

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 25 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Richard Cox House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Mill Road not for publication

city, town Mattituck vicinity of

state New York code 036 county Suffolk code 023

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
	N/A	<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 Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Mattes

street & number Postal Box 831

city, town Mattituck vicinity of state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Suffolk County Clerk's Office

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Richard Cox house is located at the northeast corner of Luther and Mill Roads in the hamlet of Mattituck. Mattituck is situated on Long Island's north fork in eastern Suffolk County, New York. The nominated parcel is relatively flat and the Cox house sits on a low rise commanding a view of Mattituck Inlet to the south, on the opposite side of Mill Road. Located on the nominated property of approximately 1.7 acres are two contributing buildings: the Cox house and a contributing one and one-half story Stick style carriage barn which has recently been converted use as a residence.

When originally constructed in 1826, the Cox house was a two-story Greek Revival style frame residence. In the 1870s, it was extensively enlarged and remodelled in the then-popular Italianate style. A large rectangular addition was made to the rear, at the top of the original T-shaped plan, and the building was remodelled to its present exterior appearance. The roofs and cornices were reshaped and ornamented, the wrap-around verandah and cupola were added, and interior and exterior trim was embellished.

In its present appearance, the building is topped by a cupola at the center of the low-pitched hipped roof with overhanging eaves, scroll brackets, and cross gables with cornice returns. The frame building is sheathed with clapboard siding. The attic is illuminated by round-arched one-over-one double-hung sash windows in the cross gables. On the first and second floors, the six-over-six, four-over-four, and two-over-two double-hung sash windows occur singly and in groups of two and three. The rectangular window bay on the west facade is embellished by panelled aprons beneath the windows. The roof of the wrap-around porch and attached porte-cochère is supported by simple chamfered Italianate style posts on pedestals. The door and sidelights of the original main entrance on the south facade have been replaced by multi-light French doors in the original surround with transom light. (Photos 1-5).

The house's interior contains noteworthy features which date from its original construction in the Greek Revival style, its Italianate style remodelling in the 1870s, and a partial remodeling of the interior in 1910. The main floor double parlors, which retain classically inspired mouldings and mantels, are inter-

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Richard Cox House

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connected by a trabeated opening with columns in antis. The large main floor dining room, situated between the double parlors and the side entrance hall, retains its ornate marble mantel and heavily moulded door and window surrounds. The staircase in the house's original south side entrance hall was removed when the side entrance and stair hall were installed in 1910. Most of the remaining rooms in the house generally retain their overall plan, wall finishes and trim from the 1870s. The house's most imposing interior feature is the two-story Arts & Crafts style seven-sided stair hall placed behind a two-story bay window at the porte-cochère entrance on the west side of the house. The walls and ceiling of the stair hall are sheathed with vertical boards of oak or chestnut with eleven-inch cove ceiling mouldings. At the apex of the polygonal ceiling is a stained-glass skylight. The stairs rise along the north and east sides of the room to a small second-floor balcony and the main second-floor corridor. A massive brick fireplace dominates the south wall of the entrance hall. (Photos 6-9.)

The Stick style carriage house at the rear of the nominated property is an L-shaped one and one-half story frame building which has a gable roof, a square tower with spire at the juncture of the ridge poles, and decorative collar braces in the gables. The building is sheathed with ship-lap siding on the first floor and inverted vertical pickets on the upper floor. The original windows have six-over-six double-hung sash. Except for the insertion of a large multi-paned window in the original carriage entrance, a single pane fixed window above, and other minor window alterations. The building retains its original exterior appearance. (Photo 10). The interior of the carriage house has been remodelled for residential use.

The Cox house retains its overall historic setting, including its picturesque late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century landscaping. The nominated property has numerous specimen plantings, including English beech, weeping beech, blue spruce, Japanese maple and black walnut trees and portions of a sculpted hedge and a boxwood garden at the southern portion of the parcel.

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 checked="" 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 1829, ca.1870,1910 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Richard Cox House is significant as a substantial, architecturally distinguished residence that reflects the prosperity and evolving architectural tastes of the prominent local families who built and occupied it throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although originally constructed in the early nineteenth century, the house was extensively remodelled in the 1870s in the then-popular Italianate architectural style. With its picturesque asymmetrical massing, distinctive bracketed roofline and expansive porches, the Cox house is a distinguished example of an Italianate style residence in Mattituck. The nominated property was continuously owned by the locally prominent Cox-Forman families from the early nineteenth century to the early twentieth century and displays distinctive forms and decoration from throughout this period. The Cox house is a well-recognized local landmark which recalls the settlement and subsequent growth of the Mattituck area from ca. 1829 to ca. 1910.

Although the Cox house was originally built in the Greek Revival style, the remodelled and enlarged building is the finest example of an Italianate style residence in the Mattituck area. On Long Island, where traditionally simple, rectangular, utilitarian building forms prevailed from its settlement until the final decades of the nineteenth century, the Italianate and other mid-nineteenth century picturesque styles never became widely popular. The Cox house exhibits several features which mark it as a local, relatively sophisticated example of the Italianate architectural style, including a large glazed cupola with scrollwork pinnacle, a low-pitched hipped roof, overhanging eaves with elaborate scroll brackets, multiple and round-arched windows, rectangular and polygonal window bays, and a wrap-around verandah with a porte-cochère. In addition, the house's interior retains finishes, trim, and decorative details from various periods of its historic architectural development. The front (southern) portion of the residence displays a mixture of early nineteenth century interior finishes and trim and also contains a two-story 1910 side entrance/stair hall, which is a rare example of an Arts & Crafts style interior on eastern Long Island. Each phase of the building's architectural development is evident on the interior and, although somewhat rambling in plan due to its size, the entire composition reflects the prosperity and evolving architectural tastes of the Cox and Forman families during the nineteenth

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albany, New York. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. Division for Historic Preservation. Research Files.

The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography. New York, NY: J.T. White & Co., 1897

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.7

Quadrangle name Mattituck Hills

Quadrangle scale 1: 24 000

UTM References

A

1	8	7	0	5	4	1	0	4	5	4	1	2	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See accompanying property map

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert T. Englert
National Register Program Assistant

organization New York State Division for
Historic Preservation date October, 1985

street & number Agency Building 1
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 7/8/86

For NPS use only

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

entered in the
National Register

date 8-21-86

Keeper of the National Register *Allores Byen*

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

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date entered

Richard Cox House

Continuation sheet Mattituck, Suffolk Co. Item number 8

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and early twentieth centuries.

The Cox family settled briefly in the town of Southold (where Mattituck is located) in the mid-seventeenth century before removing to Oyster Bay in present-day Nassau County. Richard Cox (1766-1851), a farmer and drover descended from Southold's early settlers, moved to Mattituck in the early nineteenth century after several trips to the area to purchase livestock. In 1821, he constructed a tide-powered mill on Mattituck Inlet. (The mill, which still stands, was extensively altered for use as a restaurant ca. 1902.) In 1829, Cox constructed his two-story frame house, the front portion of the nominated residence, a short distance away. The exterior mass of the 1829 residence is still evident and various door and window mouldings survive from this period. Cox also laid out Mill Road and Luther's Road, named for his brother. In 1834, Richard Cox sold the parcel to Allan and Stephen Cox; three years later, Allan purchased Stephen Cox's share of the parcel. In the late 1850s, Allan Cox's daughter Amelia married Alexander Forman. Following the birth of the Formans' son Allan in 1860, the house was enlarged and decorated in a local interpretation of the popular Italianate style and the Stick style carriage house at the rear of the property was constructed. During the Formans' tenure, the house became the social and cultural center of Mattituck. Among the Coxes' prominent friends was neighbor J.Q.A. Ward, noted sculptor and furniture designer. In 1898, Amelia Forman inherited the house; upon her death in 1908, the house passed to her son, Allan Forman (1860-1914). Following his education at Williams College, Allan Forman acted as correspondent for the Brooklyn Eagle in San Francisco, contributed to Harper's Weekly and Harper's Young People and other juvenile publications, and edited the Brooklyn Advance, a socio-religious monthly. After working for a period at the New York Times, Forman devoted his time to dramatic criticism in partnership with Charles A. Byrne and Leander Richardson. In 1884, the three men founded the Journalist, the first periodical devoted to the profession of journalism. Forman soon bought out his partners and became sole owner and editor. Upon inheriting the house, Allan Forman immediately deeded it to his second wife, the former Xesia Carlstadt (1864-1952). Xesia Carlstadt, a native of Sweden, was a well-known operatic prima donna of the 1890s and a friend of such notables as Lillian Russell and Marie Dressler; she was also a cousin of Count Bernadotte, a distinguished Swedish diplomat. The Forman family apparently used the house only as a

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Item number 8

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received

date entered

summer residence, residing in Brooklyn during the rest of the year.(1) An obituary notice for Xesia Forman Ashley, published April 24, 1952, states that "(h)er first husband, was Alan (sic) Forman, of New York City, who was one of the prominent summer residents of Mattituck for many years...."(2)

In 1910, Xesia Forman undertook a major remodelling of the house's interior. The two-story polygonal entrance/stair hall was added to the house and the porte-cochere door was made the principal entrance. Reminiscent of a hunting lodge in its unpainted wood sheathing and somewhat grand scale, this entrance/stair hall displays fine local craftsmanship and is a handsome example of Arts & Crafts style interior design on eastern Long Island. The walls and ceiling of the entrance hall are sheathed with vertical oak or chestnut planks, and it is lighted by a stained-glass skylight at the apex of the polygonal ceiling. Also at this time, the double parlors of the earlier portion of the house were embellished with the application of an overlay of early twentieth century Neoclassical style details at window and door surrounds and mantels.

The largely intact Cox house remains as the finest example of a substantial Italianate style residence in Mattituck and serves as a reminder of the Cox-Forman family, locally prominent residents of Mattituck for over one hundred years.

(1) According to The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography (J.T. White & Co.: New York, 1897) pg. 212, Allan Forman received his early education from a private tutor in Brooklyn, where he presumably lived with his parents, Alexander and Amelia Cox Forman.

(2) Research Files, New York State Division for Historic Preservation, Albany, N.Y.



MILL ROAD

Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk County, NY
Property Map

86001721

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Cox, Richard, House
Suffolk County
NEW YORK

JUL 25 1986

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 8/21/86 - 9/8/86

Action: ACCEPT 8-21-86

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage 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: _____



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY
A. O'Brien, 1983

Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation

View: Cox House from southwest

Photo 1 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY
A. O'Brien, 1983
Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation
View: Cox House from southwest

Photo 2 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY
A. O'Brien, 1983
Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation
View: Cox House from west

Photo 3 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY
A. O'Brien, 1983
Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation
View: Cox House from northwest

Photo 4 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY
A. O'Brien, 1983
Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation
View: Cox House from northeast

Photo 5 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY
A. O'Brien, 1983

Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation

View: Entry/stair hall, from
west

Photo 6 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY
A. O'Brien, 1983
Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation
View: Skylight, entry/stair hall
from west
Photo 7 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY
A. O'Brien, 1983
Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation
View: Entry/stair hall from east

Photo 8 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY
A. O'Brien, 1983
Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation
View: Second-floor hall

Photo 9 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk Co., NY

A. O'Brien, 1983

Negs: NYS Div. for Historic
Preservation

View: Carriage barn from southwest

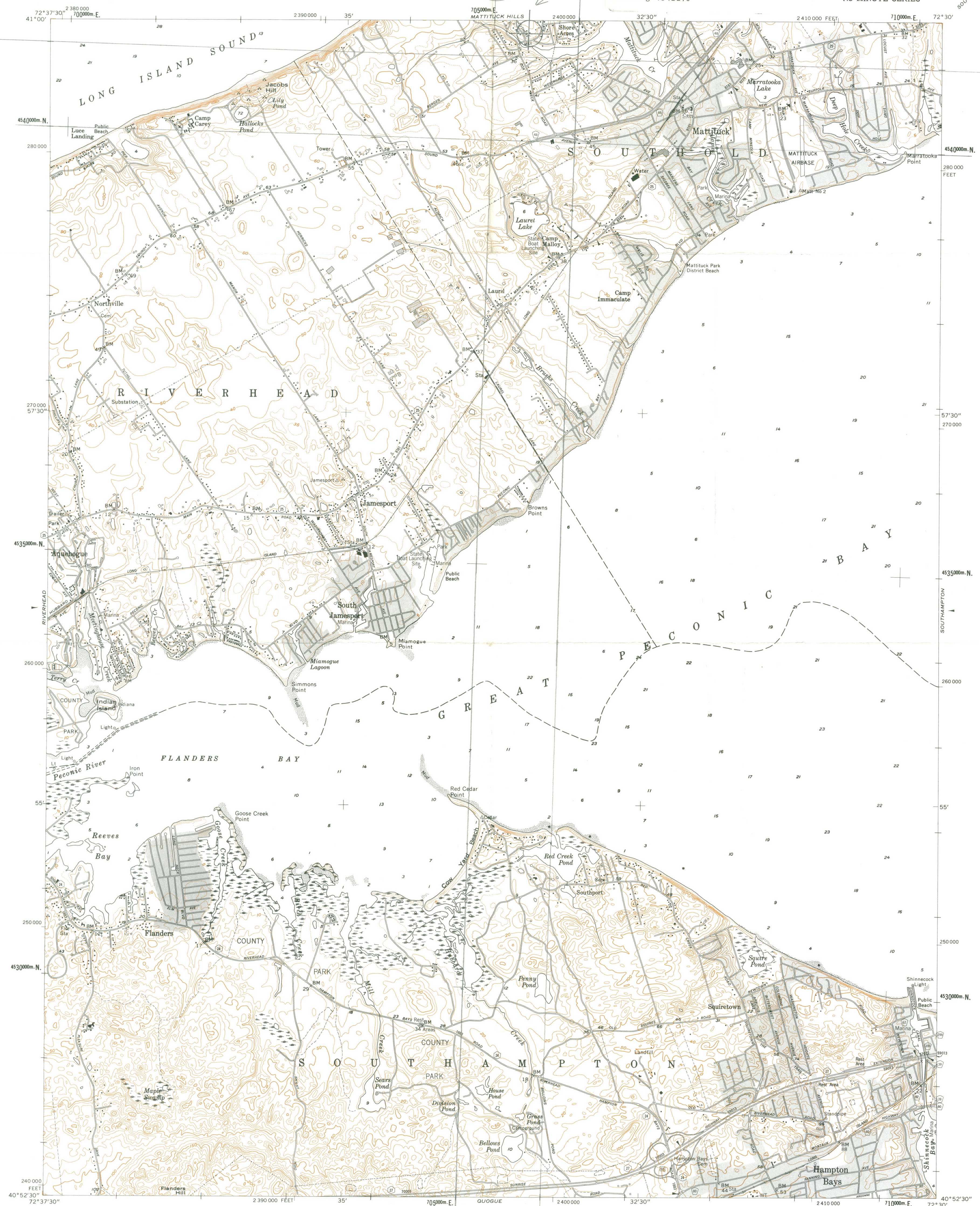
Photo 10 of 10



Richard Cox House
Mattituck, Suffolk County, NY
UTM References/Mattituck Quad
(Zone 18)

Easting 705410
Northing 4541270

MATTITUCK QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK-SUFFOLK CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES



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.

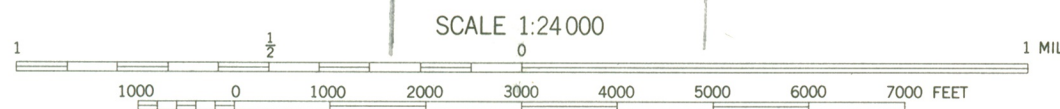
Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.

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 C. M. Ribaud



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



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 14° West

SPECIAL TOPOGRAPHIC EDITION

Contours, at 10-foot intervals, shown unrevised from 1956 U.S. Geological Survey map. Dashed lines represent 5-foot contours. Datum is mean sea level.

INDEX TO 1:5000 (1" = 800') MAP COVERAGE	
MATTITUCK (north)	
MATTITUCK (south)	

BOUNDARIES:	
State.....	-----
County.....	-----
Town or City.....	-----
Incorporated Village.....	-----

ROADS:	
Touring Route markers:	
Interstate.....	(I)
U. S.	(2)
State.....	(3)
County.....	(4)
State Highway number and limit.....	(5)
County road.....	(6)
Interchange number.....	(7)
Divided highways and streets:	
Wide mall.....	(8)
Narrow mall or barrier.....	(9)
Undivided highways and streets:	
4 or more lanes.....	(10)
Less than 4 lanes.....	(11)
Vehicle track; trail.....	(12)



OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR
TOWN OF SOUTHOLD

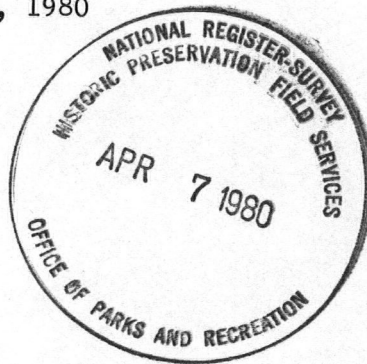
WILLIAM R. PELL III
SUPERVISOR

MAIN ROAD
SOUTHOLD, L.I., N.Y. 11971

TELEPHONE
(516) 765-1800
(516) 765-1939

April 3, 1980

Mr. Austin O'Brien
Division for Historic Preservation
New York State Parks and Recreation
Agency Building # 1
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223



Dear Mr. O'Brien:

The home owned by Michael and Joyce Mattes is located in a most historic part of the Town of Southold on Cox's Neck, Mattituck. The house, built by the Cox family that gave its name to the area, has been a part of the history of Mattituck since the 1830's when Richard Cox founded his grist mill on Mattituck Inlet and laid out the road in front of the house, now called " Mill Road ".

The Cox home is an outstanding example of a Greek Revival house with an Italianate addition incorporating beautifully detailed wood panelling in its interior. Located at the intersection of the area's two principal roads, it is a highly visible reminder of the history of the Town of Southold.

As Supervisor of the Town of Southold, I wish to give my support to Mr. and Mrs. Mattes' application and urge that the State Historical Preservation Officer approve the submission of this home for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

William R. Pell III
Supervisor
Southold Town

WRP:cjh