

North Menantic Preserve



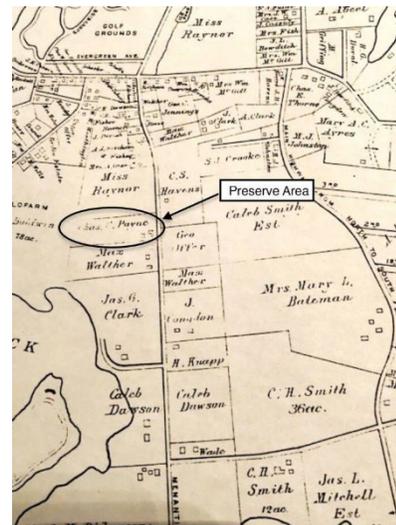
Property Description

The Town acquired the 6-acre property in 2020 to maintain freshwater recharge of the fragile West Neck watershed. The Town paid 25% of the purchase price with CPF funds and received the remainder through a grant from the Peconic Land Trust under its Regional Aquifer Protection Land Acquisition Program (RAPLAP) funded by New York State's Water Quality Improvement Program.

The property consists principally of high grass meadows and shrubs and wooded areas sloping to the southwest with a ravine along the southerly boundary. All vegetation, except along the ravine, is due to natural recovery from active farming that began in the 1960s and was well advanced by the late 1970s. The portion of the property on North Menantic Road is subject to rights of way to the tennis club's parking lot at 39 North Menantic Road and to the private residence at 6 Ned's Lane.

Access

Visitors enter the property on Ned's Lane (unpaved) from North Menantic Road across from Bowditch Road. Parking is provided immediately within the Preserve on the south side. Visitors should not park in the private tennis club's parking lot. Walkers should not follow the dirt road further than the end of the tennis courts, as it then serves solely the private residence.



North Menantic Preserve Area
(1909 Belcher Hyde Map with markings)

Prior Owners & History

The property was part of the 400-acre Menantic Farm devised by William Nicoll I to his son Rensselaer Nicoll of Albany in 1722; and it then passed to his son Francis Nicoll of Albany in 1776; then to Ezra L’Homidieu of Southold in 1793, and others. In 1802 it passed to Samuel Lord; in 1836 to Rev. Daniel Lord and his sister Alma Lord Trubee; then to the Russell family. It was broken up in the 1874 sale of the Russell/Lord property. By 1909 it was part of a 10.8-acre lot owned by Charles and Florence Payne, and by 1915 Frank and Sophie Turner. Ownership passed to Alice H. Moser in 1944 and then to others and finally to Ned Smyth and Rima Mardoyan-Smyth, who sold it to the Town and the Peconic Land Trust in 2020.

The property was for many years used for farming and pasture. The 1954 and 1955 hurricanes ended lima bean and other active farming here and throughout the Island. The adjacent private tennis club was established in the 1970s. The property was more recently subdivided in anticipation of residential use.

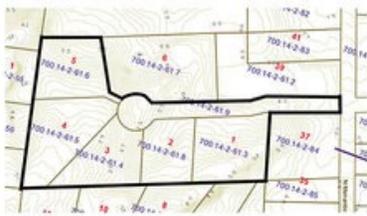
Stories & Other

- In 1789, Francis Nicoll was fourth in the top ten taxpayers on Shelter Island:

SHELTER ISLAND TAXATION IN 1789		
Assessment Roll (Estimated Value)	Real Estate. £	Personal Estate. £
Samuel Benj. Nicoll	6600.00	500
Sylvester Dering	6000.00	700
West Neck Farm	3900.00	513
Francis Nicoll	1350.00	
Desire Havens	1200.00	270
Jona. N. Havens	1100.00	250
Noah Terry	1060.00	145
Phebe Havens	966.00	110
James Havens	776.00	116
Shadrach Conkling	700.00	65

Source: East Hampton Library, East Hampton, NY.

- On the 1874 Sale Notice map for the Russel-Lord property, the Preserve was part of Lot No. 5 of the Northern Tract. The southern portion of the Lot was acquired by the Walther family and then the Moser family and in the early 1990s was subdivided, establishing Burro Hall Lane.



WEST NECK CREEK

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SHELTER ISLAND, N. Y.

The Valuable Property

Shelter Island, known as the RUSSELL (formerly Lord) FARM (Menantic).

WILL BE SOLD BY THE REFEREE AT PUBLIC AUCTION.

PROSPECT POINT,

ON THE ISLAND,

Wednesday, August 19, 1874,

AT TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

THE SHUTTERS TRACT will be sold in lots as per map. THE SHUTTERS FARM, consisting of about 100 Acres, will be offered for sale in one parcel, but unless started at a bid satisfactory to the Referee, it will be sold in parcels, as per map.

TERMS—10 per cent, of purchase-money on day of sale; the balance in 40 days thereafter.

T. M. GRIFFINO,
Referee.

Sold Sept. 15, 1874
J. C. Campbell

MENANTIC BAY

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS, BY WILLIAM S. S. N. Y.

FILE NO. 373
FILED SEP 15 1875