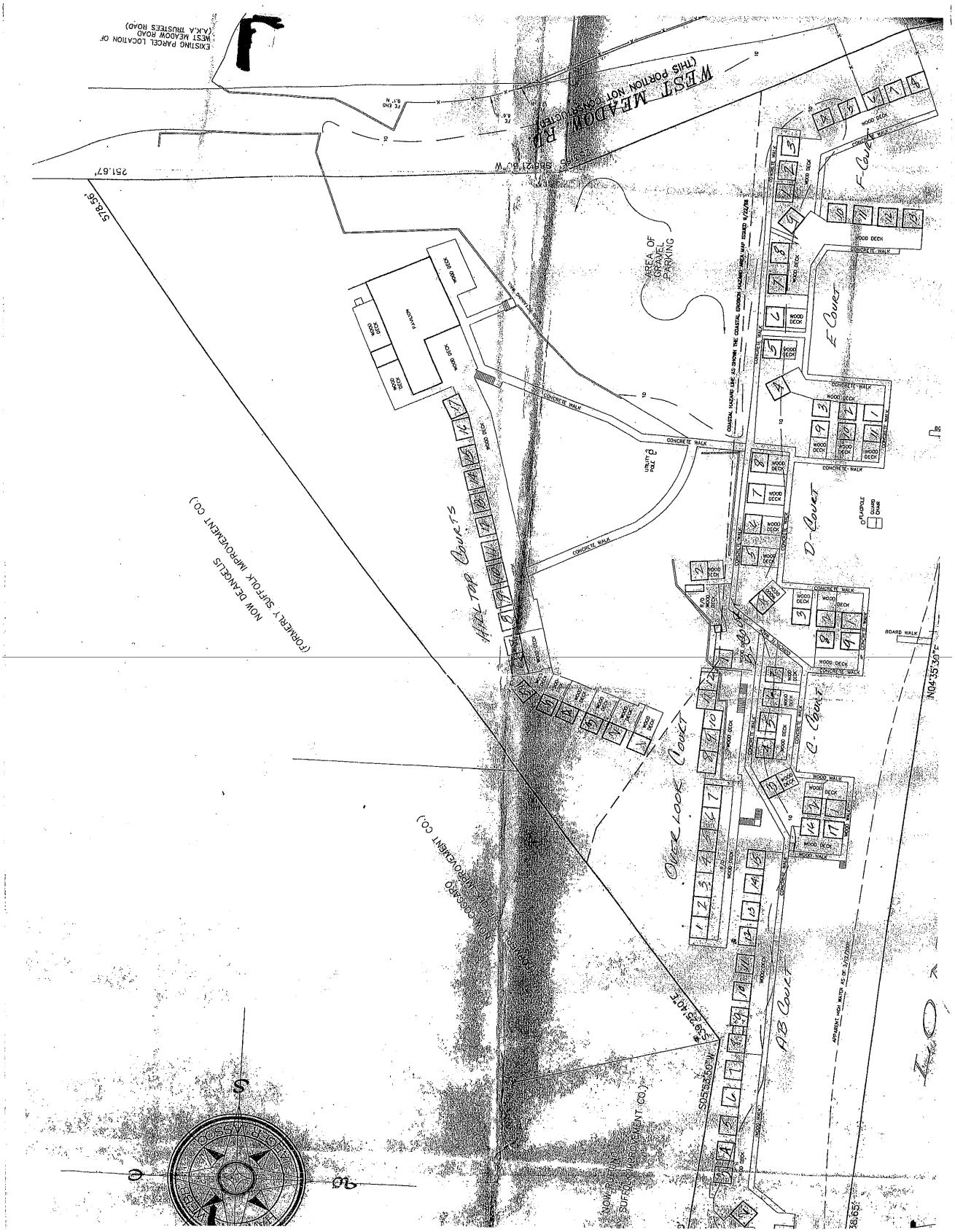


Old Field Club & Schoolhouse


OLD FIELD FARM COUNTY PARK
(North Shore Horse Showgrounds)
Setauket, New York
OUTSIDE HUNTER COURSE
RING
MAIN RING
RING
WEST HEADOW ROAD
BEACH ROAD
TRUSTEES
LAND OF THE TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN
MAIN BAR & COURTYAR
MAIN BAR & STANDS
GRANDSTA
DIRT RO
PERIMET
L.I SOUN & CREEK

Old Field Club and Farm
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State



11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kerri Glynn, Barbara Russell, Sally Lynch, Richard Martin, edited by Jennifer Betsworth (NY SHPO)

organization Old Field Club, Old Field Farm, Ltd., Suffolk County date November 2015

street & number telephone

city or town East Setauket state NY zip code 11733

e-mail

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Old Field Club

City or Vicinity: Old Field / East Setuaket

County: Suffolk State: NY

Photographer: Jennifer Betsworth / Barbara Russell

Date Photographed: June and October 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0001
Old Field Club, Façade, facing northeast

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0002
Old Field Club, Façade detail, facing east

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0003
Old Field Club, Rear (east) elevation, facing north

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0004
Old Field Club, Interior, facing northeast

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0005
Old Field Club, Interior, Ballroom fireplace, facing northeast

Old Field Club and Farm
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY
County and State

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0006
Old Field Club, Interior, Windrow mural off of main ballroom, facing northeast

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0007
Schoolhouse, facing southwest

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0008
U-shaped barn, facing southwest

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0009
U-shaped barn, detail of stall door, facing north

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0010
U-shaped barn, Fourteen-stall stable, long stable, facing north

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0011
Long stables, facing northeast

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0012
Six-stall stables, facing north

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0013
Competition rings and grandstand, facing northeast

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0014
Main ring and grandstand, facing east

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0015
Beach pavilion and hillside cabanas, facing northeast

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0016
Hillside cabanas, facing north

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0017
Beach cabanas, facing southwest

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0018
Beach cabanas, facing south

NY_Suffolk Co_Old Field Club_0019
Hillside cabanas, facing northwest

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name (multiple)

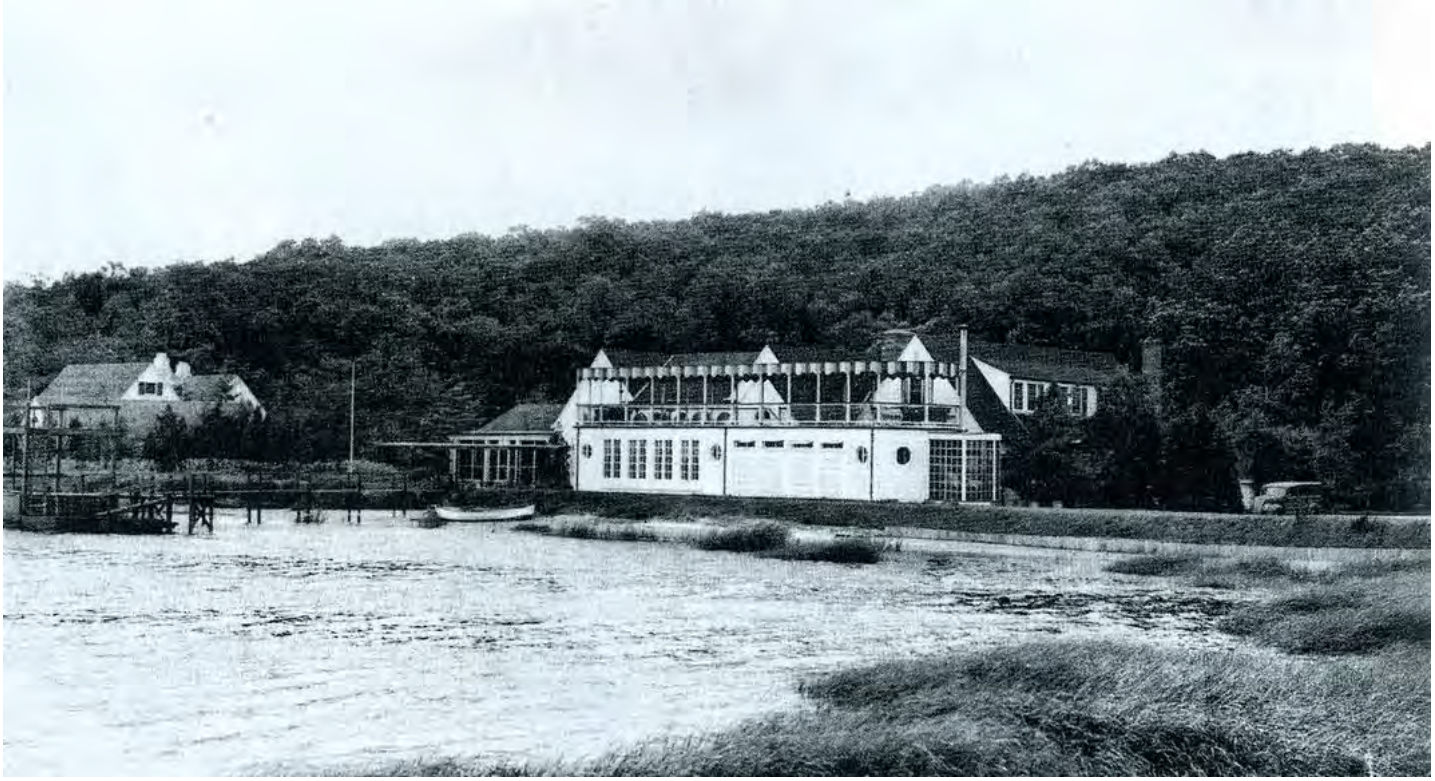
street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Old Field Club, ca. 1930. Courtesy of Barbara Russell



Old Field Club, ca. 1940. Courtesy of Barbara Russell

WINDROW '58
SETAUKET NY

POSTED

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