

## **YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY - \$9,200 HAMLET OF YAPHANK CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY**

The hamlet of Yaphank is located in the Pine Barrens region of the Town of Brookhaven in Suffolk County. It is noted for its remarkable concentration of architectural and archaeological resources dating from the 18th through the mid-20th century. These buildings and cultural resources are primarily clustered along the hamlet's Main Street. Several buildings are individually listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, such as the 1850 Italianate Hawkins House and the 1760 Colonial Swezey-Avey House. The Upper and Lower Yaphank Lakes, which were created in the 18th century to furnish the water power that drove Yaphank's extensive milling enterprises, create a natural background to the district. As in other locations on Long Island, development pressure and land speculation pose a threat to historic resources. A proposal for widening Yaphank's Main Street, a plan that was first envisioned in the 1980s, would severely compromise historic resources in the proposed district, but it remains an option for connecting commuters from the nearby Long Island Expressway to destinations in the north. [The Yaphank Historical Society](#), a local group with a successful preservation track record, seeks to advocate for the hamlet's history by creating a historic district. A \$9,200 Preserve New York grant will allow the historical society to hire Studenroth Consulting of Sag Harbor to complete an intensive level survey and nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. By adding official historic designation to contributing buildings in the area, future impacts to historic resources must be considered and incentives for preservation (such as historic tax credits) will be available to property owners. This project is also supported through our partnership with the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.