



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

December 5th, 2012

Babylon Village Heritage Preservation Society
534 Deer Park Avenue
Babylon, NY 11702

Re: 527 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon – Smith House

Our office has received your submission for a request for National Register of Historic Places eligibility for the Smith House in the Village of Babylon, Suffolk County. I want to thank you for your historic overview of the site and inform you that the New York State Division for Historic Presentation has determined that the Smith House is eligible for the National Register program.

Originally constructed c.1790 as a farmstead by Revolutionary War veteran David Smith, the house was the primary residence of the Smith family for nearly one hundred and twenty years. During their occupation, the house increased its size substantially in the 19th century, with building additions forming its appearance today. The two and half story house is largely characterized by its c.1830 principal façade, which spans five bays in the late-federal style. What remained of Smith's c.1790 farmstead was reduced to a small kitchen block at the rear of the house. In 1890, the house was moved fifty feet on the property and shifted its orientation to the road. Also at this time, a large two story addition was completed, enveloping the c.1790 kitchen block. Elements of the 18th century construction remain intact today.

The Smith House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C in the area of Architecture as a good example of a rural farmhouse dating to the establishment of Babylon, New York and under Criteria A in the area of Social History for its relationship to the Smith family, whose occupation

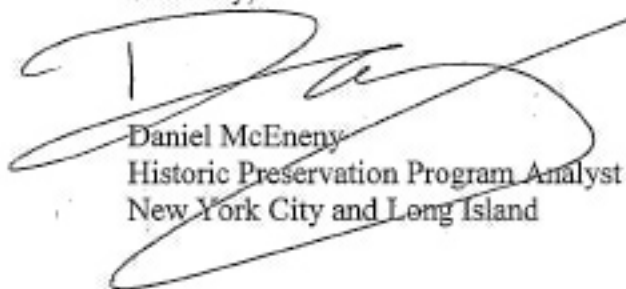
of the house from c.1790 to 1909 additionally forms the building's period of significance.

Architectural details that postdate the period of significance are presently being defined as not contributing to the resource. These include various late-Colonial Revival features that were added to the house after the Smith's occupancy, most notably the portico. The small one-story office addition dating to the midcentury is also is not contributing. Should the owner consent to listing on the Register, a thorough study of the building should be completed prior to the nomination to fully understand the home's evolution.

Eligibility and/or listing on the National Register offers a measure of protection under federal and New York State historic preservation laws. It does not prohibit a property owner from making changes, selling, or even demolishing a property with private funds. The Division for Historic Preservation provides consultation when public money or permitting is associated with a historic site. The purposes of the Register program is to document sites of cultural significance in communities and to qualify properties for potential grant programming and tax credit incentives for rehabilitation.

If there are any questions about this determination of National Register of Historic Places eligibility, please contact the Division staff to discuss further.
518.237.8643 x3257 daniel.mceneny@parks.ny.gov

Sincerely,



Daniel McEneny
Historic Preservation Program Analyst
New York City and Long Island