

56-1811

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 Ellis Squires Jr. House

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

name of related multiple property listing NA

### Location

street & number 186 & 190 Squiretown Road


not for publication

city or town Hampton Bays

vicinity

state NY code NY county Suffolk code 103 zip code 11946

### 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

Roger Dannel Murphy 9/21/17  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
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):

Alexis Abernethy  
Signature of the Keeper

11/9/17  
Date of Action

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## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input 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	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	<b>Total</b>

### Name of related multiple property listing

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

NA

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

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC / Secondary Structure

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC / Federal

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Shingles

roof: Asphalt

other:

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### 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 c. 1790, Federal style Ellis Squires Jr. House is situated on a .56-acre parcel located at 186 Newtown Road, Hampton Bays, New York (Suffolk County Tax Map #900-175-1-36). The nominated property also includes a contiguous, 5.9-acre parcel of unimproved land (Suffolk County Tax Map #900-175-1-31). This larger parcel, acquired with the house for long-term preservation by the Town of Southampton in 2005, surrounds the house lot on three sides (west, north and east) and is the historical setting for the adjacent Ellis Squires Jr. House. This 6.5-acre property represents the largest, intact amount of land historically associated with the Squires House. Both parcels are bounded to the south by Newtown Road. To the north of these adjacent properties is Squires Pond, a large and brackish coastal pond that fronts on the Great Peconic Bay. The house faces south near the intersection of Newtown and Red Creek Roads

The topography of the nominated property is relatively flat, except along its northwest boundary, which slopes downward into a natural outwash or creek that leads northeast into Squires Pond. Newtown Road terminates on Red Creek Road a short distance to the west of the property and continues to the east with waterfront homes set on long, narrow properties that front on the Great Peconic Bay. Red Creek Road runs in a north-to-south direction: north to the small community known historically as Red Creek, and south toward the commercial district of Hampton Bays (where its name changes to Squiretown Road). The nominated property contains the historic house as well as a c. 1960/70 one-story garage (non-contributing) situated to the north, and a large area of unimproved woodland to the north and east.

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### Narrative Description

The Ellis Squires Jr. house is a two-story, gable-roofed dwelling of late 18<sup>th</sup> century period construction that incorporates a non-historic one-story, screened porch (east) and a one-story stucco-clad back wing (north) that was extended by an additional room in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The house is timber-framed, its walls clad with wood shingles and its roof with black composition tab shingles. The house rests on a rubble stone foundation. Its front façade faces south and is three bays wide. The entrance occupies the west bay and is articulated with sidelights, reeded pilasters, and a decorative entablature. Wood double-hung window sash are typically nine-over-six (first floor) and six-over-six (second floor). A large brick chimney is centered on the ridge of the main house and a smaller, secondary brick chimney rises through the ridge of the rear (north) extension. Both chimneys appear to have been rebuilt in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

The massing of the main dwelling is block-like in its cubical form, measuring 22'-6" wide by 28'-6" deep and approximately 16' high to the base of the gable roof. The walls are covered with wood shingles measuring 13" long (exposure) on the front façade and 6" long on the sides and rear. The longer shingles with their distinctive nailing pattern of even, parallel rows of wrought nails are characteristic of mid- to late 18<sup>th</sup> century Long Island construction practice, suggesting that the shingles preserved on the front façade are associated with the original construction period. The shorter shingles that are found on the side and rear walls are typical of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century practice. The predominant window type is nine-over-six and six-over-six sash, set within molded window casings typical of late 18<sup>th</sup> century period practice. Several four-over-four windows also survive from this period. The larger, six-over-six window sash on the side walls are associated with later 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations.

The screened, one-story porch attached to the east façade of the main house dates from the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and the extreme north end of the rear addition and the porches that surround it (west and north) also date from this period, whereas the center section of the addition where it connects to the main house is clearly historic. This section

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of the house preserves exposed timber framing at the ceiling level that reveal it to be a part of the original, 18<sup>th</sup> century period dwelling. The exterior stucco wall treatment and multi-paned windows of the rear addition are characteristic of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century design and construction.

Distinctive interior detailing associated with the original house includes the mantelpiece and a glazed, built-in cupboard in the front parlor; the front stairway, incorporating posts, balusters, rail, treads and risers; five-panel and batten doors with associated wrought and cast iron hardware; wide, pine board flooring; door and window casings; and a chair rail in the center room. The side-hall floor plan of the first floor survives as built and is characteristic of 18<sup>th</sup> century Long Island half-house design and construction practice. The plan of the second floor preserves the upper stair hall and two rear bedchambers, whereas the front portion of the plan appears to have been redesigned in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to incorporate a small room to the front of the stair hall and a larger room in the front, southeast corner. The ladder-like stair to the attic may have also been built at this time.

### **Exterior Elevations**

The front façade (south) is three bays wide and two stories high beneath a straight pitched, gable roof. The wall is clad with wood shingles, whose 13" exposure ("weather"), distinctive nailing pattern in which the rows of nails are carefully aligned, and use of hand-wrought iron nails are indicative of 18<sup>th</sup> century construction practice. The corner boards that define each end of the façade are also typical of the post-Revolutionary period. The three bays are occupied with two windows and the front doorway on the first story and three windows on the second. Window sash are nine-over-six and deeply set on the first story, with molded casings that appear to date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The windows on the second story are surrounded with unmolded casings of a later date. The tripartite front doorway is composed of a paneled door flanked by 4-light sidelights, with reeded pilasters supporting an entablature incorporating a horizontal band of denticulated and cove moldings. The paneled front door itself and its hardware are non-historic replacements, as is the aluminum storm door. A brick chimney rises at the roof ridge; its multi-colored brickwork, thick mortar joints and corbelled top course suggest that it was rebuilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The side (west) elevation is shingled on the main block and stuccoed on the back, one-story extension. The shingles are laid 6" to the weather; nailing is concealed beneath successive courses, consistent with 20<sup>th</sup> century construction methodology. The fenestration is symmetrical above the first story, with nine-over-six and six-over-six window sash centered on the roof ridge on the second and attic levels, respectively, and smaller, four-over-four sash flanking the center window on the second floor. On the first floor, however, the window placement is not symmetrical; a nine-over-six window is located toward the front corner, and a pair of nine-over-six windows is positioned closer to the back of the main block. A majority of the window casings have been replaced or covered by wide boards.

Extending to the back of the west elevation is a shed-roofed, one-story extension with a single, six-over-six window and stuccoed wall covering. This extension continues to the north where it connects to an open porch that is set back from the west wall of the main house. Two multi-paned doors provide access into the rear addition from the porch, and two windows – one six-over-six and the other a fixed, six-light sash – alternate with the doors along the façade. The porch is supported on widely spaced posts painted white and lacking architectural decoration.

The rear (north) elevation is more complex in its massing than that of the front (south) or side façades. This is due to the addition of a one-story, shed-roofed extension to the west side of the main two-story house as well as the back addition, with its side porch, which occupies the easterly section of the main block. Only the second story of the main house is visible on this elevation. Two six-over-six windows are located on this level.

The side (east) elevation comprises the two story main block, rear addition of one story extending to the north, and the screened porch. The fenestration of the main house on this elevation is symmetrical, although one of the original windows of the first floor has been converted for use as a doorway leading to the screened porch. On the second story, a nine-over-six window is centered on the roof ridge, with smaller four-over-four windows placed symmetrically at either



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side. On the attic level there are two, six-over-six window sash similarly placed. The door to the porch is glazed and matches others of its type and date of installation, both inside and outdoors (e.g., back porch, west elevation). A wide, screened door is centered on the east side of the porch as well, giving egress to the outdoors.

The one-story rear addition, which is clad with wood shingles where it abuts the front block, is otherwise stucco covered and remodeled in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century with the addition of a three-sided bay window with fixed, twelve light window sash. Two exterior doorways provide entry to the house: a glazed, fifteen-light door to the left and another glazed door with six panes above panels at the extreme right. Between these doorways are two additional windows, a nine-over-six and a fixed, six-light sash that mirror those of the opposite west façade. Like the front façade, no foundation is visible on this side of the house.

### **Chimneys & Foundation**

Two chimneys rise through the ridge of the roof, a principal chimney in the main block and a secondary, smaller chimney located in the back extension. Both are constructed of brick; both are centered on the roof ridge, and appear to have been reconstructed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The principal chimney is less massive in its circumference than was customary for the Federal period, as is the secondary chimney, which is associated with the kitchen ell. The brickwork in each of the chimneys appears to have been laid in hard cement, a characteristic of 20<sup>th</sup> century workmanship.

The foundation is only visible beneath the southerly end of the west façade. Constructed of rubble stone laid in what appears to be lime and sand-based mortar, the foundation is composed of roughly split pieces of gneiss arranged in horizontal courses (see: **Significance**). Both stone type and bedding mortar are characteristic of late 18<sup>th</sup> century Long Island practice. The stones are relatively thin and elongated with pronounced striations or layering unlike the rounded fieldstones, i.e. small glacial erratics that are more typical of the period.

### **Interior: Floor Plan**

The floor plan of the house follows historical and architectural precedents for the Long Island half-house house type. The side hall plan of the typical half-house is expressed on the first floor of the Ellis Squires House with a stair hall situated at the left (west), opposite the front door, and flanked to the right by a front parlor that occupies the width of the two window bays. Behind these two front rooms, a large, open room stretches the width of the house and is accessible from each of the front rooms. This large room shares the central chimney with the parlor, each having its own fireplace. The stair hall also abuts the chimney, but is unheated. These three rooms – stair hall, front parlor and large dining room – occupy the footprint of the front two-story block of the house, corresponding to the original Federal period dwelling. (Further investigation may reveal that a partition once subdivided the large space into two rooms, only one of which would therefore have been heated.)

To the north (rear) of these rooms on the first floor, a doorway leads to the rear one-story additions: a small room to the left (west) on plan now serving as a butler's pantry, and a larger space adjoining it to the east with a fireplace centered against its north wall that probably served as a kitchen ell in the original house. This room has exterior walls and doorways on both east and west sides, and a three-sided bay on the east wall fitted with a banquette. Behind this room (north) is the kitchen, and beyond that a small bathroom and mud room, which appear to be of later 20<sup>th</sup> century construction.

The side hall plan is repeated on the second story of the main block, although alterations to room sizes and placement reveal that changes were made to the original plan in the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. The stairway rises to a stair hall on the second story, but the hall is subdivided into a small, front corner chamber (southwest) which may be a later alteration of the original space. Two chambers occupy the back (north) of the second story plan, each accessible from a narrow hallway that runs perpendicular to the stair hall. A bathroom, clearly an alteration of the historic house, is positioned against the east wall at the end of this corridor and the remaining southeast corner of the second story is now a

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large room which preserves the evidence in its floor boards and ceiling plaster of having once been divided into two smaller spaces. The open brick fireplace with elevated slate hearth on the west wall is of modern construction.

The attic story, accessible via a steep, ladder-like staircase built within the stair hall, is finished with boarded walls and ceilings. This fabric and the staircase appear to date from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. All structural framing has been concealed beneath the board sheathing on the attic level, which is divided into front and back chambers. The brick chimney, which has been rebuilt, is exposed from floor to ceiling.

### **Structural Frame**

Structural framing is visible at the ceiling level in a section of the rear (north), single-story addition. Here, carefully hewn and finished floor joists are exposed overhead and preserve characteristic ¼" quirked beads on their bottom edges which are typical of 18<sup>th</sup> century construction practice. The hand-planed surface finishes and decorative edges of these elements indicate that these beams were originally exposed. The room itself, evidently remodeled as a "tap room" in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, appears to have served as a kitchen ell for the original dwelling.

Significantly, none of the structural framing is visible within the principal, front two-story block of the house. This is due in part to the fact that the attic level – often an area in which rafters, collar ties, and gable end wall studs are exposed – has been entirely covered with interior finishes. In addition, there is no access to the crawlspace beneath the house in which the floor joists and perimeter sill system would be visible. More important, however, is the fact that none of the framing elements such as corner posts, first and secondary story wall girts (horizontal beams), floor joists, and diagonal wall braces that might project above the wall and ceiling surfaces can be seen. The lack of this visible framing evidence throughout the interior of the house is typical of a post-Revolutionary, late 18<sup>th</sup> century construction.

### **Interior Finishes**

The significant interior architectural finishes that characterize the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Federal style of the Ellis Squires House are the parlor mantelpiece and adjacent cupboard; paneled and batten doors and hardware; selected window sash and paneled wall treatments; wide pine board flooring (second story); and molded baseboards. These features are consistently Federal in style, and exhibit a marked refinement over the earlier Georgian or American Colonial style, particularly in the use of applied moldings whose delicacy was made possible by advances in the construction technology of the period. The reeded detailing and other moldings preserved in the parlor mantelpiece and adjoining cupboard is characteristic of Federal period work.

The mantelpiece and adjacent cupboard are classic examples of the Long Island Federal style. The "pilasters" that flank the fireplace opening are articulated with vertical moldings, supported on plinths, rise to projecting blocks with bands of reeded moldings topped with a row of denticulation. Recessed, diamond-shaped panels are set between the reeded bands. The broad area of the mantelpiece that stretches above the firebox continues the moldings of the pilasters but embellishes its recessed panels with applied plaques that accentuate the geometry of the overall design. The adjacent built-in cupboard preserves an 8-light glazed door above a paneled, lower door; distinctive design features include shelving with gracefully shaped contours, routed tracks against the sides and back for displaying plates, and a reeded detail on the reverse side of the lower panel. Hinges and latches are original.

The paneled and batten doors throughout the main block are typical of Federal period work. The paneled doors, which are reserved for the "better" rooms, are finished with a single, horizontal panel above two pairs of panels set vertically. The delicate moldings that surround the recessed panels are characteristic of the period and contrast in their size and method of application from the integral, molded edges of the Colonial era. Several of the doors preserve original iron hinges and rim locks. The batten type doors, which are found in secondary spaces and on the upper story, are also typical of Federal period workmanship. Boards and battens are hand-planed and assembled with wrought nails; battens are typically chamfered, and many of the doors preserve original, hand-forged Suffolk type thumb latches.

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The paneled wall treatments below the windows in the parlor and flanking the front doorway below the sidelights are Federal in style. The delicate moldings that surround the recessed panels are consistent with the profiles observed elsewhere, such as those employed on the mantelpiece and on the door panels, and the narrow bands of reeded molding that align with the window casings and separate the windows from the panels beneath them are also found in other trim work. These details are consistently Federal in design and are characteristic of interior trim work of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Archaeology**

In 2007, the Town of Southampton completed an archaeological survey of the property associated with the Ellis Squires Jr. House.<sup>1</sup> This preliminary study, which included both archival research and archaeological investigation, identified a prehistoric site as well as a historic site associated with the early nineteenth century occupation of the house. With additional study, these sites may contribute to an overall understanding of the history of the property, its use by the Squires Family, and life in Hampton Bays during its settlement period.

### **CONCLUSION**

The c. 1790, Federal style Ellis Squires Jr. House is a three-bay, two-story dwelling with a wealth of exterior and interior fabric dating from its late 18<sup>th</sup> century construction period. Characteristic architectural features of the Federal period include: the massing of the main block; rubble stone foundation set in “soft” mortar; fenestration and façade “long” shingle siding; and front doorway and sidelights. Interior features that are associated with the Federal period include: first floor plan; staircase; parlor mantelpiece, built-in cupboard and window treatments; wide board floors and baseboards; and rear room adjoining the front block with exposed, hand-hewn floor joists at the ceiling level. Although the majority of the framing is concealed beneath lath and plaster wall and ceiling surfaces and is only exposed overhead in the original kitchen, it may be concluded that the timber structure of the original house is intact as well.

Updated in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the Ellis Squires House was enlarged on the first floor with a single room to the rear (kitchen), a wrap-around porch to the west and north, and a screened-in porch to the east. Inside, the floor plan of the second story was altered in the front, although the original stair hall and rear chambers remain unchanged. An original interior partition may have been removed on the first floor, resulting in a large dining room that now stretches across the width of the house behind the parlor and stair hall, and the former kitchen was remodeled as a “tap room” with boarded walls and a built-in banquette with multi-paned windows projecting outward from the east wall. None of these additions or alterations compromise the integrity of the house or diminish its architectural quality and significance.

The historic c. 1790 Ellis Squires House preserves an extensive amount of architectural fabric that represents its post-Revolutionary construction period. The overall massing, siting and surviving Federal period details of the house are characteristic of its original, 18<sup>th</sup> century construction period.

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<sup>1</sup> David J. Bernstein and Daria E. Merwin, “A Stage 1 Archaeological Survey for the Former Hadley Property. Hampton Bays, Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, New York.” The Institute for Long Island Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, Stony Brook University, July 2007.

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## 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

### Period of Significance

ca. 1790–1854

### Significant Dates

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance corresponds to the time period between the c. 1790 construction of the house by its original builder and occupant, Ellis Squires, and his death in 1854.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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## Statement of Significance

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

The Ellis Squires Jr. House, which is named for its first owner and builder, is significant under Criterion C for its architectural design and construction technology, which preserves distinctive elements of the vernacular Federal style as well as the form and massing associated with a typical Long Island half-house of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is likely that Ellis Squires Jr. (1761-1854) and his wife, Jerusha Rogers (1766-1837), built the house c. 1790, providing for a family that grew to seven children (six sons and one daughter) between 1792 and 1812.<sup>2</sup> Ellis and Jerusha Squires also established a network of descendants and a community that became known as “Squiretown” in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Ellis Squires House is the oldest surviving dwelling in the present-day hamlet of Hampton Bays.<sup>3</sup> The timber-framed Ellis Squires House is a classic example of the half-house Long Island form and is preserved on its original, south-facing site. Its front façade retains “long” shingles typical of late 18<sup>th</sup> century construction technology, which are outstanding architectural features characteristic of the original period. Additional architectural elements that contribute to its significance are the decorative front door surround, which incorporates sidelights and reeded pilasters beneath a molded entablature, a rubble stone foundation, and interior Federal style features such as a side hall plan, parlor mantelpiece and built-in cupboard, paneled and batten doors with original wrought iron hardware, and wide pine floor boards. Architectural fabric associated with later additions and alterations that updated the house as a seasonal country home after the period of significance (1790-1854) include a screened porch (east), rear extension (north) and wrap-around porch (west), and interior modifications which do not compromise the essential appearance or integrity of the original, Federal period structure.

The house was built in the immediate aftermath of the American Revolution, a tumultuous period in Long Island history that impaired house construction generally and slowed the expansion of communities recovering from the effects of war and occupation. The distinctive role that Suffolk County residents played in the conflict – as compared with those of Queens County to the west, for example – and the way in which local settlements such as Southampton and its satellite communities responded to the duration of the conflict are represented by the construction of the Ellis Squires House.<sup>4</sup> During this period, the local population was still recovering from the devastation of a war that interrupted their economy and social stability and discouraged its residents from improving their properties. As a vernacular Long Island farmhouse that was built in a period which saw little in the way of new construction, the Ellis Squires House is additionally significant architecturally in the history of Southampton Town and eastern Long Island.

### **Hampton Bays: Settlement History**

During the 1640s and 50s, numerous settlements were established across Long Island: first at Oyster Bay (1639), then at Southampton and Southold (1640), East Hampton (1648), Smithtown (1650), Shelter Island (1652), Huntington (1653) and at Brookhaven (1655). The Southampton settlement, initiated by adventurous residents of the Lynn, Massachusetts, community, was strategically positioned between East Hampton and Shelter Island to the east, and Brookhaven, Smithtown and Huntington to the west. A narrow geographical configuration in Southampton at a place called “the Canoe Place” imposed a natural bottleneck to travel by land between and among these settlements to the east and west, however, and the importance of keeping an open land passage through this isthmus continued to figure in the

<sup>2</sup> Tiger Gardiner, *The South Fork Squires* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1992), 76-84.

<sup>3</sup> Barbara Moeller, *Historic Profile of Hampton Bays. Phase II* (July 2007), 27-35.

<sup>4</sup> See: M.B. Flint, *Long Island before the Revolution* (Southampton, NY: Yankee Peddler Book Company, 1896), passim and George Rogers Howell, *The Early History of Southampton, L.I.* (New York: J.N. Hallock, 1866), passim.

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history of the area for many years to come.<sup>5</sup> To illustrate this fact, after Gersham Culver had purchased land on the west side of Canoe Place from the Southampton Town Trustees in 1687 and 1697, and his son Jeremiah acquired adjoining land there in 1738/39, the Town trustees stated that "... Culver binds himself and his heirs not to hinder any carts to pass through said land, and there shall be a passing road through said land at all times."<sup>6</sup> This road was first known as South Country Road, later the Quogue Road, and, finally (and currently), the Montauk Highway.

Settlement of the area to the west of "the Canoe Place" – now Hampton Bays – was slow and sporadic. By 1773, Ellis Squires Sr., an East Hampton farmer, had relocated to the area with his wife, Phoebe, and their nine children. They are believed to have built the first house in Good Ground (now Hampton Bays), thereby establishing "Squiretown" in the northerly section of the locality. In 1774 another early settler, Wakeman Foster, built his house on the north side of South Country Road (Montauk Highway) just west of the Canoe Place Inn; in 1800 he moved to the Ponquogue area further south and built a house near Pepperidge Lane; it burned in 1831. These families – the Squires and Fosters – were followed closely by others, including the Fourniers (Red Creek), Kings (Good Ground), and Pennys (Aquebogue to Red Creek), as well as the Terrys, Corwins, Aldrichs, Bellows, Raynors, Jacksons, Meschutts, and Warners. As a result of this scattered settlement pattern, eleven distinct clusters or hamlets evolved by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century; in addition to Good Ground, the communities included Ponquogue, Squiretown, East and West Tiana, Canoe Place, Southport, Springville, Red Creek, Newtown and Rampasture. These distinct place names retained their identities throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and were officially consolidated into a single hamlet – Hampton Bays – in 1922.<sup>7</sup>

Of the tiny communities that today encompass Hampton Bays, Good Ground was the most central and the only one situated directly on the main highway leading to the east and west. Benjamin Thompson (1843) referred to Good Ground as "... an oasis in the desert of sand and forest that surround[s] it. It consists of a few dwellings, a post office, and a Methodist church built in 1838..."<sup>8</sup> Although the name first appeared in the town records in 1738 ("We laid out a highway near the middle of said neck [Pougan Quogue] eastward of the good ground..."), local legend attributes the appellation to a widow by the name of Goodale who lived on the South Country Road (Montauk Highway). The historian Bayles recounts this apocryphal version:

Three score and ten years ago, a small house [stood] on the north side of Old South Country Road - two miles west of Canoe place, four miles east of Atlanticville (East Quogue). [It] stood alone in a valley near Mr. Elisha King and was then occupied by an old widow. In this comparatively fertile land was a pool of water. Walking near it one day she picked up a lump of soil and said, 'this is good ground.'<sup>9</sup>

However the name originated, Good Ground grew into a small community of fishermen, tradesmen and farmers. A flour mill stood in the middle of town on what is now the southeast corner of Ponquogue Avenue and Montauk Highway, then known as "Mill Corner." A Methodist Church was built in Good Ground in 1838, enlarged in 1863, and rebuilt after a fire in 1906. St. Rosalies Catholic Church was built in 1901 and St. Mary's Episcopal Church in 1917. Writing in 1882, Pelletreau described Good Ground as:

North of Good Ground, near Peconic Bay... The first settler here was Ellis Squires, the ancestor of the family now so numerous. The best information we can obtain indicates that he was a brother of Jonathan Squires who came from Nantucket in 1769 and settled at Wainscott, in the town of East Hampton. About the time of the Revolution Ellis was living at Flanders, where he had a house near the present residence of Oscar Goodale. A few years later he moved to the place above mentioned,

<sup>5</sup> William S. Pelletreau, "The Town of Southampton," in *The History of Suffolk County* (New York: W.W. Munsell, 1882), passim.

<sup>6</sup> *Southampton Town Records*, Book Three (Sag Harbor, NY: John H. Hunt, 1878)

<sup>7</sup> Helen M. Wettureau, *Good Ground Remembered* (Southold, NY: Academy Printing Services, 1983), passim.

<sup>8</sup> Benjamin F. Thompson, *History of Long Island*, Vol. II (New York: Gould, Banks & Co., 1843), 206.

<sup>9</sup> Richard M. Bayles, *Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County* (Port Jefferson, NY: (np) 1874), 319.



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where he purchased lot No. 8 Canoe Place division (the south end of which is at the Good Ground school-house). He and his sons afterward bought lots 9, 10 and 11. The houses of Joshua and Nicolls Squires stand on the 10<sup>th</sup> lot. Ellis Squires died in October 1822, aged 84, leaving several daughters, and three sons – Ellis, Seth and Daniel – each of whom left a numerous family.<sup>10</sup>

The older Ellis Squires referred to in Pelletreau's *History of Suffolk County* appears to have been the father of the builder of the house under consideration. The location of the elder Squires's house is unknown, whereas the houses of his sons Ellis Squires Jr. and Seth remain standing today. The Federal period house that is the subject of this nomination is that of Ellis Squires Jr. (1761-1854) and his wife, Jerusha (1766-1837).

### **Hampton Bays: Economic context & Long Island's cordwood industry**

Considerable speculation surrounds the reason that the Squires family settled in this remote area of Southampton Town that later consolidated as the hamlet of Hampton Bays in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. As stated elsewhere, the population was slow to develop there in the mid- to late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Realizing that family groups were largely self-sustaining in this early period, however, the potential economic advantage of this seemingly remote area must be examined in its historical context to posit a reason for the Squires family settlement.

One of the principal "cash crops" in eastern and central Long Island history was cordwood, or wood of relatively small dimension harvested as firewood, which was a natural resource that remained plentiful, especially in the extensive woodland areas to the south and north of the moraines of Suffolk County. Present-day Hampton Bays is located strategically within this area, with easy access to the open water to facilitate export of the product. In addition to providing for its own needs, Long Island was for many years the principal source of cordwood for the growing New York metropolis. After being cut, cordwood was hauled to north shore landings like those in Hampton Bays and shipped to New York on sailing vessels by way of Long Island Sound.

The evolution of the cordwood industry on Long Island extended from the time of the earliest English settlements until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. During this period, subsistence farming also evolved into production agriculture, although cordwood remained the major income-generating crop until the advent of truck farming in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The forests of pine, oak and hickory were used not only for cordwood, but also for shingles, post-and-rail fences, and boat-building, while tar was produced from pine trees and barrel staves from oak trees. Long Island's forests appear to have been cut over at least twice: once by the colonists and again by the British. Several towns became so concerned with the depletion of timber supplies that they prohibited tree cutting without permission from the trustees, and non-townsmen were specifically prohibited from harvesting forests.

From colonial times until the 1830s, cordwood was the primary source of fuel for heating and cooking. It has been estimated that it took an average of 40 cords of wood per year to heat a house. In addition to that which was consumed locally, wood was harvested and brought to coastal landings such as Hampton Bays where it was shipped to New York City via Long Island Sound. In 1798, cordwood cost two shillings (14 cents in 1994 dollars) per cord. By 1842 the wholesale price was \$.50 per cord, bringing \$2.50 retail. As late as 1900, even after its heyday as Long Island's primary export, cordwood was sent to brick yards to fire kilns.

But the decades between 1840 and 1860 saw great changes in the agricultural and maritime economies of Suffolk County. By 1840, coal was in general use as a heating fuel and the cordwood industry was badly damaged. In 1844, the Long Island Railroad completed its New York City-to-Greenport line through central Long Island. From Greenport, travelers began the seaward leg of their voyage with an ultimate destination of Boston. The construction of the rail road forever changed Long Islanders' access to New York City. Of particular importance to the cordwood industry, however,

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<sup>10</sup> Pelletreau, "The Town," 29.

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were the severe wild fires that burned throughout the central Pine Barrens repeatedly in the mid-1800s, causing devastating economic losses. Many of these fires may have been caused by sparks from the wood-burning engines of the Long Island Railroad. However, arson fires were also set, apparently motivated by the New York State-mandated wages for fire-fighters. By 1911, much of the central Pine Barrens where cordwood had been harvested historically had been burned off so badly that the middle of the island was untaxed because the land was considered unproductive and worthless. It appears likely that post-settlement land use practices, including timbering and land-clearing for agriculture and settlements, also increased the frequency of fires, thus contributing to the demise of the industry.

The reason for the Squires family's move to Good Ground before the Revolution, during an earlier and more prosperous period for Long Island's cordwood industry, appears to have been the economic opportunity afforded by this livelihood in this remote northern shore of Southampton Town. The success of the Squires descendants in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century – including Ellis Squires, the builder of the house – may have been due to this thriving industry, during a time in which proximity to the natural landings on Long Island Sound provided an advantage for those who chose to participate in this lucrative industry.

### **Federal Period (1790 – 1830)**

The Revolutionary era on Long Island, which began with a catastrophic loss by the patriots at the Battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776, continued with the privations suffered by native Long Islanders at the hands of occupying enemy forces until the close of hostilities in 1785. The period following the war witnessed the gradual renewal of architectural activity, furniture making and creativity in the decorative arts as represented by the design and construction of the Ellis Squires House. The house is Federal in style, form and construction methodology. As one architectural historian has observed about the period:

The Federal period in American architecture (c. 1790 – 1830) introduced the Neoclassic style, which follows Palladian Georgian and predates the Greek Revival. The change from Georgian to Neoclassic and from Neoclassic to Greek was, in each case, gradual. Inevitably, these styles overlapped so that precise cut-off dates are impossible.<sup>11</sup>

The Federal (or Adam) style, which is often described in contrast to the Georgian that preceded it, was a refinement of the earlier style both in terms of form and detail. While the symmetry of the simple, box-like forms of the Georgian style continued into the Federal, they often did so with greater complexity and variation. High-style (primarily urban) examples with side dependencies appeared with more intricate massing and more creative floor plans, even employing round or elliptical rooms. In addition, architectural detailing became lighter; architectural elements reflected a restrained delicacy, when compared to their heavier Georgian counterparts. The origin for the refinement of the Georgian style derived in large part from the work of English architect Robert Adam (1728-1792), whose inspiration was drawn from his study and observation of Greek and Roman monuments. The American architect Charles Bulfinch (1763-1844) is credited as the first to introduce the refined "Adamesque" style to the United States after his European tour (1785-87). He and Asher Benjamin (1773-1845), whose pattern books popularized the style to local carpenters and builders, were the most influential among a handful of American architects who made the transition from the Georgian to the Federal style after the Revolution.

The Ellis Squires House exhibits these characteristics in its use of refined moldings and architectural features such as paneled window treatments that contrast with those of the earlier period. The style of the house is reflected on the exterior by its front door surround and window casings and on the interior by paneled doors, molded door and window casings, and a fine parlor mantelpiece and cupboard. While the Ellis Squires House owes its Federal period detailing to

<sup>11</sup> Mary Mix Foley, *The American House* (New York: Harper & Row, 1981), 117.

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an early 19<sup>th</sup> century generation of American architects, its half-house form is derived from local Long Island precedents of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Long Island half-house Form**

The Long Island building type known as the half-house has been identified and described by numerous architectural historians. It deserves special discussion and elaboration here, however, to establish an architectural context for the Ellis Squires House, which is a significant example of the building type. The following section examines the origins and development of the half-house type, cites examples on eastern Long Island that illustrate its basic form and variations, and underscores the architectural and historical importance of this local dwelling type.

In her seminal discussion of Long Island houses, noted preservationist and architectural historian Barbara F. Van Liew was among the first to identify the half-house as a building type of regional significance.<sup>12</sup> While the author focused her attention primarily on earlier, so-called “settlement period” houses (i.e., those dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries) and the relationship between their Dutch and English origins, she offered the following description of the half-house and some of its regional variations:

After the Revolutionary War one of the most popular architectural styles throughout the middle area on Long Island, as well as in nearby areas, was the so-called half-house, referred to by architects as ‘the side entrance plan’ or the ‘house with a side hall.’ The two-and-a-half story gable-roof version was so widespread that it was often called the ‘typical Long Island house.’ In a certain section on Long Island a house of this type with three full-sized windows across the front on the second floor is called colloquially a ‘three-quarters house’ and the term ‘half-house’ is reserved for those houses having a lower roof plate and no front windows on the second floor or low floor level windows under the eaves.<sup>13</sup>

Van Liew described the fully developed half-house form, citing the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Walt Whitman Birthplace near Huntington and the Willis-Latham house in Old Westbury. While each of these houses also contains a wing that enlarges upon its basic floor plan, their central three-bay, two-story form is distinctive. She also included the late 18<sup>th</sup> century period Kingsland Homestead in Flushing (now the Queens Historical Society) and Suffolk County’s early 19<sup>th</sup> century Homan-Gerard-Hard house in Yaphank, both of which employ a gambrel roof that is mistakenly associated with Dutch origins.

Significantly, Van Liew illustrated the cover of her monograph with the floor plans of four representative Long Island houses, ranging from a simple and anonymous six-post frame of 17<sup>th</sup> century date to the most complex, late 18<sup>th</sup> century period Walt Whitman Birthplace. The early, six-post frame, with its massive, enclosed end chimney and the later Whitman house reveal the author’s insight into the evolution of the half-house from its simplest, 17<sup>th</sup> century settlement period origins to the more evolved houses of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, post-Revolutionary era in which the Ellis Squires House was constructed

It is important to note that the expression half-house does not signify a style but rather a house type or form. Thus, a half-house can be Colonial (i.e., mid- to late 18<sup>th</sup> century), Federal (c. 1790-1830), Greek Revival (c. 1830-1850) or even Victorian (c. 1850-1900) in style, while exhibiting the characteristic attributes of its type. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the Ellis Squires House was built, the so-called half-house was well established as one of Long Island’s most common house types. Its compact form, relatively small scale, traditional framing, straightforward plan and reliance on local building materials made it a popular choice among housewrights throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century. As

<sup>12</sup> Barbara Ferris Van Liew, *Long Island Domestic Architecture of the Colonial and Federal Periods* (Setauket, NY: Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, 1974), passim.

<sup>13</sup> *Op. cit.*, pp. 20-21.

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suggested by Van Liew, however, its origins appear to date from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Notable examples from the earliest period usually survive today as additions or extensions of larger houses, and not as freestanding dwellings.

A rare exception to the infrequent survival of “first period” half-houses is the Van Nostrand-Starkins house in Roslyn, believed to date c. 1680. This house has been extensively restored, preserving in the process its compact floor plan and large enclosed chimney, although the original house was enlarged with a wing of early 18<sup>th</sup> century construction. A more typical example of an unusually early half-house now survives as an extension to a larger dwelling and forms the side wing of the c. 1705 Thompson house in Setauket. Evidently built in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century as a freestanding, six-post frame, it was recycled later as an addition to the larger “saltbox” style house. This historic site was home to the noted 19<sup>th</sup> century Long Island historian Benjamin F. Thompson and now serves as headquarters for the Three Village Historical Society.

In both the Van Nostrand-Starkins and Thompson house wing, the distinctive architectural feature is the asymmetrical placement of the six principal wall posts. These supporting elements create a rectangular footprint and floor plan that defines two interior spaces: a narrow bay enclosing the massive chimney with adjoining entry hall and front doorway, and a larger, all-purpose living area illuminated by two windows on the front façade. Together, the exterior front doorway and two flanking windows define the three bays that make this early, side-hall dwelling a prototypical “half-house.” A sleeping loft, contained beneath a gable roof, occupied the space above. It is evident in the earliest examples that this loft-like space was accessed via a ladder rather than a stair, a primitive feature that was located within the chimney bay and opposite the front door.

While the earliest examples of the half-house form no longer stand without alterations, the early 18<sup>th</sup> century wing of the Jackson house in Wantagh appears to have been of this type. As the form evolved and houses grew both in depth and height, an actual staircase replaced the ladder as a means of gaining access to the upper story, and the size of the chimney was gradually reduced to accommodate this new feature. Ultimately, the chimney was moved from the entry bay entirely in order to provide a direct source of heat to the living spaces (parlors and bedchambers), resulting in an unheated stair hall that remained a characteristic of the form. This basic, one-story framed dwelling served the needs of many settlers of modest means in the early Colonial period and became the prototype for more complex variations of the half-house form that developed over the following century.

While the three-bay, front façade of the side hall or half-house form is the visual hallmark of its exterior, it is the interior floor plan that is its defining characteristic. The three bays – as defined by the width of a single wall segment associated with either a window or doorway – give the house its distinction as a “half” rather than a “whole” house. While the traditional “colonial” five-bay house with center door is not precisely twice the width of a three-bay house, the expression evolved to signify that while each has an entry hall, the larger of the two house types has two front rooms and the smaller only one, and is thus “half” its width. The interior of the half-house is separated into two primary spatial zones: the unheated entryway or stair hall set against an exterior side wall, and front and back principal rooms on the first floor that in two-story houses are mirrored by bedchambers of roughly comparable dimension. The entry bay, as defined by the main door of the front façade, may contain a hall that stretches through the interior to the back wall, resulting in a secondary doorway providing access to the back yard. While a back doorway occupies this position in the Ellis Squires Jr. house, an interior doorway separating the stair hall from the back room also appears to be original, signifying that the entry hall in this case did not stretch across the depth of the house.

An excellent example of a fully developed, late 18<sup>th</sup> century half-house that is contemporary with the Ellis Squires House and preserved in Huntington is the c. 1793 Kissam house (formerly known as the Powell-Jarvis house). This example is a full two-story, three-bay dwelling that preserves the distinctive front façade that is the hallmark of the half-house form. Unlike the entryway and stair, the principal rooms in the Kissam house and the bedchambers above them were heated, and several arrangements for placing the chimney and its associated fireplaces other than that

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preserved in this example are known. Oftentimes the chimney was centered on the interior partition that divides the front and back rooms, as is the case at the Kissam house, thus accommodating as many as four fireplaces on two stories while aligning with the ridge of the roof for optimal water run-off. In more ambitious houses, however, a pair of chimneys was preferred, each being centered on the exterior wall of the front and back rooms, and thus needing to serve only one room on each story. In still other instances, a single chimney occupies the shared corner of the principal rooms, thus providing angled fireplaces for each of the two first and second story rooms. No apparent association with a specific period has been identified to suggest that any of these chimney arrangements was favored over another, thus determining the location of the original chimney in the Ellis Squires House is not a useful tool for dating its construction.

The placement of the kitchen in half-houses also varied; with later examples, such as the Ellis Squires House, it may have been reduced in size sufficiently to fit within the space behind the stairs. The more typical arrangement, however, and one that persisted throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was for the kitchen to be contained in its own ell or wing, attached to the side or back wall. With its large fireplace and separate chimney designed to keep the cooking and open fire away from other household functions, it was the safest place for this busy and potentially hazardous room. It is uncertain whether the Squires House possessed such a wing in its original form; inasmuch as the 1850s image of the house is a three-quarter view, such a wing could have been concealed and extended from the back, northeast corner.

The Long Island half-house is an indigenous, vernacular building form that evolved from classically inspired, formal Georgian center-hall type houses introduced from England to the American colonies in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. An important characteristic represented by the three-bay half-house was its chimney placement; no longer the colossal and dominant feature that typified houses of the pre-1720 settlement period, the chimney was reduced in size and relocated to the interior wall that separated the front and back rooms. The resulting hall was thus widened and lengthened in order to contain a principal staircase rising in a straight run, which the massive chimney of earlier houses would have obstructed.

The significance of the form is that, once established on Long Island by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, it persisted as a dominant house type throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and continued to influence house planning into the beginning decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as well. In fact, both the narrow half-house and its wider Georgian prototype provided the basic plans for many houses of the Greek Revival period (1830-1850) and persisted in Victorian houses too (1850-1900), particularly those outside of urban areas that relied upon vernacular building traditions and styles. Once established as the ubiquitous "town-house" form, it even persisted in cities throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. By no means limited to Long Island, the half-house nevertheless proliferated in this region and is represented by numerous examples spanning two centuries.

### **Squires Family: Ellis Squires Sr., & his Descendants**

An undocumented member of the Squires family, who had settled in the Town of East Hampton in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, migrated to the Town of Southampton later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and established a community there known as "Squiretown." If the later settlement in Southampton evolved directly from the earlier, however, the record of this "migration" is unsubstantiated; in fact, contradictory sources suggest that the Ellis Squires who became the progenitor of the Squiretown branch did not descend from East Hampton resident John Squire (1694-1738), but was a newcomer to eastern Long Island thought to have emigrated with his family from Machias, Maine, via Nantucket, Massachusetts, in 1773. Whatever his birthplace and origins, it is agreed by scholars that Ellis Squires (1738-1822) was the first of the family to settle in "Squiretown" and that his eldest son, Ellis Squires Jr. (1761-1854), built the house which is the subject of this nomination.

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The first of the Squire(s) family known to settle on eastern Long Island was Thomas Squire (c. 1639-1686), whose 10-acre home lot on East Hampton's Main Street was recorded in 1676.<sup>14</sup> Thomas Squire is documented in *East Hampton Town Records* as a resident as early as 1659; but by 1685, within a year of his death, he was on the "publick Charge" and died intestate "leaving no heir visible" in 1686. Another of the name, John Squire (c. 1656-1702), is the more likely progenitor of the numerous generations of Squires that followed. Several land transactions, a tax assessment (1678), and, more importantly, both marriage and baptismal records show that John Squire was a resident and land holder in East Hampton by 1676, where his three children with Ann Edwards – John, Recompence and Thomas – were born and baptized. John Squire died in Saybrook, Connecticut in 1702; his wife, Ann, remarried Captain Josiah Hobart, and the children of John and Ann Squire grew to maturity.

The eldest of John and Ann Squire's children, also John (c. 1692-1740), had thirteen children, the second of whom was named Ellis, baptized in 1717. It is this Ellis who is credited in some sources with relocating to the Town of Southampton and establishing the family line in Squiretown. According to historian George Rogers Howell:

The first of the name on Long Island was a John Squires, who lived quite early in East Hampton and married the daughter of William Edwards of that settlement. I assume that he was the father of George Squires, who was of the age to be in the second generation, and who lived in East Hampton, though I have seen no express mention of the fact...

1 John m. Ann, d. of William Edwards and had son 2 George

2 George m. Jan. 29, 1701, Jane Edwards and had ch. 3 John, 4 Recompence and 5 Thomas...

3 John d. Jan. 7, 1758, ae. 55, had w. Phebe and ch. 6 John bap. 1715, 7 Ellis bap. 1717...

7 Ellis moved into the western part of Southampton and had ch. 17 Seth, 18 Ellis and 19 Daniel<sup>15</sup>

But in a remarkably detailed rejoinder to Howell's genealogy, Benjamin F. Squires wrote in his own family record that:

When George R. Howell wrote his *History of Southampton* he came to me for information, and I gave him the true history of our family, but he thought I must be mistaken, and gave a misleading account. This family of Squires bears no relation to the East Hampton people of that name...

Ellis Squires... who, with his father, mother, two brothers and seven sisters, came from Machias, Maine in 1773. Leaving the State of Maine in a ship's yawl boat, they skirted the shores of New England, and at last anchored in Goose Creek, near the head of Peconic Bay, in the present village of Flanders. This I know to be the true history of the Squires family, who built and lived, and many of whom now live, at Squiretown and vicinity.<sup>16</sup>

Other historians repeat B. F. Squires's account in their writings: Alonzo Foster in *A Family Record* (1895), Edna Ann Squires Downs in her "Notebook" (unpublished manuscript, c. 1898), and, most importantly, William S. Pelletreau in Munsell's *History of Suffolk County, New York*, who wrote:

The best information we can obtain indicates that he [Ellis] was the brother of Jonathan Squires who came from Nantucket in 1769 and settled at Wainscott, in the Town of East Hampton.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Gardiner, *The South Fork Squires*, passim.

<sup>15</sup> Howell, *History of Southampton*, 387-388.

<sup>16</sup> Squires, *A Record of the Squires Family*, undated, as quoted in Gardiner, *The South Fork Squires*, 77.

<sup>17</sup> Pelletreau, "The Town," 29.



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Supporting the story that Ellis Squires descended from a different branch of the family from that which settled at East Hampton in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and that he arrived in Southampton via Nantucket, is the record of his marriage on that island to Phebe Russell on July 7, 1761. Phebe was born on Nantucket on October 3, 1739, the daughter of Daniel Russell Jr. (1715-1776) and Content Norton. She descended from the earliest pioneering families of Nantucket. Ellis was not the only member of the Squires family to marry on Nantucket in the period; David Squires married Mary Bunker in 1765, John Squires married Lucinda Finch the same year, and William Squires married Elizabeth Barnard (date unknown). David and John were captains of whaleships. No relationship among these other members of the Squires family on Nantucket has been established, and there is no further record of Ellis Squires after his marriage to Phebe Russell there in 1761.

Both an Ellis and Ellis Squires Jr., appeared for the first time in the *Southampton Town Records* in 1772, when they registered earmarks: the father's being a "crop on left, L and nick under same" and the son's an "L over left, L and nick over right." The date of this record was 1772, only one year after Ellis Squires's marriage to Phebe Russell on Nantucket, and it may be surmised that the reference is to Ellis Squires ("Jr.") and his father. In 1797, an Ellis Squires (father or son?) was elected "Post fence viewer" and in 1797 and 1798 "Overseer of highways." In 1805, both Ellis and his son Seth were elected to office: Ellis as an "Overseer of highways" and Seth as a "Fence viewer." And in 1806, Ellis Squires "Sen." was re-elected "Overseer of highways." These references document the well-established presence of the Squires family in Southampton Town by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the *Census of Town of Southampton, 1776* Ellis Squiar (sp?) was listed among the "Heads of families in Southampton, 1776, west of Watermill" with a household comprising three males and five females. Ellis and Phebe Squires had nine children, the last of whom, Mary, was born c. 1782. By 1776, the couple had six children: two sons (Ellis Jr. and Seth) and four daughters (Loraney, Deborah, Parnel and Margaret). The census of 1776 thus confirms the known record of Ellis and Phebe Squires's family composition at that date: father, mother and six children.<sup>18</sup> (Their three other children – Daniel, Phebe and Mary – were born after the 1776 census.) The census does not provide more specific geographical references, however, for Southampton's households located "west of Watermill." William S. Pelletreau's description of Squiretown is therefore useful in this regard and conforms to the census data:

North of Good Ground, near Peconic Bay, is a small village called Squiretown. The first settler here was Ellis Squires, the ancestor of the family now so numerous... About the time of the Revolution Ellis was living at Flanders, where he had a house near the present residence of Oscar Goodale. A few years later he moved to the place above mentioned, where he purchased lot No. 8 Canoe Place division (the south end of which is at the Good Ground school-house). He and his sons afterward bought lots 9, 10 and 11. The houses of Joshua and Nicholls Squires stand on the 10<sup>th</sup> lot. Ellis Squires died in October 1822, aged 84, leaving several daughters, and three sons – Ellis, Seth and Daniel – each of whom left a numerous family.<sup>19</sup>

In the first federal census of 1790, the Ellis Squires family was little changed since the town's census of 1776. Ellis remained as head of a household comprising three "free white males" over the age of 16 (Ellis Sr. and his sons, Ellis Jr. and Seth), one male under the age of 16 (Daniel), and five "free white females" (his wife, Phebe, and four of their five daughters). It's likely that their oldest daughter, Loraney, who was then aged about 30, had previously married and moved away to join another household.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> *Records of the Town of Southampton*, Book III, 391-399.

<sup>19</sup> Pelletreau, "The Town," 29.

<sup>20</sup> See Gardiner, *The South Fork Squires* (appendices) for Federal census records (1790-1860).

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Ellis Squires (1738-1822) died at the age of 84 on October 18, 1822. His wife, Phebe (1736-1827), died at age 91 on April 10, 1827. First interred in the burying ground in Squiretown, they were later removed to the cemetery at the Good Ground Methodist Church in Hampton Bays. Ellis and Phebe had nine children: Loraney (Urana), Ellis Jr., Seth, Deborah, Parnel, Margaret, Daniel, Phebe and Mary. Ellis Squires Jr., who is believed to have built the house, was the second child and oldest son of Ellis and Phebe Squires. He was born September 12, 1761 and died October 8, 1854 aged 93. He married Jerusha Rogers (1766-1837), who was the daughter of Zachariah and Ruth (Jessup) Rogers.

By 1800, big changes had occurred in the Ellis Squires (senior) household, where all but two of the sons and daughters had grown, married and started or joined their own households. Most importantly, it's in the decade between 1790 and 1800 that Ellis Squires Jr., established himself as the head of a household. The federal census of 1800 records that the Ellis Squire (senior) household was reduced to only four family members: two men (Ellis and son Daniel), and two women (Phebe and daughter Mary). Of the nine children born to Ellis and Phebe Squires, only the youngest two remained at home in 1800.

Important for the dating of the Squires house, thirty-nine year-old Ellis Jr., was listed as the head of his own household by 1800, which was composed of three males and two females. He and his wife, Jerusha, then aged thirty-four, were the only adults in the household; two sons (both aged between ten and sixteen) and a daughter (under ten) completed the family. Ellis Squires Jr. and Jerusha would have seven children in all; but by 1800, they had only three: Abigail, born in 1792, and two sons, Barnabas and Zachariah, born in 1796 and 1798, respectively. All three of their children were therefore under the age of ten in 1800, although the federal census puts the ages of the boys between 10 and 16. Regardless of the disparity in records regarding the age of their children, the federal census provides evidence of the fact that Ellis Jr. constructed his house in the last decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, not c. 1783, as cited in certain family histories, when he was still counted in census records as a member of his father's household.

By 1810, the federal census data agrees with the genealogical record. The Ellis Squires Jr. household then comprised five children, two boys aged between 10 and 16 (Barnabas and Zachariah) and three under 10 years of age (Lewis b. 1804, Jetur b. 1807 and Warren b. 1812). The oldest child, Abigail, would have been 18 in 1810 and may have married and moved out of the household. Oddly, his wife, Jerusha, was not counted that year. But in subsequent years – 1820, 1830, 1840 and 1850 – the census data provide a consistent record of Ellis Squires Jr. and a household comprising his Jerusha and their grown sons. The family numbered seven in 1820: Ellis Jr. his wife, Jerusha, and five sons. By 1830, the household had changed; besides father and mother, now aged between sixty and seventy, there were two boys (Jetur and Warren) and a girl, whose identity is unknown but who may have been a servant. And by 1840, Ellis Jr. was seventy-nine years of age and remained head of his household, although Jerusha had died (1837) and two other females joined the family as well as two males between the ages of fifteen and twenty. These individuals may have been extended family members or servants, but their identities remain unknown. The last census record of Ellis Squires Jr., taken in 1850, shows him to be the sole occupant of the house. At age 88, he had lived to see his wife die and his children grow and begin families of their own, several of whom settled nearby. Ellis died in 1854, aged 93.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Ellis Squires Jr. House is a classic example of a vernacular, post-Revolutionary Federal style farmhouse on Long Island. As such it is significant under Criterion C for preserving the distinctive features of a major period of American architectural design. Its form and massing is that of an indigenous Long Island half-house: two stories high beneath a gable roof, three bays wide with side entrance and symmetrical fenestration, and facing south on a masonry foundation. Its architectural detailing is Federal in style, notably the front door surround, which incorporates sidelights and reeded casings beneath a molded entablature, and interior features including the parlor mantelpiece, built-in fireplace cupboard, recessed window panels and five-panel doors that employ the delicate moldings and wrought iron hardware

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that characterize the Federal period. The construction technology of the Ellis Squires House is also indicative of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century period: “long” shingles with a 13” exposure and pronounced nailing pattern survive on the front façade; the rubble stone foundation is formed of roughly shaped gneiss imported from New England; and early structural framing survives within what appears to be the original kitchen ell.

The floorplan of the Ellis Squires House is largely intact as well, preserving a side stair hall and front parlor on the first floor and a transverse hall with rear bedchambers on the second. While changes to the plan occurred when the house was updated in the early twentieth century, these alterations have not compromised the architectural integrity of the original house. Likewise, exterior alterations of this period (replacement of selected window sash, construction of the screened porch and extension of the rear wing) have had little impact on the overall massing of the building. Despite these alterations and additions, the Ellis Squires House retains the predominant characteristics of its original, Federal period architecture.

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



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County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 6.45 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 708411 4530331  
Zone Easting Northing

3                       
Zone Easting Northing

2                       
Zone Easting Northing

4                       
Zone Easting 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 boundary for the Ellis Squires House is drawn to include two parcels – a house parcel and a larger landscape parcel surrounding it. The house and land remain historically associated, despite the recent separation of this land into two parcels. Together, they represent the largest intact acreage that is associated with the early history of the house and the Squires family in Hampton Bays.

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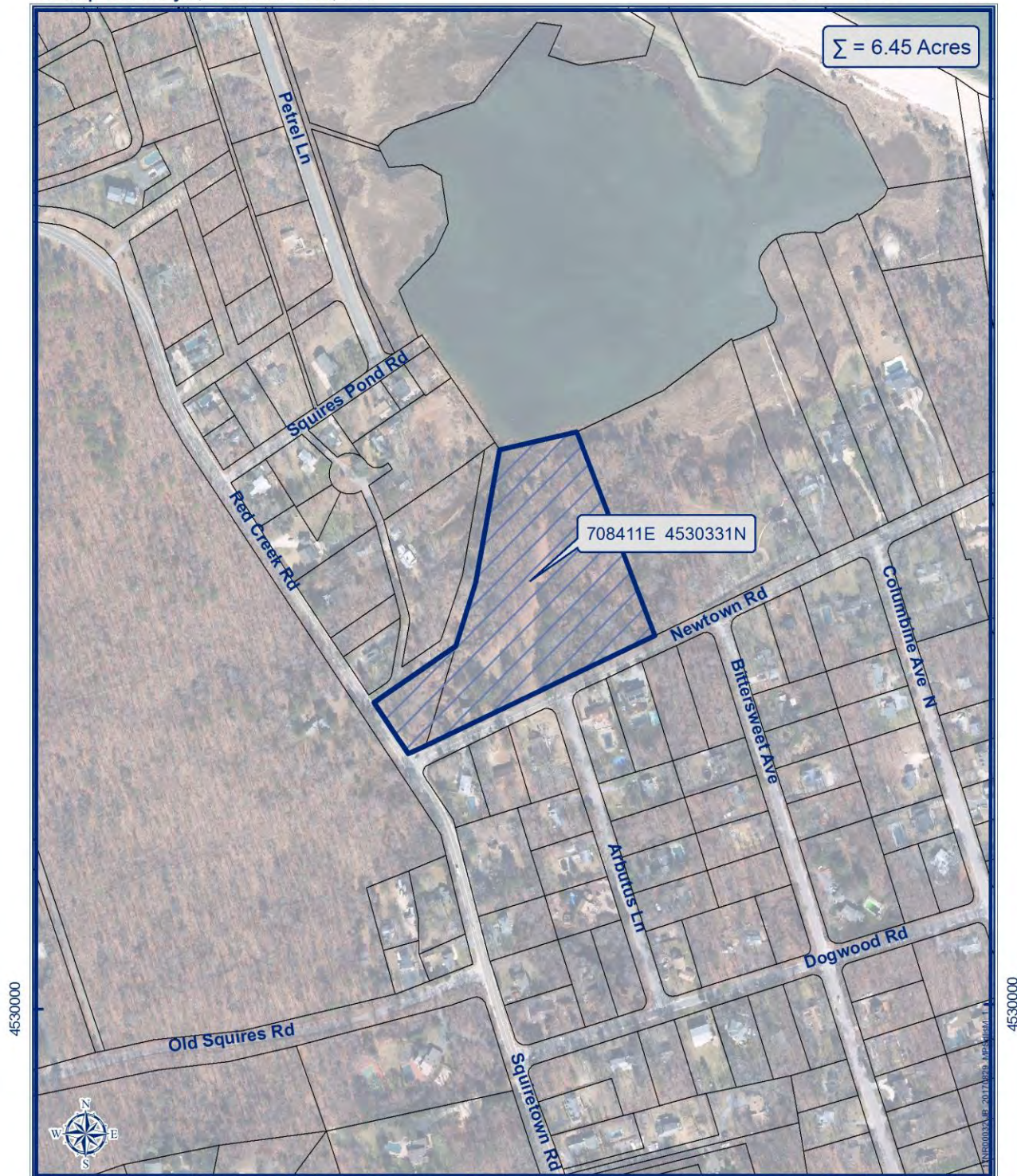


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Ellis Squires Jr. House  
Hampton Bays, Suffolk Co., NY

186 Newtown Road  
Hampton Bays, NY 11946



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

1:4,000  
1 in = 333 ft

0 110 220 440 Feet



Squires House



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation

Ellis Squires Jr. House  
Name of Property

Suffolk County, NY  
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Zachary Studenroth (edited by Jennifer Betsworth, NY SHPO)  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date August 2017  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
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: Ellis Squires House  
City or Vicinity: Hampton Bays  
County: Suffolk State: NY  
Photographer: Zachary N. Studenroth  
Date Photographed: June 9, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0001  
Exterior view. Front (south) façade, facing northeast

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0002  
Exterior view. Front (south) façade, facing northwest.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0003  
Exterior view. Front (south) façade, doorway detail.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0004  
Exterior view. Side (west) façade, facing east.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0005

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Exterior view. Side (west) & rear (north) façades, facing southeast.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0006  
Exterior view. Side (east) façade, facing west.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0007  
Exterior view. Side (east) façade, facing southwest.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0008  
Exterior view. Side (east) façade, detail of rear addition, facing west.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0009  
Interior view. Front stair hall, staircase & paneled window treatment, facing north.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0010  
Interior view. Front parlor, mantelpiece & cupboard details, facing west.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0011  
Interior view. Original kitchen, exposed framing overhead (rear extension), facing west.

NY\_Suffolk Co\_Ellis Squires House\_0012  
Interior view. Second floor stair hall, railing & baluster details, facing north.

**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.



















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination	
Property Name:	Squires, Ellis Jr., House	
Multiple Name:		
State & County:	NEW YORK, Suffolk	

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
9/25/2017	10/26/2017	11/13/2017	11/9/2017	11/9/2017

Reference number:	SG100001811
Nominator:	State
Reason For Review:	

  X   Accept             Return             Reject        11/9/2017   Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:	A good example of a Long Island Half-House, a house form unique to Long Island.
Recommendation/ Criteria	

Reviewer	<u>Alexis Abernathy</u>	Discipline	<u>Historian</u>
Telephone	<u>(202)354-2236</u>	Date	<u>                                </u>

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

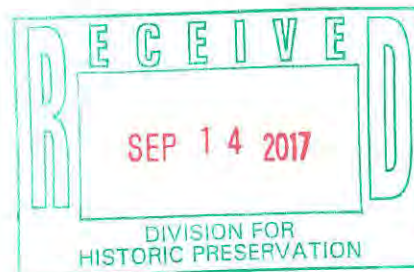
COMMITTEES  
Ways and Means  
Education  
Environmental Conservation  
Oversight, Analysis and Investigation  
Transportation

FRED W. THIELE, JR.  
Assemblyman 1<sup>st</sup> District

CHAIR  
Committee on Small Business

September 13, 2017

Michael F. Lynch, P.E., AIA  
Director, Division for Historic Preservation  
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188



Dear Mr. Lynch,

I am writing to urge you to approve the inclusion of the Ellis Squires House in Hampton Bays on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. This unique Federal-style dwelling is historically significant for its architectural design that represents its post-Revolutionary construction period.

The two-story, gable-roofed home was built circa 1790 and has a wealth of exterior and interior fabric dating from its late 18th century construction period. Located on 186 Newtown Lane, it is named for its first owner and builder. It is believed that Ellis Squires Jr. and his wife, Jerusha Rogers, built the house, providing for a family that grew to seven children. Ellis and Jerusha Squires also established a network of descendants and a community that became known as "Squiretown" in the 19th century.

Additional architectural elements that contribute to its significance are the decorative front door surround, which incorporates sidelights and reeded pilasters beneath a molded entablature, a rubble stone foundation, and interior Federal style features such as a side hall plan, parlor mantelpiece and built-in cupboard, paneled and batten doors with original wrought iron hardware, and wide pine floor boards.

The historic Ellis Squires House is the oldest surviving dwelling in Hampton Bays. I hope you will seriously consider this dwelling for Historic Preservation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

Sincerely,

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.  
Member of Assembly

FWT/csl



## Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner

22 September 2017

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

Holy Cross African Orthodox Pro-Cathedral, New York County  
Bethel Christian Avenue Historic District, Suffolk County  
Old Bethel Cemetery, Suffolk County  
Spear and Company Factory, Queens County  
Saugerties and New York Steamboat Company Warehouses, Ulster County  
Lefferts Manor Historic District (Boundary Increase), Kings County  
Ellis Squires Jr, House, Suffolk County  
William A. Farnum Boathouse, Suffolk County  
Warren-Benham House, Ontario County  
Oswego & Syracuse Railroad Freight House, Oswego County  
Forest Hill Cemetery, Oneida County  
Caffe Cino, New York County

Please note that the last nomination, Caffe Cino, is the fourth of five nominations submitted under our Underrepresented Communities grant for LGBT sites in New York City. The fifth is scheduled for review at our next board meeting in December.

In addition, I am also enclosing a CD with better photos of the Charles and Anna Bates House, Suffolk County, as requested. Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office

