



December 17, 2024

RE: Proposal to Designate the John Osborn Homestead a Historic Landmark

Dear Members of the East Hampton Town Board,

As the regional advocate for historic preservation on Long Island, Preservation Long Island is pleased to submit this letter in support of the public acquisition and landmark designation of the John Osborn Homestead at 66 Wainscott Main Street.

This property represents a vital piece of Wainscott's history, embodying the agrarian character and cultural heritage of the hamlet. We strongly encourage the Town Board to designate the entirety of the site, including the Louisa Edwards Osborn House, Osborn-Hedges garage, an additional accessory building, and the surrounding 30 acres, as a historic landmark. The fields surrounding Wainscott Pond are an integral part of this cultural landscape, and their preservation is essential to maintaining the historical integrity of the property.

The Osborn Homestead's significance lies in its cohesive relationship between the built environment and natural surroundings. Piecemeal landmarking would fragment this historic narrative, undermining the site's authenticity and reducing its value as a cultural resource. As the farm goes with the farmhouse, the land and structures together tell a unified story of Wainscott's agrarian past, making holistic preservation crucial.

This approach aligns with established preservation practices and the Town's own precedents, such as the designation of the Carl Fisher House in Montauk and the Julius D. Parsons Homestead in Springs. Protecting the entirety of the Osborn Homestead ensures the conservation of an irreplaceable viewshed and supports the broader goal of creating a Wainscott historic district, a vision Preservation Long Island fully supports.

We commend East Hampton's foresight in pursuing this acquisition and its dedication to preserving Wainscott's cultural heritage. Preservation Long Island stands ready to assist in stewarding this landmarked property as a cornerstone of the community's history.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to historic preservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tara Cubie'.

Tara Cubie
Preservation Director
Preservation Long Island