



Main Street Historic District
Village of East Hampton
Historic Preservation Program



THE SUMMER COLONY ON MAIN STREET

While East Hampton's summer colony developed along Ocean Avenue, some visitors followed Thomas Moran's lead and created summer cottages on Main Street. The grandest of these is the J. Harper Poor House, an eighteenth-century house remodeled by the architect Joseph Greenleaf Thorp into an Elizabethan cottage with stucco walls, rows of small-paned casement windows, half-timbering and carved wood brackets. Mr. Poor, a New York merchant, and Mr. Thorp were influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement which held a romantic view of medieval English architecture and its hand-crafted quality. The Village Green, with its strong connection to the English villages the settlers had left behind, seemed a perfect setting for this Elizabethan cottage.

Above: J. Harper Poor House,
Joseph Greenleaf Thorp, architect, 1911.

Right: Carved angel bracket supporting the timber
lintel at the entrance to the J. Harper Poor House.



The influence of the Arts and Crafts movement is seen in the carved ornament, tall oak paneling and the plaster relief ceiling in the living room of the J. Harper Poor House.

