

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 Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number East Main Street, south side

☐ not for publication

city or town Yaphank

☐ vicinity

state NY code NY county Suffolk code 103 zip code 11980

### 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:

X national     statewide     local

Ruth A. Purpoint DBHPO  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/8/14  
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:

X 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Alvaro A. K. [Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

1/27/15  
Date of Action

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

### Name of related multiple property listing

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

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Museum

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL / Cape Cod

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone, Concrete

walls: Wood

roof: Wood Shingle

other:

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

---

### 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 Mary Louise Booth House is located on the south side of East Main Street in the hamlet of Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. Yaphank is made up of two primary streets: Yaphank Avenue and Main Street. The Mary Louise Booth House is situated on a house lot in a wooded setting just east of the intersection of these two primary streets. Main Street is paralleled to the south by Carman's River and Lower Lake, a section of the river that was dammed historically for the hamlet's milling operations. Yaphank's architecture primarily reflects its growth and prosperity from the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth century. Two National Register-listed resources are located nearby the Booth House: the 1853 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (NR 1988) and the ca. 1855 Robert Hawkins Homestead (NR 1986).

Originally located diagonally across East Main Street, the Mary Louise Booth House was endangered and in need of restoration and repair when it was moved to its current site in 1998. The Booth House is located on Suffolk County parkland that was previously listed for its association with Homan-Gerard House and Mills (NR 1988). The house's new location is an appropriate new setting for the house; the primary features of the original lot, including its fence and frontage on East Main Street, wooded, semi-rural character, and approximate house lot size and setback, were all carefully considered and replicated. The .26-acre house lot is relatively flat, covered by a lawn, and surrounded by woods. A small kitchen garden and reproduction outhouse are located on the southwest corner of the lot. A white picket fence runs along the lot's frontage on East Main Street.

---

### Narrative Description

The Mary Louise Booth House, built ca. 1829, is a one-and-a-half story frame house covered in wood shakes. The house is three bays wide and two bays deep and stands on a rubble stone and concrete foundation. Its side-gabled roof is covered in wood shingles and has a central brick chimney. The house is a fine example of a Long Island Half House, in the style of small eastern Long Island houses from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, similar to the Cape Cod style of architecture seen along the coast of New England. Since it was moved in 1998, the Booth house has been repaired and restored by Suffolk County Parks in partnership with the Yaphank Historical Society.

The façade (north elevation) has a door in the easternmost bay, and two nine-over-six sash windows to the west. The recessed wood six-panel door and simple four-light transom are original to the house; a new board-and-batten storm door, built in a period-appropriate manner, protects the original door. A wood gutter runs along the base of the roofline and connects to copper lead pipes at each of the corners. Large stone slabs create a path to the front door from the picket fence gate. The central brick chimney, which was partially rebuilt after a collapse during the move, is visible over the roofline. On the west elevation, the house has three windows on the first floor and two windows on the second floor. On the first floor, the northwest corner window is an original nine-over-six sash window, the center window is six-over-six, and the window closest to the southwest corner six-over six. On the second floor, there are two matching windows, which are nine-over-nine, with the glass panes oriented horizontally. It is possible that the windows were salvaged and made to fit the space.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

The south elevation has a central doorway with two six-over-six sash windows in the easternmost bay. One of the windows is restored, and the other is a reproduction based upon physical evidence. A large stone slab doorstep leads to the board-and-batten door. As on the front elevation, a wood gutter and copper pipes were installed along the roofline and corners. The rubble stone finish on the foundation is visible on this elevation. To access the concrete basement built for the house, a new basement entrance of concrete with bluestone caps framing was constructed on the eastern side of the elevation. The east elevation has one nine-over-six window in the north, first floor bay. A bay window with three six-over-one windows, which was added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, is located in the southernmost bay. The original window towards the front of the house is nine-over-six. The second floor has one small window to the south with four-over-four panes, and a nine-over-nine sash window with horizontal orientation, which mimics the two on the west façade.

The interior of the house is laid out in a classic “Cape Cod” style plan. A central chimney forms the core of the house, and is used for two fireplaces on the first floor in the parlor and kitchen and one in the upstairs bedroom. The first floor is divided into a stairhall, parlor, borning room (currently an exhibition room), and a kitchen. The entrance opens to the stairway to the upstairs bedrooms and a small hallway. The front door opens into the entry/stair landing, with a hall and window to the left facing east. The dark wood stair rail, balusters and newel post have been left in their original state and the stair treads, risers, and hallway floorboards are painted in a neutral color. The newel post is an early simple turned wood piece in a wood finish, and the balusters are small, square cut and painted to resemble mahogany. A closet with paneled doors and a latch lock and hinges is located under the stairs; the hardware dates to ca. 1900. The walls and ceiling are original plaster and have been restored. A paneled wood door with original wood grain finish, hardware, and a ceramic wood grain doorknob opens into the parlor. To the west, the parlor is composed of the right two bays on the west side of the house. The three original windows, which are paneled below and have articulated moldings on the inside panel and outside window trim molding, are very refined for this time and rural environment. The fireplace mantel has unusual Federal style detailing; it may have been obtained from a sawmill nearby which specialized in building materials. The mantel features rounded corners, exaggerated, rounded pilasters, and a frieze and cornice band at the top. A beaded edge detail on the inside of the mantel sits on the brick fireplace surround. There is a small cabinet on the right side of the fireplace wall, which is typical of early Cape Cod houses of the type, unfinished on the inside.

An original dark stain finished wood door leads to the “borning room” behind the parlor; it is currently used as an exhibition room. Early horizontal boards run up to the chair rail on the west and north walls and vertical board-to-board wood paneled walls are located on the east wall; both are covered in with early, teal blue milk paint. There is also the same painted technique on both sides of the board-to-board paneled door to the kitchen/keeping room. The west wall is plastered. The south wall is new construction and is paneled with random plank width boards. This room was likely used as a bedroom when the Booths lived there, as they had four young children and there are two bedrooms upstairs. The kitchen and pantry make up the back of the house. The door to the kitchen has the same painted finish in teal blue/green on both sides; this treatment continues into the kitchen walls. All the walls are paneled with horizontal board to board treatment and retain remnants of the original teal blue/green paint, with the exception of the bay window alcove on the east side of the room. A painted chair rail runs around the room. There are three interior doors in the kitchen, one leading to the front hall, one to the exhibition room and one exterior door, paneled wood with original fittings opening to the back yard. The fireplace is an early open-hearth cooking fireplace with a warming cupboard on the right; it retains its original hooks and a swing arm. There is also another small storage cupboard to the left of the fireplace above the high chair rail on that wall. The original pantry was converted to a bathroom ca. 1940; it has been restored to its historic appearance.

The second floor is divided into a stair landing, two bedrooms, and two attic eaves spaces. Throughout, the floorboards are original, the stair rail and balusters and posts, as well as the hardware on the interior doors are also original.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

There is an unusual configuration of the stair rail as it winds around the top of the stair opening on the landing. The wood balusters and railing are not as polished or refined; only the rail and posts seen from the front door are turned and finished. The west wall of the landing, is painted paneling. The walls are horizontal boards, and the door to the attic space is made of vertically positioned boards, cut into the eaves shape. Under the eaves of the roof, there is a small bedroom with access to the attic space. The white painted walls are plaster, floors are painted wood as per the rest of the house, and the trim is painted pale gray. A window opening, similar to a shop window, is located on the wall of the small upstairs bedroom under the eaves facing the staircase. It has been discovered that Jonah Hawkins operated a dry goods shop in the house when he lived there from October 1848-May 1859; this window could have been cut out for the purposes of his shop.

The larger bedroom upstairs has a fireplace with the original mantel; it is smaller and simpler than the fireplace in the parlor. There is a beaded edge around the baseboard and fireplace as well as the windows, typical of the early nineteenth century. Two openings on either side of the room reveal the attic spaces under the eaves which were used for storage or small sleeping quarters. The space on the south side is accessible through the small bedroom, the other on the north side is accessible through a door in the upstairs hallway.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

## 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.)

- ☐ 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.
- ☒ 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.)

Architecture

Social History

Literature

### Period of Significance

ca. 1829 - 1845

### Significant Dates

1831, 1845

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Mary Louise Booth

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for architecture begins when Mary Louise Booth's parents built the house ca. 1829. The period of significance for the house's association with Booth ends when she moved away from Yaphank with her family in 1844.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

## Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

### Criterion Consideration B: Moved Property

During the late 1990s, Merton and Madeleine Kinney, who had owned the Booth House since 1946, approached the Yaphank Historical Society to negotiate a donation and relocation of the Booth House from their property. The house was adjacent to the owners' own home, and had sat largely vacant for over 20 years. While they were aware of the responsibility of taking care of a house with this provenance, the Kinney family was unable to maintain the vacant house and recognized its deteriorating condition. The historical society made arrangements with Suffolk County Department of Parks' Historic Services to acquire the house in 1998 and move it one-tenth of a mile to Suffolk County's Southaven Park across the street. A diagram showing the historic and current locations is located in Appendix C. This donation enabled the county to assume ownership of the house and it was admitted to the Suffolk County Historic Trust to become a house museum open to the public under the stewardship of the Yaphank Historical Society.

Due to the short distance of the move, the Booth House retains a comparable orientation, setting, feeling, and environment as on its historic lot. In this successful effort to save and restore this important landmark in Yaphank's history, it was moved to its new setting, which is the same size with the same landscape features. The new setting offers the same primary characteristics as the historic parcel: a frontage on East Main Street, wooded surroundings, a flat, open lawn around the house, and a semi-rural feeling. Although it is part of a larger Southaven Park property, a quarter-acre house lot was sympathetically carved out as an appropriate setting. The house's historic setback was replicated; on its new lot, it sits the same distance from the road with the equivalent front lawn and back yard dimensions. Using nineteenth century photographs of the house for reference, a picket fence was built and period lilacs and apple trees have been planted, as well as an herb garden southeast of the kitchen door.

### Criterion Consideration C: Birthplaces and Graves

The Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House in Yaphank, New York, was Mary Louise Booth's home for the first fourteen years of her life. After leaving Yaphank, Mary became an important national figure for her contributions as an author, editor, and activist. Though her work as a translator and historian are remarkable, Booth is particularly notable for her tenure as the first editor of *Harper's Bazar*, a progressive women's magazine, and her lifetime of work in the women's rights and abolition movements. Mary Louise Booth's girlhood home is the only remaining property associated to her life or work; all of the homes and offices where she resided or worked during her most productive years have been demolished. A list of these residences and workplaces is included in Appendix A.

Mary Louise Booth was born in the house in 1831 and lived there through 1845, when she moved with her family to Brooklyn. William Chatfield Booth, Mary's father, served as Yaphank's schoolmaster. He quickly recognized Mary's intelligence and aptitude and tutored her in advanced subjects at a young age. By the age of 12, Mary had begun tutoring other students, both at the school and in a small workshop located behind her family home. During her years at her girlhood home in Yaphank, Mary had already begun to establish the course she would follow for the rest of her life as a teacher, writer, and activist.

Though she lived and worked in New York City and traveled extensively, Mary Louise Booth retained ties with Yaphank. She remembered her childhood fondly, and returned frequently to visit her former home. Friends later

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House

Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY

County and State

recalled sitting across the street from the home with Mary while she reminisced. She also visited friends and family who still lived in eastern Long Island. Her formative years in Yaphank, and the small community's acceptance of the bright young woman, made a clear impression on Mary. During her lifetime, and for decades after, community members proudly pointed to the small home associated with a woman who had become a nationally-recognized figure.



Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

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

The Mary Louise Booth House, built ca. 1829, is significant at the national level under Criterion B for its association with esteemed author, translator, abolitionist and suffragist Mary Louise Booth (1831-1889). Mary Louise Booth was born in the house and lived there until 1845; it is the only remaining property that she was associated with in her lifetime. Booth wrote the first *History of the City of New York in 1859* and was the founding editor of *Harper's Bazar*<sup>1</sup> (1867-1889). In her role as editor, Mary Louise Booth helped to establish *Harper's Bazar* as a popular weekly magazine with nationwide reach. It promoted progressive ideas and engaged women in politics, literature, art, and fashion. She also translated 47 books; one of her most prominent translations, *The Uprising of a Great People* by Count Agenor de Gasparin, helped Abraham Lincoln establish a conceptual framework for his *Emancipation Proclamation*. A political and social activist, Mary Louise Booth participated in the abolitionist and women's rights movements; she was the Secretary of the Women's Rights Congress in Saratoga in 1855. She counted among her friends and colleagues contemporaries such as Oliver Wendell Holmes, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Louisa May Alcott and Winslow Homer. She introduced Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty, to the leaders in New York society, government and publishing and was instrumental in bringing this iconic monument to America.

The Mary Louise Booth house is also significant at the local level under Criterion C as a rare, early example of a Long Island half house in Yaphank. Built by her father, William Chatfield Booth, the simple house reflects his status as a young teacher in the hamlet. The Long Island half house, a vernacular building type common on eastern Long Island, had become well-established by the early nineteenth century. In addition to its historic massing and post-and-beam construction, the Mary Louise Booth house's interior is remarkably intact. The original woodwork, mantelpieces, trim, flooring, and staircase have all been retained.

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Historical Context of Yaphank**

Situated between its two lakes in the Town of Brookhaven, Yaphank is nearly the geographic center of Long Island. As a result, "All roads lead to Yaphank" became a popular local saying in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the region was the home of the Unkechaug Indians. After early settlers reached the river area in 1726, the Indians progressively sold off their land and gave up fishing and hunting rights. Without this access, many of the Indians had no choice but to work for the new landowners.

In 1739, Captain Robert Robinson was granted permission to dam the river and build the Upper Mill or Swezey's Mill. Twenty-three years later, further downstream, John Homan was granted the right to build a sawmill and later a grist mill below his house on the river. The road that ran along its northern bank between the mills became Main Street, and the land that was centered there became known as Millville. In 1800, Millville was described as "an almost unknown hamlet of twenty houses" and primarily a farming settlement. The milling industry's success enabled the hamlet to thrive and grow.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *Harper's Bazar* was spelled with one "a" from its inception in 1867 until it was purchased by Hearst Publishers in 1913 and became *Harper's Bazaar*.

<sup>2</sup> Homan, L. Beecher, *Yaphank, As It Is and Was: Its Prominent Men and Their Times* (New York: John Polemus Printer, 1875), 174.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

In 1844, the Long Island Railroad was extended through the village, creating access to Brooklyn and the east end of Long Island. It also created new business opportunities by facilitating the transportation of lumber to the city for use as building material and firewood. By 1845, Millville applied for its own post office. After discovering that there were several other Millvilles in New York state, the community chose the name Yaphank. The Native American word *Yamphanke*, which means "bank of a river," had long referred to the boundary line at the eastern edge of the village; the "Yaphank Line" defined the land from the Manor of St. George. By the 1850s, Yaphank had become a prosperous community. In addition to its saw mills and grist mills, it had two wheelwright shops, a meat market, dry-goods and hardware stores, upholstering shop and an express stagecoach line. During this period, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Baptist churches were established.

### **The Booth Family in Eastern Long Island**

The Booth family arrived in the small, but thriving, community of Yaphank in 1829. Mary Louise Booth's parents, William Chatfield Booth and Nancy Monsell, were from old Long Island families; the Booths were from Shelter Island and Southold, and the Monsell family was from Middle Island/Bellport and earlier from Smithtown. The Booth family history is well documented. One of the earliest settlers on Long Island was Ensign John Booth, who was deeded the rights to Shelter Island with his partners Nathaniel Sylvester, Thomas Rouse and Thomas Middleton in 1652. He had been living in Southold as part of the New Haven Colony and started working with his partners in the sugar trade in Barbados, where they owned plantations. When he sold his share to cover business debt, he and his family retained the rights to live and work on Robins Island in perpetuity. During the American Revolution, the Booths were patriots in Loyalist territory; several were known for their independent views during the Seven Years War and the occupation of the eastern end of Long Island. Close to Yaphank, at the Manor of St. George, it is said that Mary Louise Booth's grandfather, William Chatfield Booth, sketched a map for Major Benjamin Tallmadge of the Culper Spy Ring to aid in the successful attack on the British fort. The Tallmadge Trail goes right through Main Street, Yaphank; Tallmadge's troops would have marched past the future site of the Booth house on that infamous raid in 1780.

Mary Louise Booth, as the author of *History of the City of New York*, was a historian in her own right. Her friends and colleagues recognized Mary's pride in her family ancestry and their patriotic efforts. The Booth family crest was passed down through the generations from 17<sup>th</sup> century Cheshire, England. The phrase on the crest, "Quod era spero," was translated as "Hope, Perseverance, Success," or "What I hope to accomplish I shall accomplish." In recognition of this heritage, Mary Louise Booth used the crest on her stationery and often quoted it.

### **The Booth House**

In 1829, William Chatfield Booth and his new wife, Nancy Monsell Booth, came to Yaphank and built their house on East Main Street. William Chatfield Booth may have been familiar with the region due to his own family connections; Booth's father aided Major Benjamin Tallmadge with his raid on the Loyalist fort at the Manor of St. George a few miles away from Yaphank. He may have also been attracted by the development of mills and associated businesses in the hamlet. William C. Booth became the headmaster of the local school, which had been founded in 1813. He also worked as a dyer at Robert Hawkins's lower mill on Mill Street at the intersection of East Main Street.

Robert Hawkins sold a house lot to William Booth in 1829. The deed indicates that an "indenture was made on the sixth day of March 1829 between Robert Hawkins of Brookhaven and Rebecca his wife of the one part and William C. Booth of Southold.... in consideration of the sum of one hundred and twenty five dollars to them in hand paid by the said

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

William C. Booth the receipt is hereby duly acknowledged...containing by estimation thirteen and a half acres..."<sup>3</sup> As one of the hamlet's largest landowners in the still lightly-settled hamlet, it is unlikely that Hawkins would have built such a small house on his property. It is most likely that Booth bought empty land to build a house upon.

The Booth house is a fine example of a Long Island Half House, in the style of small eastern Long Island houses from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The small wood-shingled house is similar to the "Cape Cod" house configuration which was popular in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century along the New England coast from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut to the eastern end of Long Island. This "Cape Cod" style was particularly common on the east end of Long Island, especially on the North Fork in the small seaside villages, and extended through the middle of the island to Yaphank and Bellport. William Booth, who had grown up in Southold, was undoubtedly familiar with this style of small house. Early residential architecture on Long Island tended to follow simple, consistent forms based upon vernacular building methods. The two most prominent building types are a three-bay, side-hall plan, or "half-house," and a five-bay center-hall plan. They also had regular window patterns, large central or interior end chimneys, and minimal detail and orientation. Aspects of national styles, particularly Federal and Greek Revival, began to appear by the early nineteenth century.<sup>4</sup>

Long Island half-houses are quite literally defined by their small size. Half houses are typified by their one-and-a-half story height, side-hall entrance, and side-gabled roof. The name "half house" refers specifically to the form's side-hall entrance, as compared to the larger, center-hall form. It was not uncommon for the small, initial house to be expanded as families and fortunes grew. As Rufus Rockwell Wilson stated in his book, *Historic Long Island*, "the houses grew in size as the pioneer days came to an end but they were always long and low — seldom more than a story-and-a-half in height."<sup>5</sup>

The Mary Louise Booth House is an excellent, intact example of a Long Island half-house. Remarkably, the house never received any substantial additions and has survived in its original form. The one-and-a-half story, timber-framed, side-gabled, side-hall house retains its historic massing. The interior organization of the Booth house also follows the Cape Cod model of rooms situated around a central chimney. The chimney serves two fireplaces on the first floor, and one on the second floor. Original doors, paneling, and woodwork are evident throughout the house. Though the house itself is simple, Booth had access to high-style and high-quality woodwork from a nearby lumber mill. The house's turned newel post, fine, beaded trim, and plastered walls in the hallway and parlor clearly distinguish them as formal spaces. The Federal period mantelpiece in the parlor is particularly fine and notable for its detailed cornice and unusual rounded pilasters. In the house's more functional spaces, simpler materials prevailed; plaster was eschewed for whitewashed, beaded paneling and simple wood mantelpieces. Through its exterior form, interior configuration, and integrity of materials, the Mary Louise Booth house exemplifies the vernacular half-house type.

<sup>3</sup> Deed, William C. Booth and Robert and Rebecca Hawkins, March 6, 1829, 85.Town of Brookhaven. Historic Documents Library, Records Room, Office of County Clerk, Suffolk County Center, Riverhead, New York.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas C. Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1984), 35, 47-48; National Register of Historic Places, Huntington (Town) Multiple Resource Area, Huntington, Suffolk County (90MRA00052); Barbara Ferris Van Lieu, *Long Island Domestic Architecture of the Colonial and Federal Periods* (Setauket, LI: Society of the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, 1974), 12-13, 20.

<sup>5</sup> Wilson, Rufus Rockwell, *Historic Long Island* (New York: The Berkeley Press, 1902), 81.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

### **Mary L. Booth's Early Years in Yaphank**

Mary Louise Booth was the eldest child of William Chatfield and Nancy Monsell Booth. Born April 9, 1831, she was a child prodigy and was tutored largely by her father, the local schoolmaster. Her siblings were Nancy Diademina (born 1834), William Edwin (born 1836) and Charles Allen (born 1840). She attended the local school, where she helped her father, and also tutored younger children at home in a shed in the back of the house (no longer extant). Her 1889 obituary in the *Patchogue Advance* stated that "in 1843, when she was 12 years old, [Mary] taught a small private school in her father's little workshop which stood four rods (66 feet) back of the house where Miss Booth was born." One of her friends wrote later about how important her relationship to her father was and that he presented her with a small personal Bible inscribed to her on completion of a course of study when she was 16.

An August 17, 1900 article in *The Patchogue Advance* described the Booth House as a one and a half story shingled cottage, with trailing vines and shrubs on its weathered sides. This reminiscence of Booth's early days in Yaphank, tells of her walking off to the district school, "a mere hut," where the raindrops came through the roof on rainy days.<sup>6</sup> At six years of age, she had read her Bible through and had finished *Plutarch's Lives*, and at eight she was reading Racine in French. At nine, she took up Latin and at eleven had mastered the writings of Hume, Gibbon and Locke. Yaphank was proud of Mary Louise Booth and the Booths' connection to all the influential families on eastern Long Island. The Booths, as educators, touched the lives of all those in the community. Many community members followed Mary Louise Booth's literary career and successes for many years in the local newspapers.

### **Mary L. Booth's Career**

Mary Louise Booth's multi-faceted career reflected her diverse interests, progressive politics, and her personal energy. She started teaching and writing at any early age and had started her professional career by her early twenties. Over the course of her lifetime, she worked as a writer and editor, translator, and historian. She did the bulk of her translation work from 1855-1867, and was the editor of *Harper's Bazar* from 1867-1889. From at least 1855 through the end of her life, she was also an activist and was heavily involved in the causes most meaningful to her, including equal rights and pay for teachers, abolition, women's rights and suffrage. She lived her life by example, as an independent woman.

### **Mary Louise Booth - Student and Teacher**

Mary Louise Booth began tutoring children in Yaphank when she was 12. After the Booth family left Yaphank two years later, she taught Latin at PS 1 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, where her father was the headmaster. Local lore says that she did "piece work" sewing vests for extra money in her late teen years; however, she wasn't very good at it and decided to focus on teaching and writing. She wrote short pieces for the *New York Times* women's page on local women's stories and educational news of the day. In 1854, Mary began studying conversational French at the English & French Academy in Brooklyn, known as Professor Abadie's School, to help improve her translations. While at the academy, she met Margaret Sangster, who would become her successor at *Harper's Bazar*.

### **Mary Louise Booth, Women's Rights Activist, Teacher's Advocate**

As an aspiring writer and editor, Mary was still living with her family in Brooklyn during the mid-1850s (No longer extant; See Appendix A). Her father encouraged her to pursue teaching, but she focused on her short *New York Times*

---

<sup>6</sup> William J. Bok, "Historic Memories (Sixth Paper): Men and Women of National Reknown Who Once Lived in Patchogue and its Environs," *Patchogue Advance*, August 17, 1900.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

pieces and translation work; her first translation was published in 1856. Interested in the growing women's rights movement, Mary began reading materials and attending events.

In 1855, she was elected secretary for the Women's Rights Congress in Saratoga, as reported in the August 15<sup>th</sup> issue of the *New York Times*. Other officers elected that day included Susan B. Anthony, Lydia Mott, the Honorable John Jay and Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Emily Dickinson's mentor. She also served as the secretary of the May 1860 Women's Rights Convention at Cooper Union in New York City; Susan B. Anthony and William Lloyd Garrison were her fellow officers.

Through her involvement with the women's rights movement, Mary Louise Booth became a professional and personal friend of Susan B. Anthony. The two women also worked together to promote teacher's rights for the New York State Teachers Association in 1857. Anthony and Booth corresponded frequently; In particular, Anthony encouraged Booth to be more active in promoting women's rights in her magazine, *Harper's Bazar*. However, Booth was reluctant to do so. She felt that she could influence women in her own way to be more independent and aware of the issues of the day through her editorials. She was also very sensitive to her family's feelings about her unmarried lifestyle; early in her career, she still relied on them for financial support. When asked by Anthony to speak at the Seventh National Women's Rights Convention in New York City in 1856, she responded: "The hope of yet aiding the cause is the polar star which guides all my efforts. If it were possible I would do this directly, but the fashion of the times has made me a dependent and home aid would scarcely be extended to me in this. I am trying to make myself more independent. Fortune now promises favorable things. If I succeed, count on me...I have faith enough in the cause to move mountains, but if I speak at present I forfeit all claims on my home forever."<sup>7</sup> In a later letter, Susan B. Anthony asked Booth, as editor of *Harper's Bazar*, for her opinion on her book, *History of Women's Suffrage*. Booth responded that: "You and your colleagues have industriously placed on record a copious mass of documentary evidence which will be of the utmost value when the time arrives to sum up the final results. When this era comes, you will be foremost among the band of heroic pioneers...among all the champions of women, none has been more distinguished for her life work than Susan B. Anthony."<sup>8</sup>

"The *Bazar* under Booth was an early, if covert, voice for women's rights—one historian has described it as 'subtly subversive.' It was certainly designed to inform and assist women in ways that were more meaningful than simply guiding them toward the latest clothing fashions. Booth recognized that women were just as capable as men in many professions, and that they viewed mindless domesticity as an obstacle to personal development. In its editorial essays, the *Bazar* profiled achievements of well-known women (including 'Champions of Woman Suffrage' in 1869), took a skeptical view of 'labor saving' devices that in practice made women work harder, and described the combined role of wife, mother, and housekeeper as 'absolute bondage.' In 1875, the *Bazar* stated that women had proved their ability as ministers, doctors, lawyers, financiers, architects, artists and authors, 'vindicating their equal right with men to work, to live, to think, as complementary halves of the same creation.' Having seen the garment industry's horrendous working conditions firsthand, Booth was well aware of how women of the working class were treated. On many occasions,

<sup>7</sup> Ida Husted Harper, *The Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony (Volume 1)* (Indianapolis and Kansas City: The Bowen-Merrill Company, 1899), 137-148

<sup>8</sup> Harper, Ida Husted. *The Life and Times of Susan B. Anthony (Volume 2 of 2)* (Indianapolis and Kansas City: The Bowen-Merrill Company, 1899), 615.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

including in a series of articles by Juliet Corson, the Bazar exposed and condemned the exploitation of mill workers, shop girls, and seamstresses.<sup>9</sup>

### **Mary Louise Booth, Translator**

From 1855 through 1867, Booth worked on book translations in French, Italian, Portuguese, German, etc. for Scribner's Publishers. In 1856, she presented her first technical manual translation, *The Marble Workers Manual*. She went on to translate over 40 books in several languages throughout her career and developed lifelong relationships through her publishing efforts with the most esteemed intellectuals and scholars in Paris at the time. The books she translated ranged from technical manuals, to books of poetry and fairy tales, to important history books and treatises on slavery and abolition. (See Appendix B for a full list of Booth's published translations)

### **Mary Louise Booth, Author**

In 1859, her *History of the City of New York* was published to great acclaim. Originally meant to be a textbook for the public school system, it was quickly revised for the general public and was printed in many editions and turned into custom portfolios for private libraries. One version was said to have more than 1,000 illustrations and maps in its portfolio. The first published history of New York City, it was used by students and book collectors alike, and copies graced libraries all over the United States and Europe. Due to the book's success, Booth became quite well-known in the international publishing and literary world. She had begun to embark on a monumental project to write similar histories of London, Paris, Rome and Berlin when the Civil War broke out. Mary turned away from these histories and instead put her efforts to working for the Union cause.

### **Mary Louise Booth, Political Activist, Abolitionist**

In 1861, Mary translated *Uprising of a Great People* by Count Agenor de Gasparin. Harriet Prescott Spofford, a colleague and friend, said that Booth talked Mr. Scribner into publishing it if she could translate it in a week. The book had far reaching effects and was a successful publishing effort. The translated work was instrumental in aiding the abolitionist movement and helped inspire the writing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Senator Charles Sumner, a noted abolitionist, and President Abraham Lincoln sent her thank you letters for her patriotism and service to the Union. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton said that her translation of Gasparin's work was "worth a whole phalanx in the cause for human freedom."

During this period, she was also working as an amanuensis for Dr. J. Marion Sims, a noted women's doctor whose offices were at Madison and 29<sup>th</sup> Street in New York.<sup>10</sup> He was known for the founding of Woman's Hospital in New York City in 1857 and specialized in women's reproductive health care. One of her closest friends was Dr. Maria Elizabeth Zakrzewska, an early female physician, along with the Blackwell sisters, also friends of Booth's through the suffrage movement.

In 1862, Mary Louise Booth and Dr. Zakrzewska proposed a new women's magazine, one that had "equal rights for all mankind" as its motto. Their prospectus, which states that women make up half of humanity, argued that women need a journal to centralize all the efforts made to advance the interests of women. They intended to publish *The Woman's Journal* semi-monthly in Boston and include contributors such as women's rights activists Lydia Child, Elizabeth Cady

<sup>9</sup> Thomas Hutchinson, "Harper's Bazar," in *A Publisher's History of American Magazines: Major Publishers Enter the Magazine Market* (2011). Available at < [http://themagazinist.com/uploads/Harpers\\_Bazaar.pdf](http://themagazinist.com/uploads/Harpers_Bazaar.pdf)>.

<sup>10</sup> An amanuensis is a literary assistant who takes dictation or copies manuscripts.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

Stanton, Elizabeth Peabody and T.W. Higginson. Unfortunately, the editors did not receive enough financial investment to publish it. In 1870, Lucy Stone and a group of Boston suffragists used the title and concept and published the journal until 1917; their efforts kept the flame burning for the next generation of suffragists.

### **Mary Louise Booth, Editor of *Harper's Bazar***

In 1867, the Harper brothers, publishers of *Harper's Weekly* and other popular periodicals of the time, approached Mary Louise Booth to be the founding editor of their new publication, *Harper's Bazar: A Repository of Fashion, Pleasure and Instruction*. For the next 22 years, Booth presided at the helm of the successful magazine that touched the lives of women weekly. She was passionate about the written word and the causes and events of the day and included stories about the suffragists, travels in Europe and fashion for the modern woman. The magazine's editorial content did not talk down to its readers but engaged them in topics of the day and taught and inspired them. She introduced her readers to writers such as Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, and Wilkie Collins, the English mystery writer of *The Moonstone* and *Women in White*, as well as illustrators Winslow Homer and Thomas Nast. She edited and wrote in longhand, as the typewriter and telephone came after her tenure, and worked long hard days in the office. *Bazar* did not have the activist impulse of the *Woman's Journal*, but Booth defined the editorial content to reach many American women of the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The *Bazar's* first photographic cover was published in 1888, a year before her death.

Due to her success at *Bazar*, Mary was able to purchase a home at 59<sup>th</sup> Street and Park Avenue in 1880. She soon became famous for the Saturday night salons she held there. Made up of adjoining townhouses near Central Park, her home was filled with art and collections from all over the world. Her extensive personal library was renowned and enjoyed by those who knew her and had the opportunity to visit it. She had a framed lock of Byron's hair, a Julia Margaret Cameron portrait of Tennyson, many paintings and photographs, ceremonial jewelry and Persian rugs. An invitation to her salon was coveted. She was not one for idle gossip; her chosen guests were statesmen, writers, poets and artists who gathered, shared their ideas, and expounded on the topics of the day. Her circle of friends included many from the 19<sup>th</sup> century intellectual centers of the northeast: New York City, Brooklyn and Long Island; Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut; and Boston. She traveled to Europe a few times, both for business and pleasure, but she preferred to travel within New England. She loved traveling in White Mountains of New Hampshire, the coast of Maine and Massachusetts, and particularly loved visiting family and enjoying the sea breezes on eastern Long Island. She also corresponded with Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Maria Mitchell, the famed astronomer from Nantucket who later taught at Vassar. She was a contemporary of Walt Whitman, but *Bazar* never published glowing reviews of his work. At the end of her life, she experienced the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge and the move of the center of New York commerce from lower Manhattan to midtown Manhattan and higher. Her correspondence with the leading suffragists and abolitionists of the day, including Martha Coffin Wright, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frederic Douglass, and Lydia Child, are held in collections at Vassar, Yale, Harvard, Radcliffe, Duke, and Columbia, as well as at the New York Public Library and New-York Historical Society.

### **Mary Louise Booth and The Statue of Liberty**

A Francophile who had translated important books by the leading French intellectuals of the day, including Henri Martin's *History of France* (3 volumes) and Edouard de Laboulaye's *Paris in America*, Mary maintained contact with the authors who she translated for, as well as other European friends. Her passion for French history and culture were an important part of her life as a writer, translator and editor. In the fall of 1865 in Versailles, Henri Martin, Laboulaye, and friends gathered for a dinner to discuss strengthening France's relationship with America and presenting a gift from

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

France as a gesture of friendship. Artist Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was invited to the next dinner to discuss possible ideas with the committee. He went on to create the Statue of Liberty, also known as “Enlightening the World”; the sculpture would become the symbol of America and a landmark in New York Harbor that has welcomed millions of people from all over the world for over a hundred years. Laboulaye asked Mary Louise Booth to introduce Frederic Auguste Bartholdi to the leaders of New York government and society in 1871; she was the first person Bartholdi came to see when he arrived.

Bartholdi’s diaries from his trip to New York describe his visit to her office on his second day in New York City. He saw firsthand how important Mary Louise Booth was on the world stage and the important role she played in bringing the “goddess of freedom” to our country. In October 1886, the Statue of Liberty was opened to great fanfare with fireworks and speeches by President Grover Cleveland, Senator William Evarts and Mayor William Grace. However, only men were allowed at the celebration, as they thought it was dangerous for women in skirts getting on and off the launches. New York City’s suffragists hired a boat to sail as close to the statue as possible; it was filled with many of Mary’s friends and contemporaries.

Mary Louise Booth worked at *Harper’s Bazar* for 22 years until she succumbed to a respiratory illness and died March 4, 1889 at her home in New York City (No longer extant; See Appendix A). The funeral was held there; the attendees included the Harper brothers, John Ford, Mary Mapes Dodge, Whitelaw Reid, E.C. Stedman, and Thomas Nast. The New England Women’s Press Association sent this resolution: “That by the death of Miss Mary Louise Booth, the accomplished editor of Harper’s Bazar, the women journalists of America have lost a noble leader, a conscientious editor and a sincere friend who it was an honor to revere.”<sup>11</sup> She was buried in the Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn with her parents.

### **Later History of the Booth House**

After living in Yaphank from 1829 to 1845, the Booth family left for Brooklyn as William C. Booth was offered the position of headmaster of the first Public School in Williamsburg, PS1. As the train had just arrived in Yaphank, it was much easier to travel from Brooklyn through Yaphank to Greenport. The long journey to the city was shortened and life in this small hamlet changed dramatically. The Booth family had many friends and family on the east end of Long Island and in Yaphank and continued to visit regularly throughout their lifetimes.

In the summer of 1868, Mary Louise Booth brought her friends, noted poets Alice and Phoebe Cary, to visit her old home. For hours, they sat on the steps of St. Andrew’s Church across the street and she told them stories of her childhood in the hamlet. “Thomas Buchanan Reed...Frances Sargent Osgood, Emma Catherine Embury, Caroline May and Mrs. Sarah Helen Whitman, (the sweetheart of Poe), all made pilgrimages to the rural dwelling where the creator of *Harper’s Bazar* made her entrance into life. In the summer season, wheeling tourists level their cameras at the vine-clad roadway cottage where this patriotic woman laid the foundations of her interesting life.”<sup>12</sup>

Over the next 100 years, the house was owned by four or five local residents in the years before the 1940’s. The Kinney family purchased the house in 1946. It was used for Sunday school classes for many years, as it was situated

<sup>11</sup> *The New York Times*, March 9, 1889, 8: *Honoring the Dead, Tributes to the Memory of Mary Louise Booth*.

<sup>12</sup> William J. Bok, “Historic Memories (Sixth Paper): Men and Women of National Reknown Who Once Lived in Patchogue and its Environs,” *Patchogue Advance*, August 17, 1900.



Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House

Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY

County and State

across from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Later, a friend of the family rented it for use as an art studio. It was in the Kinney family's possession until it was donated to Suffolk County Parks Department and the Yaphank Historical Society in 1996.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many years after the death of Mary Louise Booth, there was a plaque by the front door, stating that this was the birthplace of Yaphank's famous author. As the years went by, the sign disappeared, and the house fell into ruin. Since the restoration of the house in 2011, the Mary L. Booth house is now open to the public for tours and there is a new sign in front. It is maintained by the Yaphank Historical Society and Suffolk County Parks Department's Division of Historic Services.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Beecher Stowe, Harriet. *Our Famous Women*. Hartford, CT: A.D. Worthington, 1884.

Bennett, Paula Bernat. "Subtle Subversion: Mary Louise Booth and Harpers Bazar (1867-1889)," In *Blue Pencils and Hidden Hands: Women Editing Periodicals, 1830-1910*, edited by Sharon M. Harris. Boston, Northeastern University Press, 2004.

Bok, William J. "Historic Memories (Sixth Paper): Men and Women of National Reknown Who Once Lived in Patchogue and its Environs." *Patchogue Advance*, August 17, 1900.

Booth, Mary Louise. *History of the City of New York, from its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*. New York: W.R.C. Clark & Meeker, 1859.

Byers, Inzer. "Mary Louise Booth." In *American Women Writers: A Critical Reference Guide from Colonial Times to the Present*, vol.I, ed.Lina Mainiero. New York: Frederick Ungar, 1979.

Deed, William C. Booth and Robert and Rebecca Hawkins, March 6, 1829, 85. Town of Brookhaven. Historic Documents Library, Records Room, Office of County Clerk, Suffolk County Center, Riverhead, New York.

Endres, Kathleen L. and Therese L. Lueck, eds. *Women's Periodicals in the United States: Consumer Magazines*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995.

Exman, Eugene. *The House of Harper: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Publishing*. New York: Harper & Row, 1967.

Griswold, Mac. *The Manor: Three Centuries at a Slave Plantation on Long Island*. New York, Farrar, Strauss & Giroux. 2013.

Harper, Ida Husted. *The Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony*. 3 vols. Indianapolis: Bowen Merrill, 1898-1908.

Homan, L. Beecher. *Yaphank As It Is and Was, Its Prominent Men and Their Times*. New York: John Polemus Printer. 1875.

"Honoring the Dead, Tributes to the Memory of Mary Louise Booth," *The New York Times*, March 9, 1889.

Hubka, Thomas C. *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1984.

Hutchinson, Thomas. "Harper's Bazar." In *A Publisher's History of American Magazines: Major Publishers Enter the Magazine Market*. 2011. Available at: <[http://themagazinist.com/uploads/Harpers\\_Bazaar.pdf](http://themagazinist.com/uploads/Harpers_Bazaar.pdf)>.

*Long Island Forum*. (1942): 203, 212.

*Long Island Forum*, (1984): 104, 135-137.

Mallman, Rev. Jacob E. *Historical Papers on Shelter Island and its Presbyterian Church*. New York: The A.M.Bustard Co., 1899.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

Mott, Frank Luther. *A History of American Magazines. Vol.3, 1865-1885*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1938.

*National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, Vol 18, p167

National Register of Historic Places, Huntington (Town) Multiple Resource Area, Huntington, Suffolk County (90MRA00052).

Pryse, Marjorie. "Mary E. Wilkins Freeman." In *Modern American Women Writers*, ed .Elaine Showalter, et. al. New York: Charles Scribners, 1991.

Spofford, Harriet Prescott. *A Little Book of Friends*: chapter 6. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1916.

Spofford, Harriet Prescott. *Harpers Bazar*, 1889, March 30.

Stern, Madeleine B. "Booth, Mary Louise." In *Notable American Women 1607-1950: A Biographical Dictionary*, Vol.I:, ed. Edward T. James, et al. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1971.

Van Lieu, Barbara Ferris. *Long Island Domestic Architecture of the Colonial and Federal Periods*. Setauket, LI: Society of the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, 1974.

Wilson, Rufus Rockwell, *Historic Long Island*. New York: The Berkeley Press, 1902.

Wingate, Charles, ed. *Views and Interviews on Journalism* .New York: F.B.Patterson, 1875

Yaphank Historical Society. Tricia Foley and Karen Mouzakes. *Yaphank*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishers, 2012.

Zakrzewska, Dr. Marie E. "Mary L. Booth." *Woman's Journal* (6 April 1889), p.105-106

Zuckerman, Mary Ellen. *A History of Popular Women's Magazines in the United States, 1792-1995*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1998.

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** .26 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>675730</u> Easting	<u>4522708</u> Northing	3	<u></u> Zone	<u></u> Easting	<u></u> Northing
2	<u></u> Zone	<u></u> Easting	<u></u> Northing	4	<u></u> Zone	<u></u> Easting	<u></u> Northing

**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.)

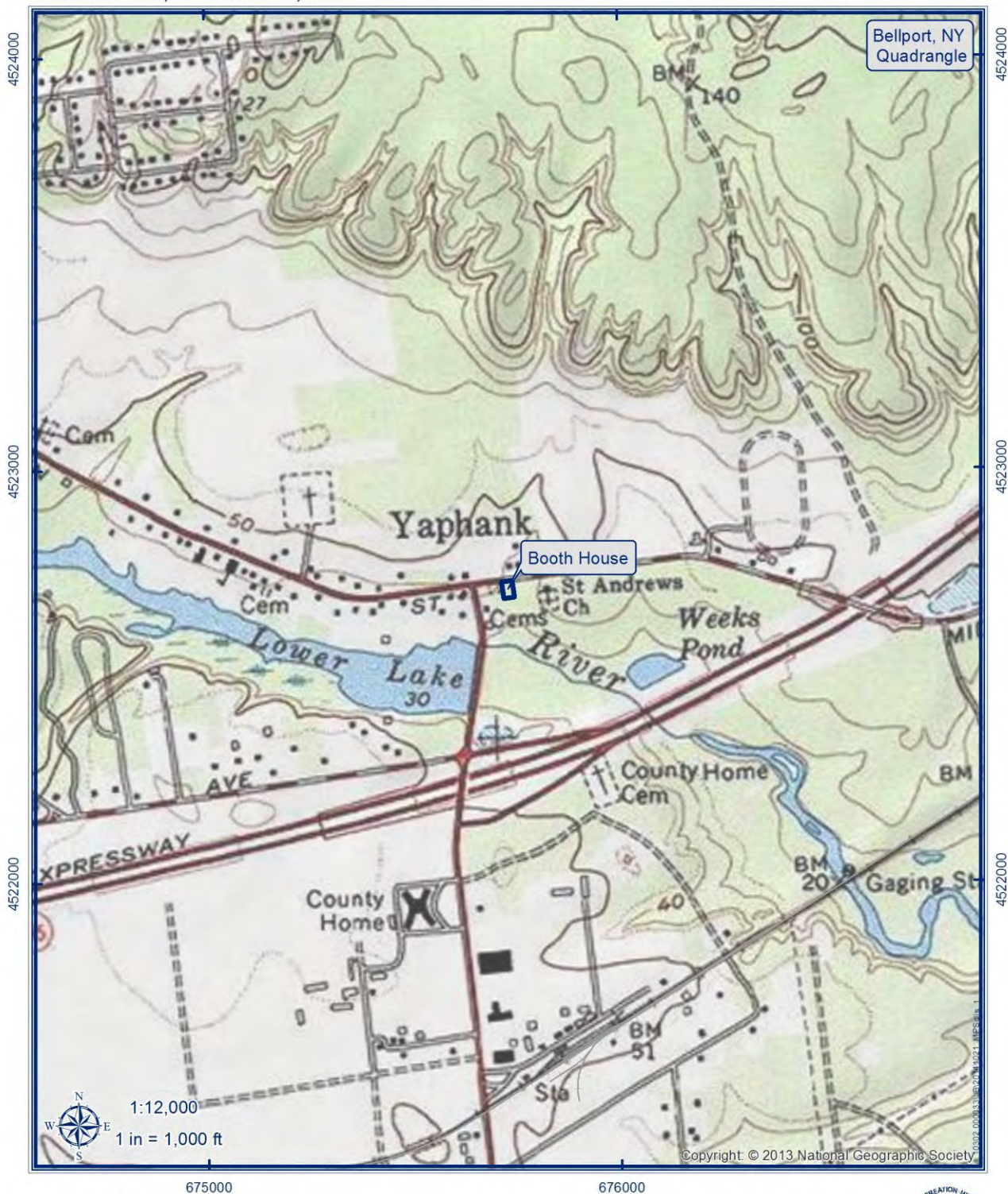
The boundaries for the Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House were drawn to encompass the entire house lot that was created for the house after its move. The quarter-acre lot was sympathetically carved from Suffolk County park land to replicate the setback, historic lot size, and setting of the Booth House.

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

Mary Louise Booth House  
Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., NY

*E. Main St. (South Side)*  
*Yaphank, NY 11980*



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

0 345 690 1,380 Feet

Booth House

Tax Parcel Data:  
Suffolk Co. RPS  
[gis.co.suffolk.ny.us](http://gis.co.suffolk.ny.us)





Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

Mary Louise Booth House  
Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., NY

E. Main St. (South Side)  
Yaphank, NY 11980



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

0 115 230 460 Feet

 Booth House

676000  
Tax Parcel Data:  
Suffolk Co, RPS  
[gis.co.suffolk.ny.us](http://gis.co.suffolk.ny.us)



Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Tricia Foley, edited by Jennifer Betsworth (NY SHPO)  
organization Yaphank Historical Society date October 2014  
street & number 469 Main Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Yaphank state NY zip code 11980  
e-mail Tricia@triciafoley.com

---

### 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: Mary Louise Booth House  
City or Vicinity: Yaphank  
County: Suffolk State: NY  
Photographer: Tricia Foley  
Date Photographed: October 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number:  
  
NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0001  
Façade and west elevation, facing southeast  
  
NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0002  
Façade, facing south  
  
NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0003  
South elevation, facing north  
  
NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0004  
West elevation, facing east

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House

Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY

County and State

NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0005

Interior, stairhall, facing south

NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0006

Interior, parlor, facing east

NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0007

Interior, parlor mantelpiece detail, facing south

NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0008

Interior, borning room, facing west

NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0009

Interior, kitchen, facing west

NY\_Suffolk County\_Mary Louise Booth House\_0010

Interior, bedroom, facing south

**Property Owner:**

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

name Suffolk County Parks

street & number P.O. Box 144

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town West Sayville

state NY

zip code 11796

**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.



Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

## APPENDIX A

### Mary Louise Booth (1831-1889)

#### Known Residences:

- 1831-1844 Mary L. Booth Birthplace and Family Home  
East Main Street, Yaphank, Long Island
- 1844 Booth family home in Williamsburg/Brooklyn  
*No longer in existence*
- 1863 Booth family home at 207 Graham Avenue, Fort Greene, Brooklyn  
Mary L. Booth listed in Brooklyn Census as “Authoress”
- 1864 Mary L. Booth apartment at 79 Madison Avenue at 28<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC  
*No longer in existence*
- 1880-1889 MLB townhouse at 101 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street at Park Avenue, NYC  
*No longer in existence (Torn down in early 1890’s)*

#### Workplaces:

- 1845 Latin Teacher  
PS1, Williamsburg, Brooklyn  
*No longer in existence*
- 1851-54 *NY Times* – Women’s page reporter  
113 Nassau Street between Ann & Beekman Streets  
*No longer in existence*
- 1855 The French and English School (aka Abadie’s French Academy)  
Fourth (Bedford) & South Ninth Street, Eastern District, Brooklyn
- 1857 Secretary to Dr. J. Marion Sims, noted women’s surgeon  
Madison Ave & 29<sup>th</sup> St, NYC  
*No longer in existence*
- 1867-1889 Editor, *Harper’s Bazar*  
Harper & Brothers, Publishers  
331 Pearl Street at Franklin Square, NYC  
*No longer in existence*

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House

Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY

County and State

## APPENDIX B

### Translations Completed by Mary Louise Booth

<i>The Marble-Workers Manual</i>	HC Baird Publishing	1856
<i>The Clock and Watch Makers Manual</i>	John Wiley Publishing	1857
<i>Andre Chenier</i>	Joseph Mery	1858
<i>The King of the Mountains</i>	Edmond F.V.About	1856
<i>Secret History of the French Court</i>	Victor Cousins	1859
<i>(Life and Times of Mme. de Chevreuse)</i>		
<i>Germaine</i>	Edmund About	1860
<i>Uprising of a Great People: US in 1861</i>	Count Agenor de Gasparin	1861
<i>America Before Europe</i>	Count Agenor de Gasparin	1862
<i>Results of Emancipation</i>	Augustin Cochin	1862
<i>Results of Slavery</i>	Augustin Cochin	1862
<i>Paris in America</i>	Edouard Rene de Laboulayes	1863
<i>History of France</i>	Henri Martin	1864
<i>Happiness</i>	Count Agenor de Gasparin	1863
<i>The Age of Louis XIV</i>	Henri Martin	1864
<i>Reconstruction : Letter to Pres.Johnson</i>	Count Agenor de Gasparin	1865
<i>Vesper</i>	Countess Gasparin	1865
<i>Camille</i>	Countess Gasparin	1865
<i>Human Sorrows</i>	Countess Gasparin	1865
<i>Decline of the French Empire</i>	Henri Martin	1866
<i>Fairy Tales of all Nations</i>	Edouard Rene Laboulaye	1866
<i>Fairy Tales</i>	Jean Mace	1867
<i>Abdalah or Four Leafed Shamrock</i>	Edouard Rene Laboulaye	1868
<i>History of France, abridged</i>	Henri Martin	1880
<i>Fairy Book</i>	Edouard Rene Laboulaye	1884
<i>Last Fairy Tales</i>	Edouard Rene Laboulaye	1884
<i>Thoughts</i>	Blaise Pascal	1910
<i>Provincial Letters</i>	Blaise Pascal	?

Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House

Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY

County and State

## APPENDIX C

Original and current locations of the Mary Louise Booth house



Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House

Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY

County and State



Booth House, late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Courtesy Suffolk County Historical Services.



Booth House, ca. 1900. Courtesy Suffolk County Historical Services.









































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Booth, Mary Louise, Girlhood House

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Suffolk

DATE RECEIVED: 12/12/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/27/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001219

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 1/27/15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

An excellent example of a Long Island Half House.  
Most Half Houses were later expanded. This one was  
not. Though moved across the street this house  
is still an excellent example.  
The NYSNPO has not been able to find any  
remaining locations where Mary Louise Booth lived  
or worked during her productive years. This is  
being for her and National significance.  
I do not think it is worth  
the effort.

RECOM./CRITERIA B, C

REVIEWER Abernethy DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the  
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





## New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189  
518-237-8643



Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor

Rose Harvey  
Commissioner

8 December 2014

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose the following five nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Mount Saviour Monastery, Chemung County  
Hanover Square Historic District Boundary Expansion, Onondaga County  
Cobble Villa, Nassau County  
House at 325 Piermont Street, Rockland County  
Mary Louise Booth Girlhood House, Suffolk County

Please feel free to call me 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office