

# PECONIC LAND TRUST



For immediate release

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## **THE PECONIC LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES THE CONSERVATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION EASEMENT OF THE EBENEZER SMITH HOMESTEAD IN VILLAGE OF NISSEQUOGUE**

*Nineteen-acre easement will ensure the preservation of this historic Smith Homestead, including 1687 dwelling built for the grandson of the original Patentee of Smithtown*

**December 14, 2006. Southampton, NY.** John v.H. Halsey, President of the Peconic Land Trust, announced that the Trust has received an important conservation and historic preservation easement that protects a “Smith Homestead” owned by Malcolm E. Smith, Jr. The easement donation protects 19 acres including the old Homestead house, which was originally constructed in 1687 and is individually listed both on the National Register of Historic Places and the New York State Register of Historic Places.

In making the announcement, Mr. Halsey said: “This is a tremendous donation on the part of Malcolm Smith and his family, preserving for future generations this important historic place on Stony Brook Harbor. The land and the buildings represent a significant link with the founding of Smithtown and the contributions of the Smith family to this region of Long Island. As development continues to reshape the landscape of Suffolk County, conservation easements like this maintain a link with our past and preserve the historic character of the region – attributes of interest to residents, old and new, not to mention visitors.”

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“My family and I are in agreement that this property – all 19 acres and the old 1687 homestead house – be preserved intact for future generations. The preservation of the house, open land, forest, and wetlands will forever preserve a link to Smithtown’s early days and ensure that the property retains its important cultural and environmental history,” said Mr. Smith.

The terrain of the 19-acre property is generally hilly and wooded, and slopes down to Stony Brook Harbor where the 1687 house is sited within the Village of Nissequogue. In addition to the primary original house, the historic preservation easement for the property includes contributing structures, including an L-shaped barn, a cottage, a pump house, two sheds and a well cover.

#### **History of the Smith Homestead\*\***

The Ebenezer Smith house, originally built in 1687 for Ebenezer Smith (grandson of Richard Smith I, the original Patentee), was expanded greatly between the years of 1712 and 1747 and maintains the classic lines of a Long Island farmhouse from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The property, known as the “Dick Nezer Place,” or “Dick-Nezer Homestead” transferred from the Smith family to the Dixon family in the mid-1920s, and became known as “Beachbend.” The property remained in the Dixon family until it was sold to Malcolm E. Smith, Jr., in 1970. Mr. Smith is the 9<sup>th</sup> generation descendent of Richard Smith I.

On October 13, 1992, the property was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior; and on August 19, 1993, it became individually listed on the New York State Register of Historic Places.

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### **About Conservation & Historic Preservation Easements**

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization (e.g., Peconic Land Trust) or municipality that protects the land from development. The landowner retains ownership and the rights to sell the property or pass the property onto heirs. The addition of an historic preservation easement on a structure or structures protects the facades of those buildings to maintain the historic context and character of the structures.

### **About Peconic Land Trust**

The Peconic Land Trust was established in 1983 to conserve Long Island's working farms and natural lands. Since its inception, the nonprofit Trust has worked conscientiously with farmers, donors, municipalities and other landowners to preserve over 8,300 acres of land on Long Island. The Trust's professional staff carries out the necessary research and planning to identify and implement alternatives to outright development. While working to conserve the productive farms, watersheds, woodlands and beachfront of Long Island, the Trust is also preserving the unique rural heritage and natural resources of the region. The Trust has Stewardship Centers in Cutchogue and Amagansett and its Main Office is in Southampton. For more information about the Peconic Land Trust visit [www.peconiclandtrust.org](http://www.peconiclandtrust.org) or call 631.283.3195.

\*\*Source: Colonial Rockwell's Scrapbook (1968); U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Beachbend, Nissequogue, Suffolk County, New York

### **Attachments:**

Map of easement location

Select photographs of house and land; Aerial photograph of easement

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