

SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY SURVEY



Figure 1 – Squassux Landing, located at the east end of Beaver Dam Road, looking north along the Carmans River



Figure 2 – Squassux Landing, looking south from the vehicle entrance/parking lot towards the Great South Bay



Figure 3 – Gazebo near the entrance, southwest elevation



Figure 4 – Squassux Landing, ca. 1900, looking north along the Carmans River



Figure 5 – Gazebo, ca. 1900, northwest elevation



Figure 6 – Squassux Landing, ca. 1905

Building Address: east end of Beaver Dam Road (P.O. Box 167)

Section / Block / Lot:

Surveyor's Name: Jayme Breschard

Survey Date: June 2, 2004

Building Type: recreation

Owner's Name: Brookhaven Village Association

Building Name:

Date of Construction: ca. 1900

Architect:

Building Dimensions: Squassux Landing contains fourteen acres. The gazebo measures twelve feet long by eight feet wide.

No. of Floors: 1

Decorative Features: exposed roof rafters, squared post supports, and an open rail

Siding Material(s):

Roof Style: hipped

Roofing Material(s): asphalt shingles, plain

Foundation: none

Window Style(s):

No. of Entrances and Placement:

Chimneys and Placement:

Condition: excellent

Architectural Integrity: This gazebo may be the original structure displayed in the ca. 1900 postcard. Roofing material and structural supports were likely replaced through the years. The current gazebo may also be a reconstruction. **[The current gazebo is a reconstruction. J.D.]**

Architectural Style: vernacular

Description: Squassux Landing is a small marina located at the eastern end of Beaver Dam Road. A bulkhead at the end of the road provides public access to fishing and crabbing. The area for boat landing and dockage, privately owned and maintained by the Brookhaven Village Association, is accessed by a gravel drive extending south from Beaver Dam Road. The marina is bordered on the east by the Carmans River, which flows south into the Great South Bay, and on the west by the Newey-Tooker-Starke Boatyard. The Carmans (Connecticut) River is a New York State Protected River and is bordered on the east by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. About forty narrow

docks, on locust posts, sit along the river's embankment at Squassux Landing. There are also two narrow canals to the west of the Carmans River used for docking.

The gazebo is to the east of the vehicle entrance from Beaver Dam Road. It overlooks the Carmans River.

Historical Information: Legend has it that Squassux Landing was named for Native American potter, Wesssquassucks, who kept his pottery kiln in the area. Squassux Landing has also been called Squassacks Landing.

Fishermen, sailors, and haulers have used Squassux Landing since the early eighteenth-century. Around the 1770s, the inlet at the end of Carmans River was opened. Thus, with a direct opening to the Atlantic Ocean, Carmans River was much deeper. Although the inlet closed sixty-five years later in 1837, Squassux Landing remained a natural landing place at the end of the Carmans River.

James Post, local benefactor, acquired the land in 1945 and gave it to the Brookhaven Village Association for the use and enjoyment of local residents.

Source:

Bigelow, Stephanie S. *Bellport and Brookhaven: A Saga of the Sibling Hamlets at Old Purchase South*. Bellport, NY: Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society, 1968.

Deitz, John B. 2000 - 2004. Brookhaven, New York; available from <http://prometheusli.com/hamlet/history/HistoricandNaturalDistrictsInventoryForm.asp?InventoryCode=Br16>; Internet; accessed 12 July 2004.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1985.

Williams, Ellen. "Squassux Landing." Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities: New York State Building-Structure Inventory Form, 16 August 1982.