

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 21 1985

date entered

MAR 21 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common Crowther House

2. Location

street & number 97 Beach Lane not for publication

city, town Westhampton Beach vicinity of

state New York code 036 county Suffolk code 103

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Crowther Family

street & number 179 Midland Avenue

city, town Montclair vicinity of state New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Suffolk County Clerk

street & number County Center

city, town Riverhead state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Crowther House is located on Beach Lane in the incorporated village of Westhampton Beach. Westhampton Beach is a densely settled summer resort community on Long Island's south shore approximately fifty miles east of New York City. The 1910 Crowther House and its 1910 detached garage are the only structures on the 1.5-acre nominated property. The site is flat and tall privet hedges surround the property. Mature plantings and open lawn complement the house's uncompromised historic setting. The Crowther House is situated in a modern, non-historic, twentieth-century residential neighborhood.

The large, two-story, wood frame house faces south and is set back approximately 115 feet from Beach Lane. A circular driveway located on the house's east side provides access into the property. The house is generally five bays wide and three bays deep. Wood shingles sheath all exterior surfaces. A one-story porch with square columns (partially enclosed in 1945) extends across the the house's main south facade. A three-bay terrace with square columns, open trellis roof, and small fountain is attached to the front porch's (and house's) east side.

The house has a gambrel roof with long shed-roofed dormers on the north and south sides; the south side dormer forms a projecting, enclosed center porch. A low shed roof covers the front porch. All rooflines have exposed rafter ends. Various six-over-six single, double, and triple windows with simple wood trim punctuate all elevations. The main (south) center entrance has a single door with engaged square columns and sidelights. Other side and rear entrances have single doors. Flower boxes on wood brackets adorn many of the second floor windows. Two brick chimneys punctuate the house's roof line. A small, one-story, screened porch is attached to the house's rear (north side) entrance.

The house's interior is its most distinctive feature. The main floor living, dining, and entry areas combine to form one large unpartitioned space. The overall construction in these areas is exposed and finished wood studs and joists over horizontal narrow board sheathing. Horizontal wood sheathing (over unexposed studs and joists) is used throughout the remainder of the house's interior. A handsome, hand-crafted wood staircase dominates the center of the main floor living area. The living room has a brick fireplace on the west side with wood mantel shelf and a south side doorway on the south side leading into the enclosed porch. The

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Crowther House, Westhampton, Suffolk Co., NY

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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dining room has a handsome wood and glass storage unit built into its north wall and a rectangular, bay window on the south side. The kitchen and remaining second floor bedrooms have simple wood trim and wood paneled doors (many with transoms). The glass doors which provide access into the second floor sleeping porch have decorative swags in their bottom panels.

The small, one-story, detached garage is located at the northwest corner of the nominated property. Its entire exterior is also sheathed in wood shingles. The structure has a two-stall garage and a series of small rooms attached to its south side; a combination of gambrel and shed roofs cover both sections. Two double, glass and wood garage doors and a single door entrance provide access into the building. A variety of one-over-one single and double windows punctuate the building's exterior.

The well-maintained house, garage, and grounds all contribute to the property's intact historic appearance.

The Crowther House has been owned by the Crowther family since the 1940's and, at present, remains in second generation Crowther family ownership.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1910 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Crowther House is a distinguished and exceptionally intact example of an twentieth century regional house type once common on eastern Long Island shore areas. Built in 1910, it is the most intact historic summer house in the village. The house's exterior is a regional interpretation of the popular turn-of-the-century (1900) Shingle style which incorporates overall wood shingle sheathing with finishes and details based on eastern Long Island's vernacular building tradition. The structure's rare intact interior is distinguished by its exposed, yet carefully finished, interior framing system and the high quality, hand-crafted wood finishes and details. The high quality of the workmanship and the handsome interior details are characteristic of the architecture associated with the American Arts and Crafts movement. The Crowther House, with its carriage house and historic setting intact, is an architecturally significant property which makes an important contribution to the understanding of eastern Long Island's extensive early twentieth century summer resort development.

Westhampton did not experience the intensive summer building development which transformed the nearby communities of East Hampton and Southampton from rural settlements into large, fashionable vacation retreats during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During this time, Westhampton remained somewhat undeveloped and generally agricultural in character. Although some summer houses were built in Westhampton, their numbers were far less than those constructed in the other two resort communities. Since the early twentieth century, the number of period summer houses in Westhampton has decreased as a result of a hurricane in 1938 and extensive alteration to those that survived. More recently, the village experienced an extensive summer house building boom during the mid-twentieth century which continues to the present time.

The architectural inspiration for the Crowther House is based on a variety of sources. Although its massing is Dutch Colonial Revival in inspiration, its derivation from eastern Long Island's eighteenth and early nineteenth century vernacular building tradition is clearly evident from its wood frame construction, wood shingle sheathing, and a minimum of decoration, all of which have characterized residential design on Long Island from its early

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bayles, Richard M. Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County, Port Jefferson, New York: 1874.
Shopsin, William. Saving Large Estates. Setauket, New York: Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, 1977.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1.5

Quadrangle name Eastport

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	99	5	80	45	1	95	3	0
Zone		Easting			Northing					

B

Zone		Easting			Northing					

C

Zone		Easting			Northing					

D

Zone		Easting			Northing					

E

Zone		Easting			Northing					

F

Zone		Easting			Northing					

G

Zone		Easting			Northing					

H

Zone		Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The dimensions of the Crowther House's rectangular lot are approximately 400 feet (north-south) along Beach Lane and 250 feet (east-west) deep.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Austin O'Brien, Field Representative

organization Division for Historic Preservation date January 28, 1985

street & number Empire State Plaza telephone 518-474-0479

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 Julia S. Stohr

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation date 2/7/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Allouez Byer **Entered in the National Register** date 3-21-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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received

date entered

Crowther House, Westhampton, Suffolk Co., NY

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Continuation sheet

Item number

settlement up to the present time. This local building tradition has been the primary inspiration for Long Island's architecture since the settlement period rather than the nineteenth and twentieth century architectural style that were popular in other parts of New York State and the country.

Eastern Long Island's late nineteenth century popularity as a summer retreat coincided with the development of the American Shingle style. This style was particularly popular in Long Island's resort communities as it was viewed as compatible with the vernacular building tradition. Both idioms share characteristics such as a uniform covering of shingles, a general lack of ornamentation, and the frequent use of the gambrel roof form. Variations of the Shingle style remained popular on Long Island into the early twentieth century.

The Crowther House and detached garage were built in 1910 and retain their original 1.5-acre lot. The garage complements the main house and exhibits many of the same architectural details including wood shingle sheathing and trim, gambrel and shed roofs, and exposed rafter ends. The plantings around the house and garage; the broad, flat lawn; and the tall, enclosing privet hedge all provide the nominated structures with an appropriate period setting. Unfortunately, the architect and builder of the Crowther House are unknown. The building records in the village were destroyed after the house was built. The dated original drawings for the house survive but are unsigned.

The Crowther House's largely unchanged interior is its most architecturally distinctive feature. One of its most unusual treatments (which is readily apparent upon entering the house) is the exposed yet carefully finished framing system in the main, unpartitioned living areas (see photo #4). In addition, the house has an abundance of high quality, hand-crafted wood details including classically inspired window and door surrounds with simple entablatures, a handsome main staircase, paneled doors, and a built-in storage unit in the dining area. The house's interior, with its overall attention to the selection of materials and workmanship, reflects America's interest in the Arts and Crafts architectural movement during the early twentieth century. The Crowther House's interior is an unusual example of the Arts and Crafts idiom on eastern Long Island and its survival is rare since numerous summer houses in the area has been altered for year-round use.

The Crowther House represents a distinctive and successful union of Long Island's vernacular building tradition with inspiration drawn from the Shingle and Arts and Crafts architectural idioms. The architecturally significant Crowther House remains as an important example of period summer house design and recalls an important aspect in Long Island's early twentieth century resort development.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Crowther House
Suffolk County
NEW YORK

Working No. FEB 21 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 3/21/85 - 4/7/85
Action: ACCEPT 3-21-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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Buffalo County
New York

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



1

Crowther House
Westhampton Beach
Suffolk County, NY
By: A. O'Brien
Neg: DHP, Albany, NY
Main South Facade

1



2

Crowther House
Westhampton Beach
Suffolk County, NY
By: A. O'Brien
Neg: DHP, Albany, NY
East Elevation

2



Crowther House
Westhampton Beach
Suffolk County, NY
By: A. O'Brien
Neg: DHP, Albany, NY
Garage

3

W



Crowther House
Westhampton Beach
Suffolk County, NY
By: A. O'Brien
Neg: DHP, Albany, NY
Entry/Staircase



5

Crowther House
Westhampton Beach
Suffolk County, NY
By: A. O'Brien
Neg: DHP, Albany, NY
Living Area

5



6

Crowther House
Westhampton Beach
Suffolk County, NY
By: A. O'Brien
Neg: DHP, Albany, NY
Dining Area Detail

6



7

Crowther House
Westhampton Beach
Suffolk County, NY
By: A. O'Brien
Neg: DHP, Albany, NY
Dining Area Detail

7



00

Crowther House
Westhampton Beach
Suffolk County, NY
By: A. O'Brien
Neg: DHP, Albany, NY
Second Floor Bedroom

8



9

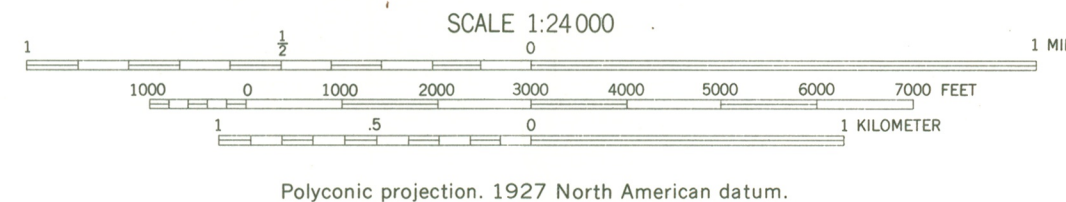
Crowther House
Westhampton Beach
Suffolk County, NY
By: A. O'Brien
Neg: DHP, Albany, NY
Second Floor Sleeping
Porch

9



Crowther House, Westhampton, Suffolk County, NY
UTM References, Eastport Quad, Zone 18
Easting 699580
Northing 4519530

Prepared and published in 1981 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.
Map base from 1956 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.
Map revisions made using 1980 aerial photography, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Grey tint indicates intensely developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.
Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.
Correspondence concerning this and other maps of the Department of Transportation should be directed to: Map Information Unit, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, New York 12232.
1981 revisions by M. A. Arnold



Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.
1000-meter ticks based on the New York Transverse Mercator grid.
Between 72° and 78° West Longitude, this grid is identical to Zone 18 of the Universal Transverse Mercator grid. Areas east of 72° and west of 78° are direct mathematical extensions of Zone 18.
10,000-foot ticks based on the New York Plane Coordinate grid, Long Island Zone.
Magnetic declination for 1981 is approximately 13 1/2° West
SPECIAL TOPOGRAPHIC EDITION
Contours, at 10-foot intervals, shown unrevisted from 1956 U.S. Geological Survey map. Dashed lines represent 5-foot contours.
Datum is mean sea level.

INDEX TO 1:9500 (1" = 800') MAP COVERAGE

EASTPORT (north)
EASTPORT (south)

- BOUNDARIES:
State.....
County.....
Town or City.....
Incorporated Village.....
- ROADS:
Touring Route markers:
Interstate.....
U. S.
State.....
County.....
State Highway number and limit.....
County road.....
Interchange number.....
- Divided highways and streets:
Wide mall.....
Narrow mall or barrier.....
Undivided highways and streets:
4 or more lanes.....
Less than 4 lanes.....
Vehicle track; trail.....