

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

For NPS use only

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

received AUG 11 1986

date entered SEP 11 1986

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

**1. Name**

historic  Masury Estate Ballroom

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Old Neck Road South \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Center Moriches \_\_\_ vicinity of

state New York code 036 county Suffolk code 103

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Clubhouse

**4. Owner of Property**

name Holiday Beach Property Owners Association, Inc.

street & number Post Office Box 299

city, town Center Moriches \_\_\_ vicinity of state New York

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number Suffolk County Office Building Complex

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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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	date <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former Masury Estate Ballroom is located on a peninsula (Masury Point) in the unincorporated village of Center Moriches. Center Moriches is situated on Long Island's south shore in central Suffolk County, approximately 100 miles from New York City. The ballroom was originally part of the handsome Masury family estate, which covered the southern portion of the Masury Point Peninsula. It is the only extant estate building (one contributing building) and sits on a 1.5 acre parcel on the West Senekes Creek surrounded by modern, non-historic residential development.

The former ballroom is a long, rambling, one-story building. The building has a T-shape plan which contains the ballroom in the main upper portion and a bowling alley and billiard room in the long base. Its asymmetrical mass is punctuated by recessed wrap-around porches, round bays, and large dormers. The building sits on a brick foundation and has wood shingle sheathing and a broad hip roof with hip roof dormers. Single and double windows with diamond-pane over single-pane sash punctuate all elevations. Long, rectangular, three-part, diamond pane windows are centered on the building's northeast (ballroom section) facade. This section has a recessed wrap-around porch with a series of segmentally arched openings on a solid base. The single two-over-two sash windows under the porch have diamond-pane transoms. The two entrances within the two recessed porches on the southeast side have diamond-pane windows and transoms. Informal plantings and mature trees surround the building.

Like the building's exterior, the interior remains largely intact. Its main, northeastern, block contains the large one and one-half story, elaborately decorated ballroom. The ballroom's primary architectural elements include an ornate, railed mezzanine encircling the upper half of the room. It has a delicately detailed railing with carved oval plaques and round-arch window recesses. A recessed and paneled staircase provides access to the mezzanine. The ballroom ceiling is a large, low, oval dome with a painted border of lattice, foliage, and birds. The main floor fireplace has an ornate mantel decorated with pilasters, entablature, carved swags and center plaque. The mezzanine level is supported on a series of carved consoles and pilasters. The ballroom's main floor has a paneled wainscot and parquet floor. Between the ballroom and the bowling alley is a small taproom. Situated in a rounded bay, it has a paneled wainscot, plaster walls, and curved window seat. The nearby bowling alley and billiard room has thin horizontal board wainscoting, thin vertical board walls, a paneled wood ceiling, and wood floor. The bowling apparatus has been removed. A glass enclosed porch at the southern end of the bowling alley has a fireplace with plain wood pilasters and mantel shelf.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

<b>Specific dates</b>	1898	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	William Lambert
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Masury Estate Ballroom is architecturally significant as a distinguished example of turn-of-the-century (1900), upper-income estate architecture on Long Island. Built in 1898, the ballroom was constructed as an adjunct to the no longer extant Masury Family mansion (which was built at the same time). As designed by New York City architect William Lambert, the Masury Estate comprised an impressive waterfront mansion and ballroom surrounded by broad spacious lawns and a complex of support buildings. The distinctive eclectic style design of the estate buildings combined classically derived forms and decoration with the traditional materials and building practices of the region. Although understated on the exterior with a low profile and surfaced with shingles in the Long Island vernacular tradition, the interior of the ballroom is lavishly decorated and displays high quality ornamentation and workmanship. Distinguished intact features include its domed and painted ceiling, intricately railed mezzanine, and classically inspired fireplace. The building retains a high level of architectural integrity and also contains a handsome taproom, paneled bowling alley, and billiard room. This former estate building, with its finely crafted ballroom in particular, is an architecturally significant reminder of South Shore Long Island's opulent turn-of-the-century estate development and upper-income lifestyle.

John Wesley Masury (born in Salem, Massachusetts, 1820; died in New York City, 1895) was a successful paint manufacturer who also invented metal paint containers, which made the marketing of ready mixed paints feasible. During the late nineteenth century, he purchased a large tract of undeveloped waterfront property in Center Moriches with the intent of establishing a summer retreat for his family. Unfortunately, he died in 1895 before his plans were realized. Following his death, his widow, Grace Harkins Masury, hired New York City architect William Lambert to design an estate in 1898. A distinguished family enclave was constructed which included a handsome, Colonial Revival style mansion, the nominated ballroom (which was built next to the main house), and a variety of smaller dependencies (carriage barn, boat house, watertower, and staff quarters). Historic photographs of the estate (see accompanying illustrations) depict an impressive waterfront mansion and ballroom surrounded by broad spacious lawns with a complex of support buildings inland to the north. The main house and ballroom were the centerpiece of the picturesque summer retreat. Mrs. Masury and William Lambert chose a mixture of Shingle style massing with Colonial Revival style detailing for the estate buildings. The combination of restrained classically inspired ornament with Long Island's conservative wood frame, shingle-sheathed building practices was a common choice among builders of large waterfront estates on Long Island. Architect William Lambert had an office in New York City and practiced

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Concise Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1964.  
Stout, August. Pictorial Memories of the Moriches Area. 1973.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5

Quadrangle name Bellport

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	8	6	85	0	40	45	1	6	61	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

See attached property map with dimension

### 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, Program Analyst

organization Division for Historic Preservation date July 18, 1986

street & number Empire State Plaza, Building # 1 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. Stope

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

date July 31, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

9/11/86

for Allora Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Masury Estate Ballroom, Center Moriches,

Continuation sheet Suffolk Co., NY

Item number 8

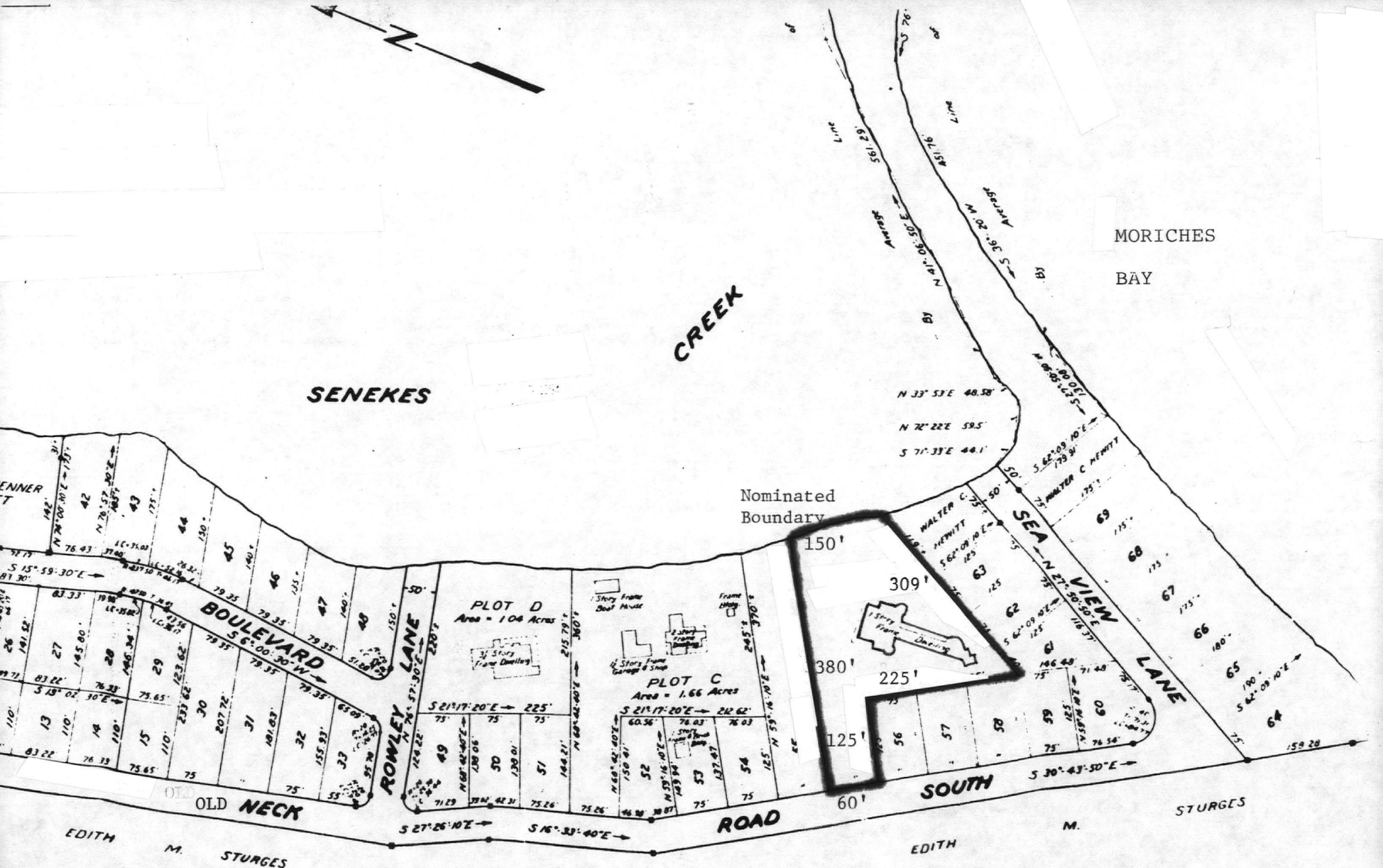
Page 2

in the metropolitan/New Jersey area; his work was primarily suburban residential.

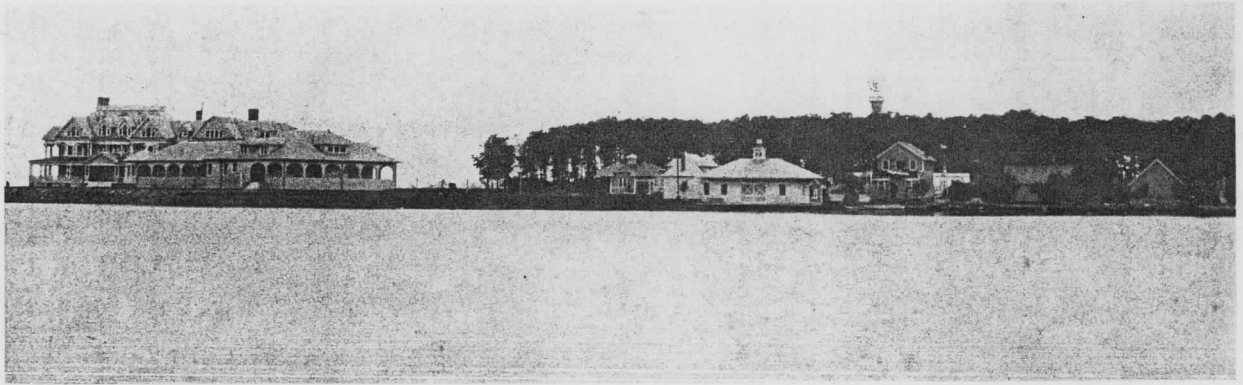
The estate, and the ballroom in particular, was the scene of many lavish social events during the early twentieth century. There were large parties there almost every weekend in the summer. As a result of its waterfront location, the main house was extensively damaged during Long Island's devastating hurricane of 1938 and was subsequently dismantled. Nevertheless, formal dances were still held in the ballroom during the early 1940's for area servicemen. In 1954, the Masury family sold the estate to a local builder, Walter Hewitt. The estate was subdivided and many new houses were built. The ballroom was spared and sold to the Holiday Beach Property Owners' Association. The ballroom is still owned and maintained by the association.

Despite the nominated building's plain shingled exterior, it contains an elaborately embellished ballroom of great beauty. The impressive domed interior has been skillfully decorated with delicate, classically inspired details. Notable features include the large oval ceiling dome with fanciful painted border and cantilevered mezzanine with thin railings and fluted supports. Intricately detailed swags and wreaths decorate walls and railings; finely crafted paneling covers the main floor walls and staircase; handsome stained-glass windows light the staircase; and a lavishly decorated fireplace dominates the south wall. The overall effect is dramatic, yet graceful. The building's taproom, bowling alley, billiard room, and enclosed porch were also designed and built with the utmost attention to detail and craftsmanship. The taproom and porch display many of the same Classical details found in the ballroom. The wood-sheathed bowling alley and billiard room are lavishly paneled and wainscoted.

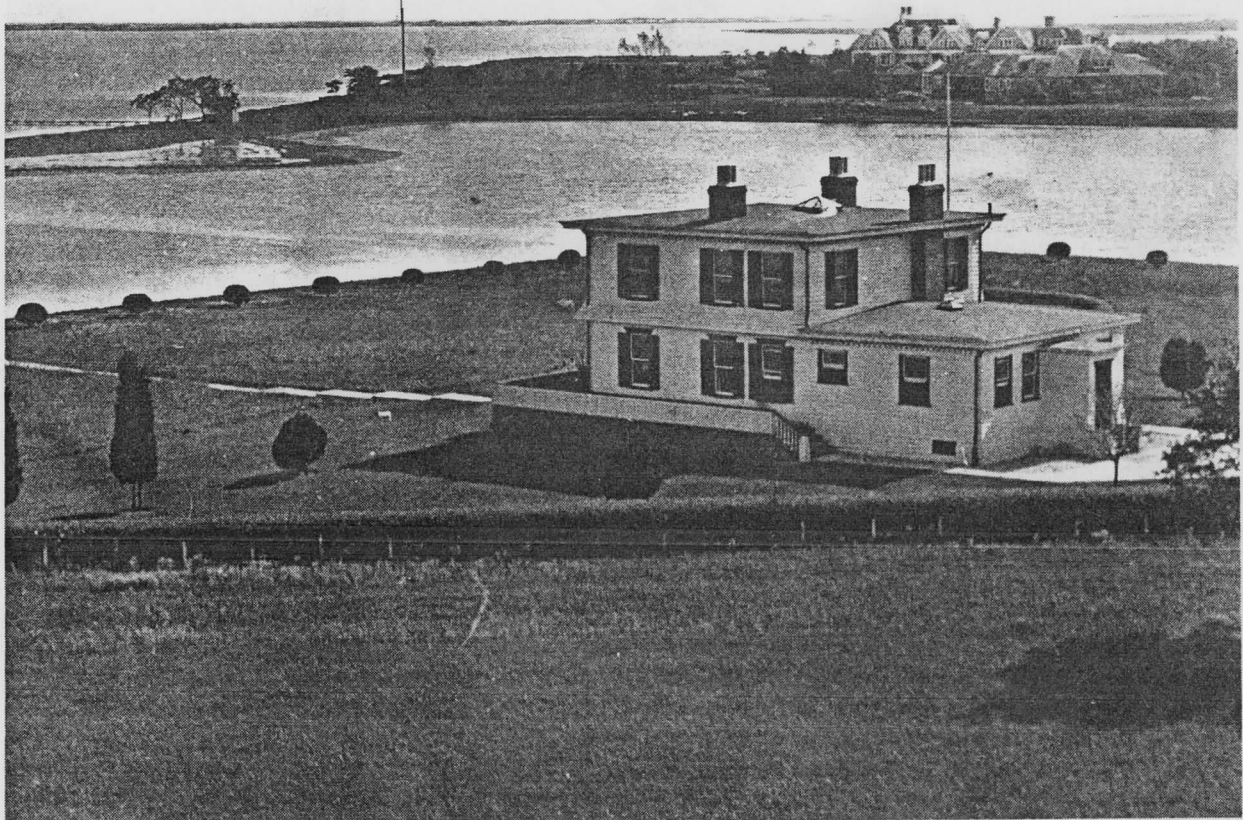
The Masury Estate Ballroom is a well-recognized local landmark which recalls Center Moriches's upper income residential development at the turn of the century. The building's elaborately decorated interior remains an architecturally distinguished example of Suffolk County's sumptuous legacy and recalls the taste and lifestyle of its original owners.



Masury Estate Ballroom, Center Moriches  
Suffolk County, New York  
Property Map with dimensions



Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk County, NY  
Undated Historic Views of the Masury  
Estate from Pictorial Memories of the  
Moriches Area, 1973



Centre Moriches: - Top photo taken from Evanhoe's Point, looking west. The bottom photo taken from wind mill on Evanhoe's Point, south end of Senix Avenue, Evanhoe residence in the foreground and Masury Estate in the distance. This estate is now Holiday Beach development, with their club house the former ballroom and bowling room of the Masury Estate.

86002513

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Masury Estate Ballroom  
Suffolk County  
NEW YORK

Working No. AUG 15 1986

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 9/4/86 - 9/29/86

Action:  ACCEPT 9-11-86

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"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<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

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**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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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Forest Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk Co., NY  
Photo: A. O'Brien, 1983  
Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation  
Albany, New York

View: north facade

#1 of 8



Former Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk Co., NY  
Photo: A. O'Brien, 1983  
Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation  
Albany, New York

View: east elevation  
#2 of 8



3

Former Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk Co., NY

Photo: A. O'Brien, 1983  
Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation  
Albany, New York

View: west elevation  
3 of 8



Former Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk Co., NY

Photo: A. O'Brien, 1983  
Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation  
Albany, New York

View: east porch detail  
#4 of 8



5

Former Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk Co., NY  
Photo: A. O'Brien, 1983  
Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation  
Albany, New York

View: ballroom detail  
#5 of 8



6

Former Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk Co., NY  
Photo: A. O'Brien, 1983  
Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation  
Albany, New York

View: ballroom detail  
#6 of 8



7

Former Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk Co., NY  
Photo: A. O'Brien, 1983  
Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation  
Albany, New York

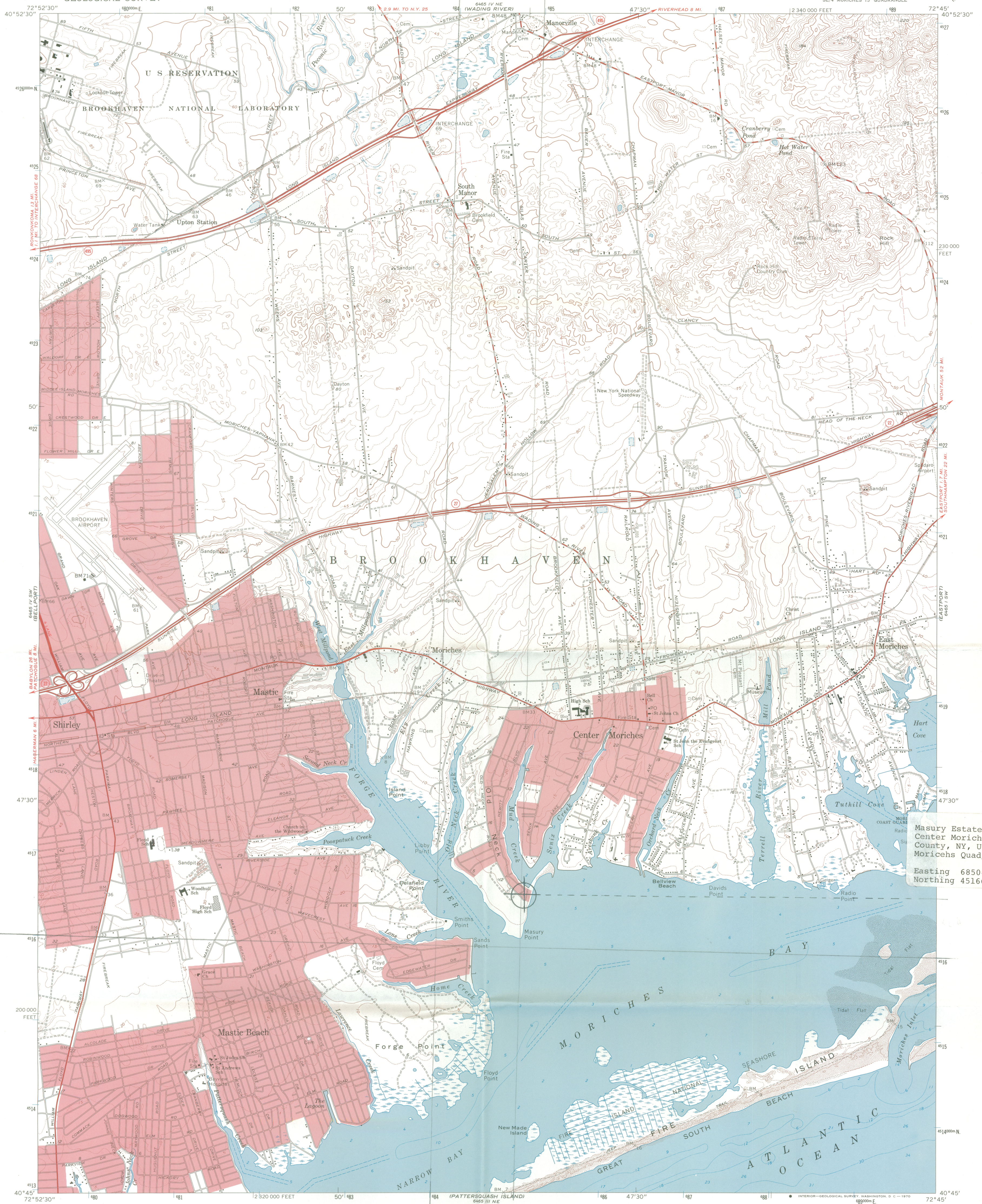
View: Taproom detail  
#7 of 8



9

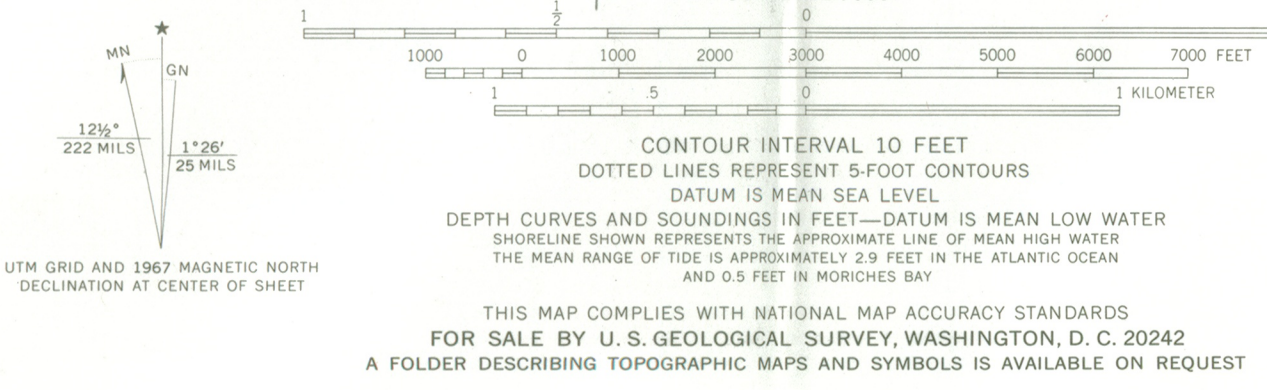
Forester Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk Co., NY  
Photo: A. O'Brien, 1983  
Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation  
Albany, New York

View: enclosed porch detail  
#8 of 8



Masury Estate Ballroom  
Center Moriches, Suffolk  
County, NY, UTM References  
Moriches Quad/Zone 18  
Easting 685040  
Northing 4516610

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with New York Department of Transportation  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955  
Topography by planetable surveys 1956-1957. Revised from aerial  
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS chart 120SC (1968)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
100,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system,  
Long Island zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
State Route	



MORICHES, N. Y.  
SE/4 MORICHES 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4045—W7245/7.5

1967

AMS 6465 IV SE—SERJES V821

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



RECEIVED

SEP 27 1983

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

COMMISSIONER

PARCS & RECREATION

PETER F. COHALAN  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JOHN C. GALLAGHER  
CHIEF DEPUTY

September 9, 1983

Mr. Orin Lehman, Commissioner  
New York State Department of Parks,  
Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building 1  
Albany, New York 12238

*AEC*  
*approval*

Re: Masury Estate Ballroom  
Old Neck Road South  
Center Moriches  
Suffolk County

Dear Commissioner Lehman,

Suffolk County has no objection to the Committee on the Registers of the New York State Board of Historic Preservation considering the nomination of the above named property to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Our County was officially created by King Charles II of England in 1683 and we are proud of our heritage and long history. The nomination of the Masury Estate Ballroom in Center Moriches to the National and State Registers of Historic Places, could be a valuable tool in the preservation of this property. Therefore we enthusiastically support this nomination.

If you have any questions or if you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Ferguson, Senior Grants Analyst at (516) 360-5027 or Lance Mallamo, Suffolk County Historic Trust Officer, at (516) 567-1487.

Sincerely yours,

PETER F. COHALAN  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PFC:db

Town of  
Patchogue.



Brookhaven

RECEIVED  
OCT 24 1983  
TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN  
NEW YORK

HENRIETTA ACAMPORA, SUPERVISOR

Town Hall - 205 South Ocean Avenue  
Patchogue, L.I., New York 11772  
516-654-7806

October 20, 1983

Commissioner Orin Lehman  
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation  
Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building 1  
Albany, New York 12238

RE: Masury Estate Ballroom  
Old Neck Road South, Center Moriches

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

Thank you for your letter indicating that the Masury Estate Ballroom is being considered for the National Register of Historic Places.

We in the Town of Brookhaven are fully supportive and hope that the Committee will give favorable consideration to such designation for the Masury Estate Ballroom.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Acampora  
Supervisor

HA/rmr