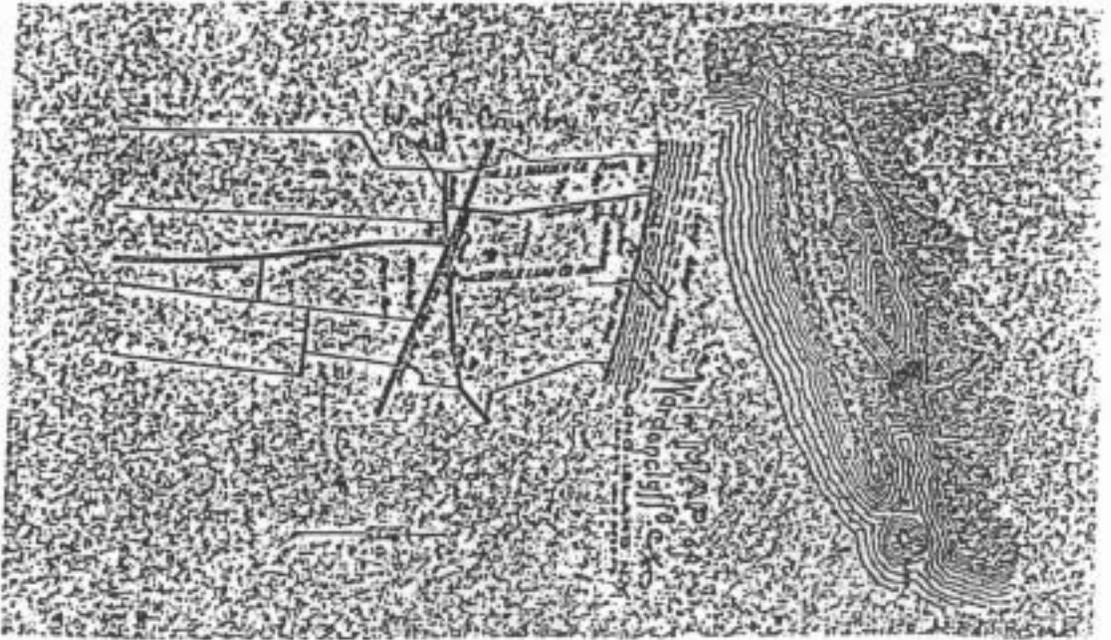


*THEN AND NOW*

Fig. 9. Teddy Roosevelt on Route 25A, August 1910. This picture was believed to have been taken west of the intersection of Wading River-Manor Road and 25A. .... From E. Meier, The Wading River: Pauguaconsuk (River-head, New York, 1955).



**Fig.10.** Map of Wardencllyffe-On-Sound, showing J.S. Warden Co. section for cottages and Suffolk County Land Co. section for estates. From Wardencllyffe On-Sound (Wardencllyffe, New York, n.d.).

The Warden Company brochure combines an advertisement of the site's physical attractions and recreational possibilities;

"Suppose a friend should tell you that within an hour and a half's ride from the heart of New York City, you could find a place to summer- yes! or winter- where the land is high above the sea, rolling, heavily wooded and picturesque; where charming drives, woodland walks, and every attraction of shore and sea abound, and the bathing, boating, and fishing were unrivalled- wouldn't you be attracted? Of course, you would. . . Such is Wardencllyffe-on-Sound!" (See Fig. 11.)

with an appeal to exclusiveness;

"...It is conceded that the North Shore of Long Island, because of the establishment of these large estates [Vanderbilt, Gould, Whitney] and consequent exclusiveness, is safeguarded against speculative sales

of small lots and cheap **exploitations.**"  
and a promise of even easier access to Manhattan;

"The Long Island Railroad, now controlled by the Pennsylvania System, is **spending** millions of dollars on its lines along the North Shore, including,., new electric service and trains running. . . smoothly and rapidly,"<sup>26</sup>

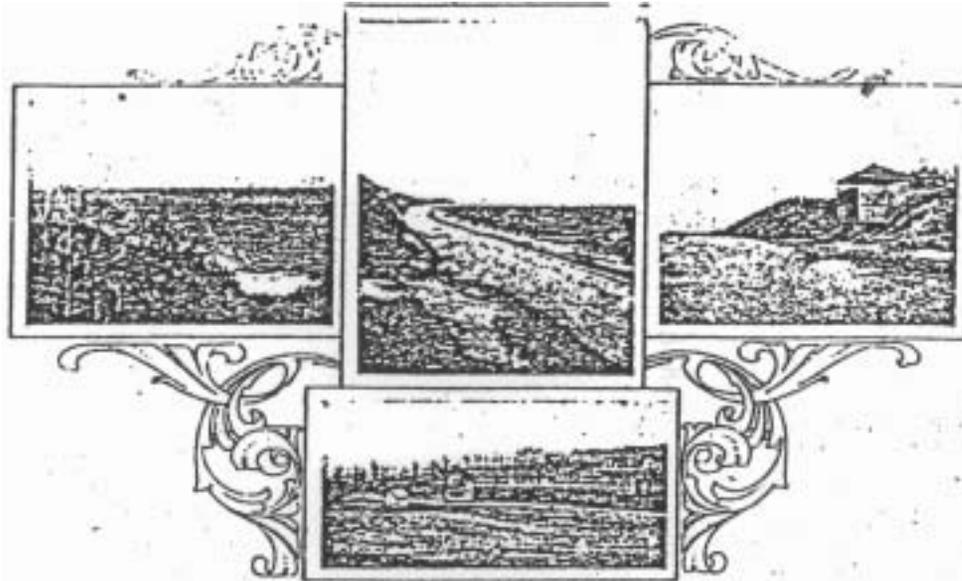


Fig. 11, THE BEACH AT WARDENCLYFFE-ON-SOUND.  
From Wardenclyffe-On-Sound (Wardenclyffe, New York, n. d.).

The development was divided into **two** sections run by two different companies, (See Fig. 10.) The development to the west of Woodville Landing Road, operated by the J. S. Warden Co., contained

"a number of summer cottages and log cabins which can be rented by the season to families furnishing satisfactory references. **These** picturesque homes, all located within view of the **Sound**, are built for light housekeeping,., Pure milk, seasonable vegetables, fresh eggs and fowl are easily obtainable in **abundance.**"<sup>27</sup> (See Fig. 12.)

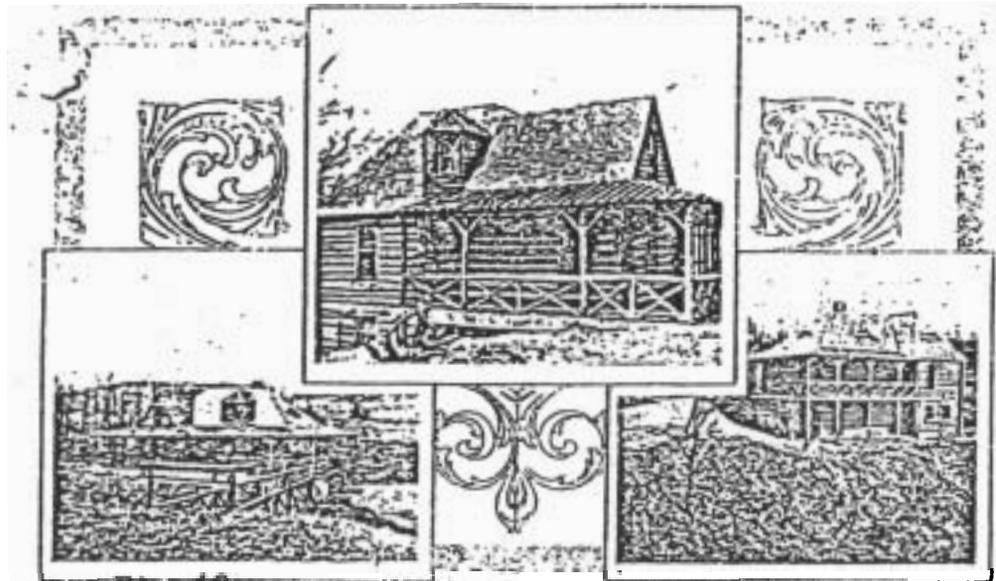


Fig. 12.

LOG CABINS FOR SALE OR RENT.

From Wardencllyffe-On-Sound (Wardencllyffe, New York, n.d.).

The development to the east of Woodville Road, operated by the Suffolk County Land Co. with J. S. Warden as manager and director, was for

"...those wishing large estates. The management has set apart a tract of several hundred acres exclusively for Estates."<sup>28</sup> (See Fig.: 13.)

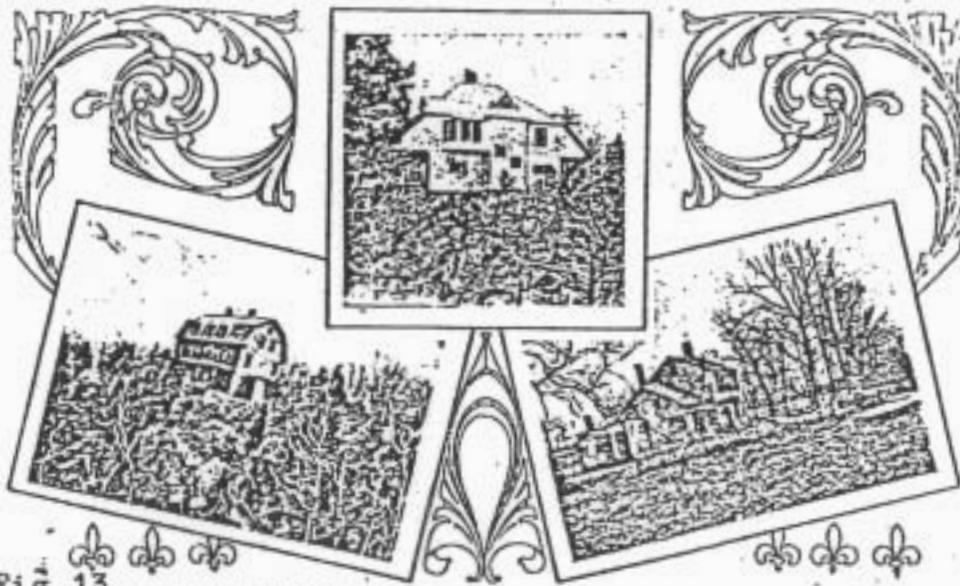


Fig. 13. HOMES ON PRIVATE ESTATES AT WARDENCLYFFE-ON-SOUND.

From Wardencllyffe-On-Sound (Wardencllyffe, New York, n.d.).

In addition, the proprietors planned to provide all the necessary conveniences;

"This development is destined to give to its residents a purely country life in its best sense, while furnishing those conveniences which have become imperative by **custom**, such as a complete water system giving **to** every cottager running water; an ~~ice~~ **plant** on the grounds; and an electric light service about to be **constructed**," and certain luxuries;

"In order to meet the demands,, of owners and lessees of cottages who desire an appetizing home table without the Trouble of house-keeping, and as a resting place for those who do not desire **household** responsibilities, the "**Wardenclyffe Inn**" is conducted, not as a money making investment, but more as a Dining and Social Club,"<sup>29</sup> (See Fig.



FIG. 14.

THE WARDENCLYFFE INN.

From Wardenclyffe-On-Sound (Wardenclyffe, New York,

The brochure's claims concerning the natural **attractions** of the **area** are to a large extent accurate. The climate is appropriate for a **summer resort** area. Listed below in Table 1 is a temperature chart for the years **1903, 1926, and 1965**, showing the monthly mean temperature at Setauket, ten miles west on Long Island **Sound**.

Table 1. **Monthly Mean** Temperature, °F., Setauket Station, N.Y. 30

|      | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May  | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| 1903 | 30.7 | 30.4 | 36.0 | 47.3 | 58.0 | 67.0 | 72.0 | 71.1 | 65.0  | 54.2 | 44.3 | 35.0 |
| 1926 | 31.0 | 29.5 | 37.4 | 47.9 | 58.0 | 66.4 | 72.2 | 70.7 | 62.0  | 55.2 | 44.2 | 34.0 |
| 1965 | 30.4 | 30.1 | 37.7 | 47.5 | 59.1 | 67.2 | 72.0 | 71.3 | 63.2  | 55.0 | 43.9 | 35.0 |

Summer temperatures average **75-85°F.** and the extreme variations that do occur are of short duration and are tempered by the large water area surrounding Long Island. There are usually **only two** or three days each summer when the average **maximum** shade temperature is above **95°F.** Spring and autumn temperatures are **usually** mild with an average of **60-65°F.** The temperatures show a gradual increase in the spring and decrease in the fall, which with the amount of monthly rainfall, provides a long growing season for the **abundant** crops mentioned in the **prospectus.** The length of the growing season averages approximately 207 days, <sup>31</sup> The monthly precipitation chart, Table 2, shows an average of 3.73 inches of rain in each summer month, with slightly less falling in June,

Table 2. **Monthly Precipitation,** Inches, Setauket Station. 32

|      | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May  | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| 1903 | 4.18 | 4.22 | 4.51 | 3.34 | 3.96 | 2.43 | 4.87 | 4.54 | 3.45  | 4.48 | 4.48 | 4.65 |
| 1926 | 4.0  | 3.98 | 4.29 | 3.74 | 3.44 | 2.73 | 4.17 | 4.31 | 3.50  | 4.12 | 3.66 | 4.03 |
| 1965 | 4.10 | 4.0  | 3.89 | 3.22 | 3.13 | 2.11 | 3.96 | 4.13 | 3.43  | 3.87 | 3.82 | 3.67 |

The average yearly rainfall is 46.23 inches. There were 145 sunny days

in Setauket in 1898-99 and 121 cloudy days. (Denslow, 1901).

With a summertime average of 70° F., the waters of Long Island Sound provide excellent swimming and boating opportunities. (See Table 3.)

Table 3, Estimated Monthly Water Temperature, °F., Herod Point, 33

|      | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| 1965 | 37   | 36   | 39   | 45   | 54  | 63   | 69   | 71   | 68    | 61   | 52   | 48   |

A disadvantage of the warm summer water temperatures is the tendency of red, stinging jellyfish (*Cyanea capillata*) to invade warm waters. These jellyfish are apt to appear in August, ruining swimming in the area,

Wind in the area is sufficient for sailing purposes, as the monthly wind movement at nearby Port Jefferson has been recorded at 6,000 miles. The record hourly wind movement was greater than 61 miles per hour. A disadvantage of the climate is the possibility of one hurricane every seven years. <sup>34</sup>

The beaches are composed of fine, white pebbles and provide habitats for many marine organisms - horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*), green crab (*Carcinus maenas*), hermit crab (*Pagurus pollicarus*), hardshell clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), softshell clam (*Mya arenaria*) - to watch or collect. Beach plums (*Prunus maritima*) can be picked and used to make beach plum jelly,

The "wooded hills and woodland walks" mentioned in the Wardencllyffe brochure are not readily apparent in pictures of the area. Many acres of open fields and relatively few small trees are shown. (See Fig. 15.) The statement that "the Sound can be seen from every lot on the estate" was only true because there no trees to obstruct the view as there are at present,



Fig. 15. SCENERY ON THE ESTATE AT WARDENCLYFFE-ON-SOUND.

From Wardenclyffe-On-Sound (Wardenclyffe, New York, n.d.).

The chestnut trees which existed in the early oak-chestnut forest were no longer standing, having been decimated by the chestnut blight, the chestnut blight is a parasitic fungus brought here from Asia sometime before 1904, which caused the death of most of the chestnut trees in the Middle Atlantic and New England states by the early 1900's. The fungus has a vegetative part composed of many flat, threadlike strands called mycelium which penetrate and kill the bark and eventually the interior tissue of the tree. The reproductive part of the fungus produces two kinds of spores: 1) spores contained in tiny, coiling, hairlike tendrils called spore-horns, which seep out of the moist spore-horn in a mass. The spores are sticky and adhere to birds and insects who transport them to other trees. The second type of spore is found within thin sacs which burst explosively, dispelling dry spores into the air to be borne by air currents. Enormous numbers of spores are produced and dispersed by the two methods described above, killing 99% of all existing chestnut trees. This had detrimental effects not only upon the appearance of a summer resort area but upon the previously mentioned cordwood industry. (Gravatt, 1930)

The scarcity of other trees in Wardencllyffe was probably due to the effects of the **cordwood** industry and to the **developer's axe** in preparing the land for easy construction of houses,

**Fishing** was mentioned as a recreational activity and still remains as a popular activity for sport and as a source of food. Long Island Sound contains many sport and food fish, flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*), bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), Bay anchovy (*Anchoa mitchilli*), siver perch (*Bairdiella chrysura*), bass (*Centropristis striata*), weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*), and blackfish (*Tautoga onitis*), to name a few, **Fruits** and vegetables were probably available in abundance as **claimed, for the Peace** and Plenty Experimental Farm at Wading River demonstrated in 1905 that 380 varieties of vegetables, fruits, and other plants could be successfully grown in the area (Fullerton, 1906).

The modern electric train did not materialize but a railroad station was erected near the intersection of Briarcliffe and North Country Roads, reducing the travelling time between New Eork City and Wardencllyffe to one and one-half hours. **Figure 16** shows a picture of the railroad station.

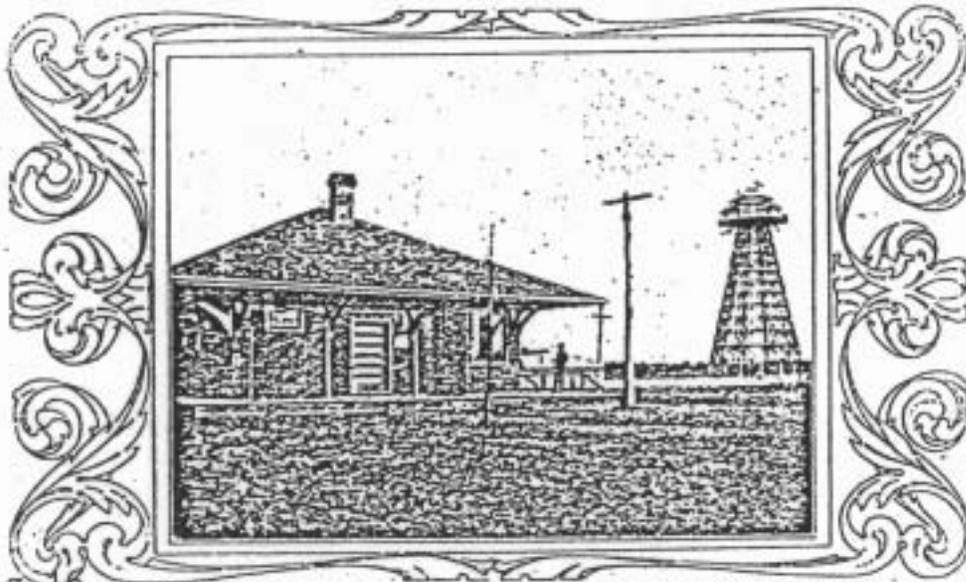


Fig. 16. WARDENCLYFFE (L. I. R. R.) STATION AND TESLA ELECTRIC TOWER.

From Wardencllyffe-On-Sound (Wardencllyffe, New York, n.d.).

Running water was provided and the water mains are still in use by the present water company. A water tower and a pumphouse containing a steam engine were used in providing service. The water tower has since been dismantled but the pumphouse has been converted into a residence in use today.

The Wardenclyffe Inn thrived as a restaurant and social center of the community, offering weekly formal dances in the summer time, until Prohibition sharply curtailed the Inn's business and forced its closing and dismantling in 1924 (Frei, 1978). Another luxury available at Wardenclyffe was the Beach Pavilion, a houselike structure on top of the cliff overlooking the beach (See Fig. 11, top right). The Beach Pavilion was used for changing into beach clothes as it was considered unseemly at the time to wear beach clothes in the streets,

The Wardenclyffe-on-Sound development continued to expand until approximately 65 houses were built, including 50 cottages and 15 estates, In 1901 a postoffice was opened at Wardenclyffe in the general store on Woodville Road. In 1906 the name of the postoffice was changed to Shoreham, the fifth and present name for the locality,

#### Tesla:Worldwide Broadcasting

James Warden became involved in another venture in the area whose outcome was far less successful than that of Wardenclyffe-on-Sound. In 1901 he offered 200 acres of land south of his Wardenclyffe development to the inventor, Nikola Tesla, to build a power station, in return for which the 2,000 men to be employed at the power station would build homes on Warden's land,<sup>3a</sup>

Nikola Tesla was a brilliant scientist, born in Yugoslavia in 1856, who emigrated to this country and worked at Thomas Edison's plant in New Jersey. By 1899 he had invented the first electric motor to use alternating current and had demonstrated the use of a polyphase system in harnessing the power of Niagara Falls for the generation and transmission

of electric power, His plan at Wardenclyffe was to build a world wireless broadcasting system (radio) and a world-wide power transmission station, **His** system would provide universal distribution of news and music, interconnection of all world telephone, telegraph, and stock tickers, establishment of a secret government **communications** system and a private intelligence **system**, and the establishment of a marine navigation and spotter system, All wavelength channels were to be broadcast from a single channel, thus creating a radio-broadcasting **monopoly**. Stanford **White**, the well-known architect, and **Tesla's** friend, agreed to design the power station and tower, and the "**ideal city**" Tesla envisioned for the power station's workers. The wealthy industrialist, **J. P. Morgan**, donated \$150,000 to the project.34b

**During** the winter of 1902 a 154 foot tall mushroom shaped tower was constructed across from the Wardenclyffe railroad station. The tower was constructed of wood with **copper** sheathing and a stairway to a platform near the top. Below the tower was a well twelve feet square and 120 feet deep. A staircase led to the bottom of the well. (See Fig. 16,) Next to the tower was a 100 foot square brick building for the powerhouse and laboratory. Once the tower and laboratory were complete, Tesla stopped his daily commute on the Long Island Railroad and moved into a house overlooking the beach at Wardenclyffe-on-Sound.

However, there were problems completing the interior of the power and wireless station. 300 horsepower dynamos and motors had to be designed and built specially as did the glass tubes used in transmitting and receiving signals. Tesla was able to carry on several high-frequency current experiments, but the principal project, world-wide broadcasting, lagged. Many of his minor experiments, which lit up the sky at night and produced the smell of ozone, frightened the area residents and gave rise to rumors that Tesla was trying to communicate with Mars or to use the sun's rays to generate electricity, <sup>35</sup> The secrecy that he maintained about his work added fuel to the rumors. In 1905, however, rumors of another sort, that J. P. Morgan had withdrawn his financial backing, caused **Tesla's**

creditors to ..close the laboratory, All experiments stopped and Tesla moved back to New **York** City where he continued experimenting on a minor scale until **his** death in 1943. Ironically, a powerful broadcasting station was later developed by RCA two miles away.

The Tesla tower remained standing until **1917**. Two theories exist as to the reasons for its dismantling, The most intriguing is that it was being used to send signals to the Germans in World War I and was dynamited **down** by the government. The second claim is that the **Waldorf-Astoria** Hotel acquired it as payment towards an old Tesla debt and had **it** dismantled and sold for scrap. The laboratory building remained vacant until **1939** when Peerless **Photo Products**, Inc. chose it as a **site for manufacturing photo-sensitive** photographic materials due to its location in a smoke and smog free environment <sup>36</sup> with an abundant supply of pure water **and** high grade, intelligent labor,

Incorporation: **Shoreham** Village

In **Sept.**, 1913 the summer colony of **Shoreham** was incorporated as **Shoreham** Village. Notice of an election to be held on Sept. 6, **1913** to incorporate the Village of **Shoreham** was posted at the Woodville Store. The Papers of Incorporation list the population as **270 people, with** 31 votes in favor of incorporation and 0 (zero) votes against. The area incorporated was forty acres of land west of Woodville Road from Long Island Sound south one-half mile to the Woodville Store. (See Fig, 17.)

Officers of the village were elected on Oct. 4, 1913 with 19 total votes cast: For President: Claude V, Pallister - 16 votes

|              |                        |                          |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
|              | C. J. <b>Tagliabue</b> | - 3 votes                |
| For Trustee: | A <b>Fradenburgh</b>   | - 15 votes               |
|              | A, Varian              | = 34 votes <sup>37</sup> |

At the first village meeting on **Oct. 6, 1913** R, Smith was <sup>37</sup>appointed Road Commissioner and J. Melvin was appointed **Village** Clerk. **It** was not until the second meeting (Nov. 22, 1913) that **the village** officers began to **carry out** the tasks for which they were elected: a vote to borrow money by issuing

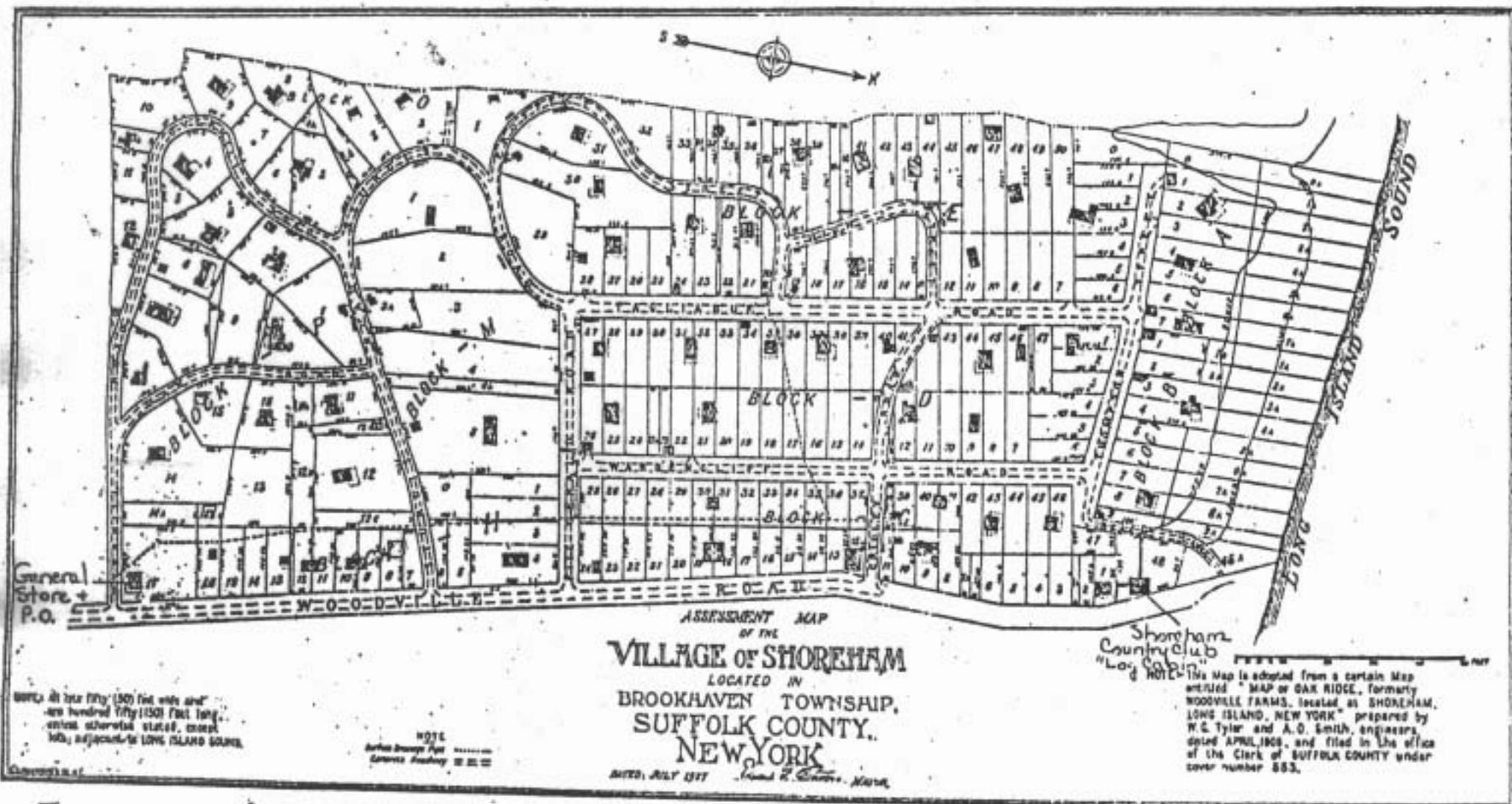


Fig. 17. Map of the original Village of Shoreham.

bonds in the amount of \$18,000 for the purpose of paving the village roads with concrete,<sup>38</sup> Aside from the reputed desire to be exclusive, the primary reason for incorporation was <sup>39</sup>to improve the dirt roads, which at that time were in disastrous condition. The village, being situated on the Harbor Hills moraine, has many hilly roads, all of which grade down into the main road, **Woodville Road**. -Locally heavy rainstorms, aggravated in intensity by moist air hitting the bluffs overlooking the **Sound**, caused mud to wash down the village streets and collect in Woodville Road and homeowners' basements, Since the Town of Brookhaven had done little to correct the problem, **incorporation** was seen as a way to raise money to improve the road.

There seemed to be some early confusion in running a village as a special election had to be called<sup>40</sup> on **Dec. 13, 1913** to **revote** the bond issue and elect two more trustees. In spite of this special election to ensure the legality of the bond issue, a petition was sent to **the** Supreme Court of **Suffolk asking** the Supreme Court Justice to authorize the bond sale as legal in spite of certain irregularities which appeared in its terms and **advertisement of** expected interest rates,<sup>41</sup> .. An affirmative decision was given and road work was finally begun in 1914. Completion of the village governmental roster took place during the summers of 1914 and 1915 when a tax collector, a police **commissioner**,<sup>42</sup> a fire chief, and a **three** member Board of Health were appointed.

**Shoreham** remained a summer community until the post World War II period, **The** village meeting of Oct, **21**, 1916 has two resolutions: "**Resolved:** that removal of garbage be stopped for the season. **Resolved:** that cleaning of the streets be stopped for the **season.**"<sup>43</sup> In fact, the few winter meetings of the village government that were held, took place in **New York** City either at a trustee's business office - Meeting, **Nov. 30**, 1917 at **A. Varian's** Office, 44 Pine St. -or club - Meeting, Oct. 10, 1932 at the Engineers Club. The summer meetings were usually held at the President's house.<sup>44</sup>

Several of the early residents were well-known public figures of the time: **Channing** Pollock, a playwright; **Leroy** Scott, a writer; Ludwig **Bemelmans**, a cartoonist; Helen **Rowland**, an advice to the lovelorn

columnist; and **Tully** Marshall, a movie and stage actor.

### Village **Services**

**Much** of the money expended by the village government was spent for routine municipal functions such as street repairs and cleaning, police, **and** fire protection, and garbage pickup. The village hired a policeman for the summer months, and in **1917**, discussed hiring an assistant to "preserve order on the beach and bluff at **Shoreham**" due to anticipated disturbances from residents of the "**Government Camp**" [**Army Camp Upton**]. But "**as** the Summer is a comparatively quiet one and the season is quite **advanced**" it was decided against doing so.<sup>45</sup> In **1947**, **Brookhaven Town's** offer to provide **police** service to the village **was** accepted and **remains** in effect at **present**.<sup>46</sup> Extra private duty policemen—ave also been employed by the village since **1975**.<sup>47</sup>

The Fire **Dept.** initially consisted of volunteers and a two wheel wooden wagon with hose which could be **hooked** to the back of a buggy or car in the event of a fire. A used fire engine was purchased **for \$50 in 1923**, and in **1925** a "**heavy** tone sterling **siren**" Was bought for **it**.<sup>48</sup> The problem of where to house this fire truck peppers the village meetings for many years. In **1954**, one resident offered his garage **for such** use if the village would move the garage from his **property**.<sup>49</sup> This was evidently not practical because failed to accept his offer. Instead, **Dr. Adams** was **thanked** for the continued use of his garage with a pledge to find new storage as soon as **possible**.<sup>50</sup> The problem was finally resolved in **1961** when the fire engine was donated to the Little Plower **Childrens'** Home in Wading River,<sup>51</sup> Immediately thereafter, the village entered into a contract for fire protection with the Rocky Point Fire Dept.,<sup>52</sup> an arrangement which continues at present.

Two major concerns of the village government were: 1) **maintenance** of the exclusiveness and natural beauty of the village by property acquisition and zoning ordinances, and; 2) development of recreational facilities and programs desirable in a summer resort.