

Walking Tour of Historic Jessup Avenue

Lured by cooler temperatures and easy access to glistening white-sand beaches, people have journeyed to Quogue in the summer months since 1835, first by stagecoach, then by railroad to Riverhead, in 1844. In 1870, direct rail service to Quogue brought a rising tide of summer visitors. At the time, George Jessup's dry goods store on Quogue Street (Beth's Café) was the Village's only store. To meet the needs of its bustling summer population, Jessup Avenue was laid out as a commercial district in 1878. It was named for the Jessup family, early-18th-century settlers whose property ran from the ocean north to the railroad tracks. Today, Jessup Avenue is a lively commercial, cultural, and civic center.

Your tour starts at the Pond House and proceeds south on the east side of Jessup Avenue to Quogue Street.

1. Pond House, Quogue Historical Society.

In the 1910s, Mary Payne opened her Home Store. She sold fancy goods, novelties, stationery, and penny candies from the two front rooms. The Quogue Historical Society renovated the building and moved its headquarters from the Quogue Library to the Pond House in 2011.



2.

2. Village Pond and Clock. The Village created the pond in 2006. It was designed to be shallow (17 inches) so it could be used as a skating rink during the winter months. In 2014, the Quogue Association (the original Quogue Village Improvement Association, formed in 1905) donated the clock.



3. Midland Street. Midland Street was originally an open field and used by the Quogue Field Club from 1887 to 1900. In 1925, Jessup Avenue was widened and Midland Street opened to Lamb Avenue, where Christman's Dairy began.



5. Louis Muley's Garage & Machine Shop.

Around 1914, when cars were fast growing in popularity, Louis Muley ran a successful automobile business here, as well as a bicycle shop. He sold oil and gas and was known as the "Car Doctor." In 1921, he advertised with this jingle:

*"If your motor car's not running easy,
and you yourself just won't get greasy,
go see Louis!"*



4. Built in 1932 as the Davies' Dry Goods Store (also tailoring shop), it became a youth center during WWII, and was home to the VFW Post 5350 until the early 1960s when the VFW moved to Montauk Highway.

6. Post Office, 1907-1917. Built in 1907, this was Quogue's second post office (9). It was the first building designated solely as a post office. Marcus E. Griffin served as Quogue's postmaster from 1898 to 1915, as well as the Village's Justice of the Peace.



7. Post Office, 1917-1955. Built in 1917, Quogue's third post office was in service until 1955, when the Midland Street post office opened. Marcus E. Griffin's daughter, Bessie R. Griffin, was postmistress and since she knew everyone in the Village, no keys or combination locks were necessary.

Now cross Jessup Avenue and stand facing the Quogue Market. Notice the peaks of the original buildings behind the added storefronts.

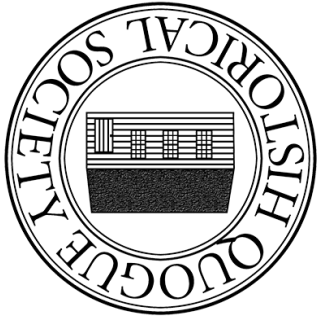


8. Quogue Market. From left, Sacks produce store, the (then) Quogue Market, owned and operated by Herbert and Irving Wimpfheimer until 1957, the Roulston store (groceries), and the A&P (more groceries). North of the A&P is a small stationery store, the new 1917 Post Office, and Muley's Garage and Machine Shop.

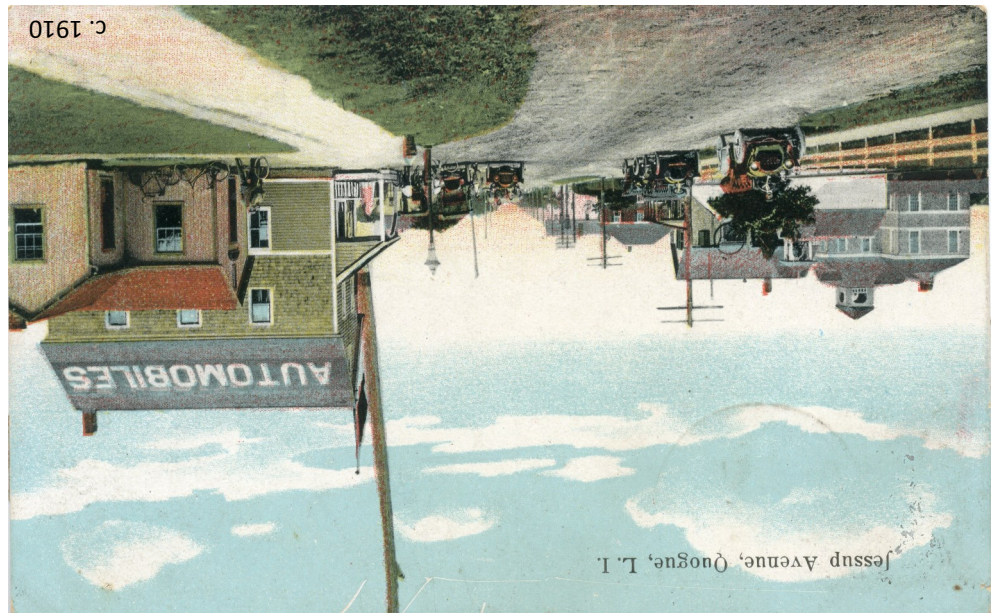
9. Burton's General Store / Lamb's Store / Tuthill Agency. In 1904, former railroad station agent Hamlin Lamb bought Henry Burton's general store and post office (the first) on Quogue Street (c. 1884) and moved it to this location. The store continued but the post office moved (6). In 1925, A.A. Tuthill sold his pharmacy business in George Jessup's store on Quogue Street and opened a real estate and Insurance office here. A brick storefront was added in 1929. Notice the peak of the original c. 1884 building.



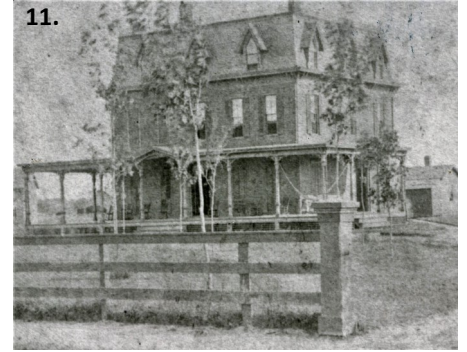
The tour continues north on the west side of Jessup Avenue.



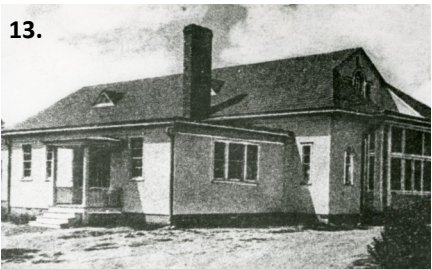
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10. Quogue Street & Jessup Avenue, NW corner. This is the site of the c. 1900 Howell House (11), one of Quogue's popular boarding houses, moved to Quantuck Lane in 1925 as a residence. In 1929, Clarence M. Carman constructed a one-story building that housed Carman Builders/Real Estate, a stockbroker (with ticker tape and a direct wire to the New York Stock Exchange), a dressmaker, and Maresi-Mazetti, a caterer with a tea room and soda fountain. The second story was added in 2013.



12. Village Green. In 1925, the building on this site housed a liquor store, hardware store, beauty shop, with apartments above. Dances and card parties were held on the third floor to raise money for the Quogue Village Improvement Association and the Ladies' Auxiliary. In what is remembered as a spectacular fire, the building burned down on a four-degree night in January 1941. Fanned by an icy wind, the fire was accompanied by a perfect symphony of exploding liquor bottles and a cannonade of bursting paint cans. The Village Green was created in the mid-20th century.



13. Community House. On land donated by the Ladies Auxiliary, and with the fundraising efforts of the Quogue Village Improvement Association, the Community House was built by Clarence M. Carman and completed in 1924 for \$15,000. It was a venue for meetings of local organizations and entertainments (complete with a bowling alley in the basement). The Quogue Police Department had its headquarters in the south wing, then moved to Muley's building (5), and finally to its new headquarters (17) in 1965.



14. Quogue Plumbing Co. Building. This building, constructed by Silas Jessup, c. 1878, housed the first commercial enterprise, a plumbing business. A.A. Tuthill opened a pharmacy in 1890. Quogue's telephone switchboard was located here from 1896 to 1903, when it moved north (17). George and Fred Barker opened Quogue Plumbing in 1900. The business operated there until 2018, when it moved to Westhampton.



15a&b, 16. Quogue Fire Department. The first fire department was organized in 1903 as a joint venture with Westhampton. Hand-drawn hose and water carts were housed in three small fire houses throughout the Village, on Old Depot Road, Club Lane, and Jessup Avenue (15a), just south of (14). In 1920, the earlier firehouse was replaced with the one on Old Depot Road (15b) and became headquarters for the men and their equipment. In 1927, the two villages went their separate ways and the department became the Quogue Fire Department. The WWII Memorial was unveiled on July 4, 1950. The current firehouse was built in 1957 and expanded over the years.



17. Quogue Police Department. In 1929, the New York Telephone Company built this brick building to house one of the first automatic switchboards in Suffolk County. It replaced a 1903 telephone company building (moved to Old Main Road and Montauk Hwy). By the 1950s, the building had become obsolete; in 1965, the Village bought it as headquarters for the Quogue Police Department.