

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0689564

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 6 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Wind and Tide Mills of Long Island *Thematic Resource*  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

*Various locations on Long Island*

STREET & NUMBER  
Suffolk/Nassau Counties

CITY, TOWN

STATE New York

CODE 036

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1,3 (Suffolk) 6, (Nassau)

COUNTY CODE Suffolk/Nassau 103/059

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Unused

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple Ownership (See individual inventory forms)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Suffolk County Courthouse/Nassau County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Riverhead/Mineola

STATE New York

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Also See Continuation Sheet  
Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE 1977

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Div. for Historic Preservation, Office of Parks and Rec.

CITY, TOWN Albany

STATE New York

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 6 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 27 1978

Wind and Tide Mills of Long Island, Nassau/Suffolk Counties

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 2

---

Long Island Mill Survey  
1974-1977 -- Federal  
Jointly conducted by Historic American Engineering Record  
and Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities.  
Records deposited at SPLIA, Setauket, New York, and HAER,  
Washington, D.C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wind and Tide Mills of Long Island Thematic Group consists of nine structures which exhibit common technological and architectural features characteristic of their time and place of construction. Of the five tidal and twelve wind-powered grist mills identified and recorded on Long Island by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA) from 1974 to 1977, only two tide mills and seven windmills possess sufficient technological and structural integrity to warrant nomination in the present thematic group. Two additional structures, the Gardiner and Pantigo windmills, are already listed in the National Register as components of the East Hampton Village District (1974), and are therefore not included in the thematic group.

The Saddle Rock Grist Mill (1715) and the Van Wyck-Lefferts Tide Mill (circa 1797) are situated on small inlets, built to take advantage of the changing tides of the Long Island Sound as a source of water power. Both tide mills are nominated with their adjacent mill dams. The two mills are timber-framed, shingle-clad structures which retain considerable internal wooden machinery. Both the Saddle Rock and the Van Wyck-Lefferts mills were originally powered by external undershot water wheels. The Saddle Rock mill wheel has been restored to operation, while that of the Van Wyck-Lefferts mill was removed at an undetermined date.

The seven windmills of the thematic group are clustered on or near the east end of Long Island's South Fork, where prevailing offshore winds influenced the millwrights' choice of technology and the selection of sites where windmills might be successfully built and operated. The nominated structures include the Hook (1806), Shelter Island (1810), Gardiners Island (1795; rebuilt, 1815), Beebe (1820), Water Mill (1800), Hayground (1801), and Wainscott (1813) windmills, which together survive in a remarkably good state of preservation. Historically, only the Hook, Water Mill, and Gardiners Island windmills were operated at their present locations. Though the site integrity of the other four mills has been compromised, they have nevertheless retained their structural and technological integrity despite the periodic relocations to which most of Long Island's windmills were subjected.

All of the nominated windmills are similar in scale, materials, workmanship and technology. Each is an octagonal, timber-framed structure sheathed in weathered shingles and surmounted by a rotating cap housing the windshaft. The windmills exhibit a variety of luffing (rotating) mechanisms, ranging from the external tailpole of the windmill at

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 6 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 7 1978

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

Wind and Tide Mills of Long Island  
Suffolk/Nassau Counties

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Water Mill; to the internal capstan of the Hook, Gardiners Island, Hayground, and Shelter Island mills; to the sophisticated self-rotating fantail caps of the Hayground, Beebe, and Wainscott examples. The cap designs range from the boat-shaped cap characteristic of the Hook Mill at East Hampton, to the ogee cap of the Beebe Windmill at Bridgehamton; to the conical cap with dormers (a design believed unique to Long Island), as found on the Wainscott Windmill. Additional technical information is included in the enclosed HP-1 Building-Structure Inventory Forms for each mill structure.

Whether deriving their power from wind or water, the nominated mills utilized similar internal machinery to perform a common function, the grinding of grain into flour. The ratios, diameters, and arrangement of the gears and shafts of all nine mills are nearly identical, the principal difference being simply the direction of power transfer to the runs of millstones (upward in the tidal mills, downward in the windmills). As a thematic group, the Wind and Tide Mills of Long Island constitute a well-preserved historic technological and architectural resource of immense value in understanding the early culture of the region.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1715-1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wind and Tide Mills of Long Island Thematic Group encompasses nine structures built between 1715 and 1820 which together illustrate the development of mill architecture and technology on Long Island during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Built of native materials and designed to take advantage of available power sources, the seven windmills and two tidal grist mills represent a significant reminder of the engineering sophistication and vernacular architectural skills possessed by Long Island's early millwrights. The regional concentration of these historic resources is unparalleled in the United States, and they remain a significant link to Long Island's historic agrarian economy and craft tradition.

The development of local gristmilling on Long Island during the period from 1700 to about 1840 was greatly influenced by environmental factors. A flat topography, few flowing streams with insufficient head of water, prevailing sea breezes, and an abundant local timber supply were elements which directed the course of Long Island's early millwrights as they developed a distinctive regional approach to mill design and construction. Coastal inlets on the North Shore became prime sites for tidal grist mills, while the abundant wind power of the Island's South Fork made this area the focus for construction of numerous windmills. Of the many wind and tide mills which once dotted Long Island, most have been destroyed or compromised beyond recognition. The two tidal mills and seven windmills of the thematic group all retain considerable architectural and mechanical integrity, and thus represent the most significant surviving examples of their type and period of construction.

Individual structures in the group possess additional significance; The Saddle Rock Grist Mill is the only operating tidal grist mill on the East Coast. The Van Wyck-Lefferts Mill has been called the best preserved eighteenth-century tide mill in the United States by the Historic American Engineering Record, which recorded this and other structures in the group as part of the Long Island Mill Survey.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 6 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 27 1978

Wind and Tide Mills of Long Island  
Suffolk/Nassau Counties

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Among the nominated windmills, the Hook, Gardiners Island, and Shelter Island structures were all designed and built by the famous Dominy family of East Hampton millwrights, clock and cabinetmakers. The Dominy windmills display chamfered posts and sophisticated mechanical systems, details reflecting taste and attention to architectural design and finishing beyond the purely functional. Of the seven windmills, the Hook Mill at East Hampton is the best preserved example, retaining its full complement of machinery and its integrity of location. The remaining windmills are also significant as technological objects and picturesque visual elements on the landscape of eastern Long Island which have come to symbolize the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The Wind and Tide Mills of Long Island Thematic Group collectively illustrates the diverse and sophisticated technical knowledge which Long Island's talented artisans brought to bear on the problems of industrial power transmission in a low energy society. Important for the engineering refinement, architectural design features, and craftsmanship which they embody, these nine mills remain a highly significant and irreplaceable link with America's "Wooden Age" on Long Island.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

See Individual Inventory Forms

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11 acres (total)

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

A	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C	_____	_____	_____
E	_____	_____	_____
G	_____	_____	_____

B	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D	_____	_____	_____
F	_____	_____	_____
H	_____	_____	_____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Individual Inventory Forms

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		Nassau	059
		Suffolk	103

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Raymond W. Smith, Program Analyst

ORGANIZATION

NYS Parks and Rec., Div. for Historic Preservation

DATE

10/78

STREET & NUMBER

Agency Bldg. #1, Empire State Plaza

TELEPHONE

518-474-04799

CITY OR TOWN

Albany

STATE

New York

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

DATE

10/24/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-27-78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

12/22/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 6 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 27 1978

Wind and Tide Mills of Long Island  
Nassau/Suffolk Counties

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Buffet, Edward P. "Some Long Island Windmills." American  
Machinist, (October 17, 1918), 725-729.

Hummel, Charles F. With Hammer in Hand: The Dominy Craftsmen  
of East Hampton. Charlottesville: University of Virginia  
Press, 1968.

Van Nostrand, A.N., et al. "The Mills of Nassau County."  
Journal of the Nassau County Historical Society, (Fall,  
1942), 54-59.

Wailles, Rex. "Windmills of Eastern Long Island." Newcomen  
Society Transactions, (London, 1934-1935).

8.