

Recommended HABS Projects
in the Lower Cape Cod Area

Ernest Allen Connally
June, 1960

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Collecting Material for HABS in the Area of the
Proposed Cape Cod National Seashore:

Prospects and Proposals
by
Ernest Allen Connally

June 28, 1960

From June 9 to June 17 I was on Cape Cod again, to pick up where I left off last year's preliminary survey. (See my Historic Structures Report: "A Preliminary Study of Early Buildings on Lower Cape Cod, Massachusetts," August, 1959, with additional reports, National Park Service, EODC.) When I arrived, Architects John Shaw and Charles S. Dotts together with several students were already established in the Nauset Coast Guard Station, Eastham, which will be summer headquarters for the HABS team. Soon after my arrival the rest of the students came in--five all together. Before I left Photographer Cervin Robinson arrived.

Most of my time on the Cape was spent introducing Shaw and Dotts to various persons who had helped me before, notably Mr. Silas Clark of Wellfleet, who offered to help them in every way he could; in showing Shaw and Dotts over the terrain of the proposed park, pointing out the houses included in my preliminary report and explaining what I knew of each of them; and finally, with Shaw, and later with Robinson, laying out a program for the summer's work and establishing a system of priorities for buildings to be included in HABS, with recommendations for the future. The list of buildings, by priority, with all available information pertaining to each is appended to this report. Architect Shaw has been provided with a rough draft of this list.

Several aspects of my recent work on the Cape follow in this report, under appropriate sub-titles. First, however, I should emphasize the diplomatic aspects of HABS work in the area of the proposed park, of which I was strongly reminded this year, as last. I had the impression that some of the good will built up last year had dried up during the winter and was reminded of the absolute necessity for the utmost tact and patience in requesting permission to measure and photograph. It is a time-consuming and difficult business, but essential. In fact, it can be put down as a rule: do not go to a house without a pre-arranged introduction from a friend of the owner or occupant.

Published Article on the Cape Cod House:

After submitting my preliminary report and additions last summer, I continued on my own the study of the traditional house on Lower Cape Cod in an attempt to clarify several important aspects of its origin and development. The result was an essay entitled "The Cape Cod House: an Introductory Study," which was accepted for publication in the Journal, Society of Architectural Historians. A typed copy was prepared for the use of the summer team, with whom I discussed its contents. On my return to Urbana I found the galley proofs for the article and was pleased to learn that it will appear in the May issue, which is (belatedly) in press now. It will thus be available in quantity for the use of the summer program, and I have ordered a number of offprints. I shall send 25 to the Supervising Architect, Historic Structures, EODC; 25 to Mr. Silas Clark of Wellfleet, who asked for a goodly number; one to each man on the summer team; one to each person who helped me with the study and one to each person whose house is included.

Maps:

According to my directive, a map has been made a separate part of this report. Its purpose is to locate the houses included in my preliminary report of 1959, with any subsequent additions, for HABS purposes. It consists of several quadrangle of the U. S. Geological Survey, trimmed and mounted on canvas as a wall map. A numerical system of identification was worked up, purely as an aid in relating houses (ie, photographs and drawings of them) to the map, to their physical location, for the use of the summer team and any subsequent HABS teams. Some such system is indispensable to any kind of efficient study of the old houses in the area of the proposed park, since one cannot always have an experienced guide at his side.

The map was left behind in care of Architect Shaw, who is having a duplicate made for use in the field. When it is completed he will forward the original map to EODC. Thus there will be two for future use: one for headquarters and one for the field.

Historical Districts:

According to An Economic Study Relating to the Proposed Cape Cod National Seashore Park (prepared by Economic Development Associates, Boston; published by National Park Service, Region V, 1960), pp. 8-9, "In certain areas, the preservation of historic structures and the evidence of earlier ways of living as associated with the colonial and seafaring eras of Cape Cod will be a prime objective." The report mentions the preliminary HABS survey of 1959 and notes that further work will be done this year on "the most significant houses," and continues: "Often these houses are grouped in such a way that their localities might be designated as historic districts (*italics supplied*), and plans will be directed toward perpetuating the historic and landscape values involved." This is the substance of one of my recommendations in 1959. And when I was in Philadelphia on June 8, Mr. E. C. Martinson of Region V explained to me that the present plan is to create four historical districts. They are listed below with numbers assigned, by Architect Shaw and me, proceeding from north to south. These numbers are merely a convenience for facilitating the summer work for HABS, particularly as regards locating buildings on the map. The following list includes the number of houses counted in the 1959 preliminary survey, with an amendment of plus 2 in District III.

Historical District

I	Truro: Long Nook and Higgins Hollow Roads,	10 houses
II	Truro Pamet Roads North and South	17 houses
III	Truro South Truro	15 houses
IV	Wellfleet: Bound Brook Island	<u>5</u> houses
Total		47 houses

Thus out of the estimated total of 70 old houses in the total area of the proposed park, there are 47, or approximately two-thirds, in these four proposed historic districts. This fact provided the basis for planning the HABS program for 1960 and establishing a system of priorities. The program for 1960 includes 19 houses to be measured (see appendix).

Priorities:

With the assistance of Architect Shaw, I worked out a system of four priorities, as follows:

First Priority: Houses of the greatest age and architectural interest, without reference to proposed historical districts, but with some regard for geographical distribution within the area of the proposed park. These will receive the fullest HABS coverage. We selected four houses in this priority:

- (1) Harding-Lloyd House, Truro, which is discussed in the appendix under Historical District II.
- (2) Higgins House, Wellfleet, which is discussed in the appendix under Historical District IV.
- (3) Rowell House, Wellfleet, on Gull Pond Road.

This is a single house probably dating from mid-eighteenth century, one of the most archaic and most interesting specimens on the Lower Cape. Its owner, Miss Clara Rowell, is an outspoken and completely prejudiced foe of the park. Nevertheless last summer she finally consented to the house being photographed and finally welcomed me inside, where I was allowed to make a sketch floor plan. This year we discovered the house is jointly owned and occupied by a sister, Miss Charlotte Rowell, who is much more a foe of the park than Miss Clara. In fact, an acquaintance of theirs, in comparing the sisters, characterized Miss Clara as "happy-go-lucky." This may give some indication of Miss Charlotte's ferocity. Miss Clara gave permission to measure the house, but when time came to go inside Miss Charlotte absolutely refused (she did not want it measured at all in the first place) and Miss Clara joined her in this stand.

When I left the Cape, work on the Rowell House had stopped with exterior measurements and drawings only, although I had persuaded Miss Clara to allow more exterior photographs. Through Mr. Clark, John Shaw was put in touch with one Mr. Wilkins who knows the Rowell sisters and will try to persuade them to allow the measurements to be finished.

(4) Doane-Chase House, Eastham, on Nauset Road.

This is a double-house, shingled, apparently the oldest house in Eastham within the area of the proposed park. It is similar to the Harding-Lloyd House, Truro. A wooden tablet in the yard announces that it was built by Sylvanus Doane and was the birthplace, in 1767, of Captain Obadiah Doane. It is now owned by Mr. Ralph Chase, from whom a warm welcome can be expected, according to the postmaster at Eastham.

Second Priority: Houses in the four historic districts for which some HABS measured drawings are programmed for the summer of 1960. The general criteria were apparent age and architectural interest, with an attempt at fair distribution among the four historic districts and with some regard for the variety of houses in the four districts. Completeness of original character and absence of additions were taken into account. Accessibility was also an important factor, for we quickly found that it was most expeditious to start where we were welcome, thus gradually making friends and securing further introductions to households of suspicion or hostility (which are numerous).

Third Priority: All other houses indicated on the map in the four historical districts, some of which will be recorded in photographs only during the summer program of 1960.

Fourth Priority: All other houses in the area of the proposed park as counted in my preliminary report of 1959 and indicated on the map which follows this report.

HABS Coverage by Priority:

Architect Shaw and I worked out a basic coverage according to priority, taking into account present HABS policy and an estimate of what could reasonably be accomplished in one summer campaign. A primary object was to secure as broad representation of the building in the proposed historical districts as possible. Secondly we felt that a very selective number of buildings should be recorded fairly completely. Here is the proposed coverage in typical cases.

Priority One: Measured drawings, 3 or 4 sheets, including (1) location map and title, (2) floor plans, (3) elevations, (4) sections.

Photographs, averaging 3 exteriors, 3 interiors.

Priority Two: Measured drawings, 2 or 3 sheets, including (1) location map and title, (2) floor plans, (3) sections.

Photographs, averaging 2 or 3 exteriors, 2 interiors.

Priority Three: No measured drawings in 1960. The best photographic coverage circumstances permit, hoping for 2 or 3 exteriors, 2 interiors of the buildings covered this year. Few interior photographs can be expected in this category this year.

Priority Four: No HABS coverage programmed for 1960.

Photography:

The contract with Cervin Robinson specifying photographs of 24 houses at an average of 2 interiors and 3 exteriors impressed me as very realistic and reasonable. However, in reviewing his proposed work, and looking at the houses, Robinson was agreeable to a slight modification. Because of the situation of so many of the houses we doubt that satisfactory photographic coverage will average quite as many as 2 interiors and 3 exteriors each--because of close growth around many houses (rendering side view meaningless, for example) and the anticipated difficulty of getting permission to photograph inside. Therefore Robinson was agreeable to sticking

to the total number of photographs specified in the contract; namely a total of 48 interiors and 72 exteriors, but increasing slightly the number of houses, which may now run to 29 or 30. This is undoubtedly the most practicable way to go about it, and decisions in individual cases will be made by Shaw and Robinson.

Recommendations for Future Work:

The system of priorities which we have established will, I think, serve as a useful guide in any future HABS work in the area of the proposed park on Cape Cod. If more measured drawings are desired, you can simply start with whatever may remain unfinished (the Rowell House, for instance) in the first or second priority and proceed on to third and fourth priority. In these latter two categories I do not recommend HABS coverage more detailed than that specified for priority two. If you want that kind of coverage for all the houses in the proposed four historic districts it will take another summer with a double team. If you want that kind of coverage for all the old houses in the area of the proposed park it will take at least two more summers with a double team each time. It is reasonable to plan to do about 20 houses per summer on that basis, concentrating on floor plans and photographs (the coverage specified for second priority).

At the least I recommend that further work be done next year in photographs. It will also be necessary to have someone experienced in architecture and historical research to prepare the historical data sheets for the buildings measured and photographed this year. Considering the circumstances under which he has to work this year, it will be unrealistic to expect Shaw to provide historical data sheets as well as the architectural sheets and the drawings already programmed.

Appendix

Annotated List of Houses
Programmed for HABS in 1960

Arranged by Tentative Historical Districts

HISTORICAL DISTRICT I

Truro: Long Nook Road and Higgins Hollow

First Priority: none

Second Priority:

I-1 Rich-Musgrave House, Long Nook Road

The last house on Long Nook Road, on the right, going east. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Musgrave as a summer residence. This is one of the best dated houses on the Lower Cape. Shebna Rich, Truro--Cape Cod, or Land Marks and Sea Marks Boston, 1883), page 340, writing in 1878-80, states that the house was "built a hundred years ago" by his grandfather Joshua Rich. The date 1778 was formerly painted under the west gable. This is an early, characteristic double house, and the interiors are especially interesting. The panelling of the fireplace wall in the east room and the bolelection moldings of the mantel are almost identical to those in the Howes-Jorgenson House at Dennis, which is securely dated 1767. The Rich-Musgrave House was formerly the "easternmost house in Long Nook" according to Shebna Rich. However, it descended to Irving Hale Rich (1853-1927), who moved it farther west, to its present site, enlarging it by the attachment of a house-and-a-half (of about 1830) as an ell. A garage and studio were also added. Measuring this house really amounts to measuring two houses, for the house-and-a-half should also be included. It will thus take about five interior and five exterior photographs to record the building satisfactorily, in addition to the plans and sections. The house was acquired in 1927 by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Musgrave, who maintain it in excellent condition. Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave cordially received me last summer (1959), at which time they gave permission for an HABS team to measure and photograph the house this summer. Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave are expected to arrive about June 20, and Mr. Silas Clark has offered to introduce Architect Shaw. Although the Musgraves are not convinced supporters of the proposed national park, their courteous and interested cooperation is expected.

I-2 Paine-Johnson House

Higgins Hollow road, the first house on the right as you turn off from Long Nook Road. It is right at the intersection. Owner and occupant: Mrs. Laura R. Johnson.

A house-and-a-half, painted yellow, apparently dating from the late eighteenth (possibly early nineteenth) century, although the owner reports that it was built about 1713 (most improbably) by one of the numerous family Paine (quite likely), early settlers of Truro. It may prove to have been the home of Thomas Paine, longtime town clerk of Truro in mid-eighteenth century, or more likely, of one of the later Thomas Paines, also town clerks. The house has some modern additions, although the interiors of the old part appear intact. Good panelling in east room.

Mrs. Johnson is an advocate of the proposed national park. She was formerly the mother-in-law of Mr. Silas Clark's son (now divorced). Elderly, friendly and helpful, Mrs. Johnson has given permission to measure and photograph her house. She was once gallantly rescued in her stalled automobile by the HABS team, whom she is anxious to help. Architect Shaw is depending on her for introductions to other houses in Long Nook and Higgins Hollow. According to Silas Clark, this is our best approach.

I-3 Larsen House

Higgins Hollow Road - the last house on the left, going east. The house is down below the road, obscured by shrubby growth. No trespassing signs. Chain across entrance. Gate sign reads H. Larsen.

Present owner: reportedly Al (?) Larsen, a New Hampshire man, who spends only a part of each summer there.

A single house with rear ell. Shingled walls. Painted white. Considerable architectural interest because it is one of the rare single houses within the area of the proposed park.

It is hoped that Mrs. Laura R. Johnson or Mrs. Arthur Musgrave will be able to arrange permission to measure and photograph when Mr. Larsen arrives.

Third Priority: (Photographs only in summer of 1960)

I-4 Atwood House

Long Nook Road - first house on left as you enter the area of the proposed park, going east on Long Nook Road.

Owner and occupant: Mrs. Mae Atwood, an elderly widow.

House-and-a-half with ell. Shingled walls. Painted white. Apparently early nineteenth century. Good specimen. Little altered on exterior. Original interior panelling removed (according to Mrs. Johnson, who lives just across the road).

Mrs. Atwood stays in bed until noon, dislikes strangers. Mrs. Johnson has offered to arrange an afternoon introduction.

I-5 Woolley House

Higgins Hollow Road - first house on left after you turn off from Long Nook Road.

Double-house with ell. Greek Revival influence; hence probably 1840's. Painted white. Apparently few external changes. Interior condition unknown. Clear, level setting. Faces east.

Introduction to be requested of Mrs. Johnson, who lives across the road, quite near.

I-6 Bostock House

Higgins Hollow Road - on the right, around the bend from the Woolley House. Sign reads Bostock.

Greek Revival double-house. Painted red with white trim. Introduction to be requested of Mrs. Johnson.

HISTORICAL DISTRICT II

Truro: North Pamet Road and South Pamet Road

First Priority:II-1 Harding-Lloyd House

North Pamet Road - on south side of the road at the bend. The house is on a barren hill, clearly visible.

Present owner: Mrs. Margaret Lloyd Aiken of New York. The house is used as a summer residence. Mrs. Aiken owns two other summer places adjacent (both modern structures).

Double-house with shingled walls, unpainted. A few minor modifications show on the exterior. Some remodelling inside at the rear; the garret has been almost completely rearranged. Highly interesting panelling and bolection moldings on fireplace wall of east room, similar to that in the Rich-Musgrave House, Long Nook Road. Good mantels, apparently later, in the west room and former kitchen. The house gives some evidence of having originally been a single house, later doubled. There is a circular cellar under each half of the house, one of brick, one of stone.

Believed to be the oldest house in Truro, we know from an account by Shebnah Rich, Truro--Cape Cod, or Land Marks and Sea Marks (Boston, 1883), pp. 287-288, that it was standing in 1775, when it was occupied by Lot Harding II (1721-1802), who apparently built it and certainly reared his large family in it. (Lot Harding is buried in Old North Cemetery, Truro, where I found his tombstone. Mrs. Ruth Dyer, knowledgeable antiquarian of Truro, looked up genealogical records for me, confirming both the original owner and approximate date of construction.) Harding married Tamesin Cobb in 1746, thus the house was probably built between 1746 and 1775, say 1760 $\pm$ 15. The Harding-Lloyd House is quite similar to the Doane-Chase House, Nauset Road, Eastham, where a wooden tablet in the yard announces that it was built by Sylvanus Doane and was the birthplace, in 1767, of Captain Obadiah Doane.

After the death of Lot Harding II in 1802 the house was occupied by Lot Harding III (1771-1840), after whom it passed through several hands, including some Portuguese families. It was bought about 1920 by Mrs. Herbert Lloyd,

who died in 1959, when it came to her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Lloyd Aiken.

The Harding-Lloyd House has already been measured and drawings were in progress when I left the Cape. (One exterior photograph was taken in 1959.) Mrs. Aiken has strong reservations about the merits of the proposed park, especially with regard to passing the house on to her children. However, she permitted us to take measurements and photographs, after introduction by Mr. Clark, and has been quite helpful. It is hoped that she will help secure permission to record other houses on the Pamet Roads.

Second Priority:

II-2 Collins-Farwell House

South Pamet Road - at the end of a lane, to the left, as you go east on South Pamet Road. Near the end of South Pamet Road. Sign on the road reads Farwell. The house stands clear on an open rising ground. The owner lives in a modern house on the hill to the west, within sight of the old house. Present owner: Mrs. Martha Farwell.

A double-house. Shingled walls, unpainted. A good specimen, in good condition. According to the owner it was built by one of the Collins family, about the same time the Harding-Lloyd House was built. It is often referred to as the second oldest house in Truro and probably dates from the late eighteenth century. It is now maintained as a cottage for summer rental.

Mrs. Farwell, a redoubtable old widow and foe of the park, gave us permission to measure and photograph the house, of which she is very proud, provided we could finish before July 1, when the summer tenants arrive. However, she retracted within a few hours. Architect Shaw will now try to get permission again through Mrs. Aiken or Mrs. Ruth Dyer.

II-2 John Dyer Jr. Law Office

North Pamet Road. Quite close to the road, a sign on the building.

A house-and-a-half, showing influence of the Greek Revival, painted white. In good condition. Dated 1832

by Mr. Dyer. Originally a dwelling, moved to this site from another location and now used as a law office. Interiors apparently intact.

Permission to measure and photograph has been granted by Mr. Dyer, whom I met last summer. However, he can be a bit difficult and at times acts rather strangely (both his parents were Dyers - old Cape Cod). Nevertheless, he and his mother, Mrs. Ruth Dyer, who lives nearby in an old house (considerably modified) down a lane off to the south from North Pamet Road, can provide much help with historical information. The mother is easier to talk to.

II-3 Nathaniel Dyer House

North Pamet Road - across the road from John Dyer Jr. Law Office.

Greek Revival double-house. Shingled walls. Painted white. In good condition. Dated 1832 by John Dyer Jr. Owned (or was owned) by his uncle Nathaniel Dyer. Permission to measure and photograph has been promised by John Dyer Jr.

II-4 Kahn House

South Pamet Road - off the road near a bend. In a valley but standing on rising ground free and visible from the road.

Present occupant: E. J. Kahn, Jr., as summer residence. Mr. Kahn wrote a lengthy article on the proposed national park, published in the New Yorker, September 4, 1959. He is counted a friend of the park.

Greek Revival double-house. White clapboard front. Dark grey shingled sides. Good specimen of gable windows. House in excellent condition. Mr. Kahn can probably help with historical information on the house. Introduction to be arranged through Mr. Clark.

II-5 Wilson House

South Pamet Road - north side of road, sign says Wilson.

Present owner and occupant: Mr. Edward Wilson.

House-and-a-half. Shingled walls. Painted white. Excellent condition. Some modifications at the rear. Early nineteenth century, perhaps as late as 1830.

One exterior photograph of the house was taken in 1959, when I met Mr. Wilson, who is very hospitable and a friend of the park. He was absent when we called on him this summer, so Mr. Clark will arrange an introduction for Mr. Shaw.

II-6 Laurie House

South Pamet Road - next door to Edward Wilson. Right on the road, hedge in front.

Present owner: Mrs. Frank Laurie.

House-and-a-half. Early 19th century. Shingled walls, painted grey. In excellent condition. Apparently few modifications. Used as a summer residence.

Mr. Laurie died in 1959, and the house will be closed this summer. However, Mrs. Laurie's relative, Mrs. Ebbert lives across the road and probably has a key. Permission to measure and photograph can probably be arranged by Mrs. Ebbert through Mr. Edward Wilson.

Third Priority: (photographs only in 1960)

II-7 Shingled Greek Revival

North Pamet Road - north side of road at bend, near Harding-Lloyd House.

No index card. Need identification and introduction to owners. Mrs. Aiken and Mrs. Dyer will likely be the most helpful.

II-8 House in the valley

Off a lane leading down from North Pamet Road. On the south side of North Pamet Road. Invisible from North Pamet Road. Can be seen best from South Pamet Road, vicinity of Kahn House.

Double house, appears good early specimen. No index card. Need identification and introduction. Mrs. Ruth Dyer and John Dyer Jr. will likely be the most helpful. Kahn may know the occupants.

HISTORICAL DISTRICT III

South Truro

First Priority: none

Second Priority:

III-1 Cappers House

Ryder Beach Road - first house on right (north side of road) as you cross the railroad tracks.

Present owner and occupant: E. O. Cappers.

House-and-a-half, shingled, painted grey with white trim. Early nineteenth century. Slightly bowed roof. Apparently little altered. Excellent condition.

No index card. Introduction to be arranged by Mr. Clark. Mr. Cappers is a friend of the park and an enthusiast for old houses, especially his. Probably has some sound information. He is well acquainted with South Truro and can be expected to provide information and introductions for other houses on this list.

III-2 Schroder House

Ryder Beach Road - on north side of road, west of Cappers. Present owner and occupant: Miss Dorothy Schroder.

House-and-a-half, shingled, painted white. Some additions. Excellent condition. No index card.

Miss Schroder is a descendant of an old Cape family, a friend of Cappers and Clark. She is expected to welcome HABS and to be able to help with information about other houses in South Truro.

III-3 Rich House

On Pump Log Point - follow the trail beyond the end of Ryder Beach Road. The house stands free in an unkempt clearing.

Present owners: Mr. and Mrs. Warren Rich.

Double-house with high walls, fan light, clapboard front, shingled sides. Probably dates from the 1830's. Painted white. Rather neglected. Interiors appear

rather uninteresting although possibly original. Fireplaces have been blocked up; chimney probably rebuilt.

Mr. and Mrs. Rich are old Cape-Codders who live away, spending only about two weeks here each summer. It will be necessary to depend on Mr. Cappers or Miss Schroder for arrangements to enter the house.

III-4 Moynahan House

on Pump Log Point - at the end of the trail.

Present owner: Jim Moynahan.

House-and-a-half with ell. Probably about 1830. Deteriorating. Good interiors, reputedly unaltered. Particularly good panelling in east room.

Mr. Moynahan is an eccentric, impecunious musician - also a Harvard classmate of Bertram K. Little. He comes to the house sporadically during the summer. Best approached through Mr. Cappers.

Third Priority: (photographs only in 1960)

III-5 Lombard-Hobbs House

on Pump Log Point- follow the trail beyond the end of Ryder Beach Road. The lane leading to the house is marked Hobbs. The house stands free on a little knoll.

A house-and-a-half, in apparently excellent condition. According to Mr. Clark it was built ca. 1806 by Israel Lombard.

Approach through Mr. Cappers or Miss Schroder.

III-6 Marshall House

Old County Road - west side, south of intersection with Prince Valley Road.

Greek Revival with ell. Entrance in pedimented end. Probably about 1850. Good condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, friends of Mr. Clark, have recently been injured in an automobile accident and

will both be hospitalized for some time. According to Mr. Clark, it is permissible to take exterior photographs.

III-7 Cooper Cottage

Old County Road - west side, near Marshall House.

House-and-a-half, shingled, white. Sign says Cooper Cottage.

III-8 Nichols House

Prince Valley Road - house cannot be seen from road. Approached by sandy lane up steep hill. House in high, open setting.

Double house, apparently early nineteenth century. Good example, no evident additions.

We were met here by a stormy old woman. Mr. Clark advises not to return without him - a sound idea.

HISTORICAL DISTRICT IV

Wellfleet - Bound Brook Island

First Priority:IV-1 Higgins House

Bound Brook Island Road - turn off to the left just before the black-top road ends.

Present owner: George K. Higgins.

A double-house, consisting of an early eighteenth-century single house which was later enlarged or doubled (ca. 1800?). Probably the earliest and best architectural specimen on the Lower Cape. Painstakingly restored since 1919. On the grounds a New England barn was reconstructed in 1925, and a country store was reconstructed in 1949.

The earliest known record of the house is dated 1805, when Thomas and Mercy Atwood (ancestors of the present owner) purchased "all the land . . . and half the Dwellinghouse now standing" from Thomas Holbrook and Thomas Higgins (Original deed in possession of Mr. George K. Higgins). The house came down through Atwood descendants and in 1919 was purchased by George K. Higgins.

Three photographs of the house were taken in 1959. According to Mr. Clark, Mr. Higgins returns about June 20 and is expecting the HABS team to come to measure the house and take further photographs.

Second Priority:IV-2 Baker-Biddle House

Bound Brook Island Road - near the end of the road. There is a posted notice signed F. Biddle.

Present owner: Hon. Francis Biddle.

House-and-a-half, enlarged at both ends, dormers added. Maintained as a summer residence, in fine condition.

Two interior and one exterior photographs taken in 1959.

Traditionally dated 1792, according to the owner, the house is best known as the boyhood home of Lorenzo Dow Baker (1840-1908), founder of the United Fruit Company. It may have been built by his father, David Baker, and most likely dates from the early nineteenth century.

Mr. Biddle is not expected until about June 27. Architect Shaw will telephone for an appointment to measure the house.

IV-3 Atwood-Clark House

Bound Brook Island Road - between Higgins and Biddle.

Present owner: Mrs. Joan Clark, former daughter-in-law of Mr. Silas Clark, who will introduce Mr. Shaw.

A house-and-a-half, with some additions, in good condition. It is understood that the house will have to be measured before July 1, when summer tenants arrive.

Third Priority: (Photos only in 1960)

IV-4 Hall House

Bound Brook Island Road - between Higgins and Biddle.

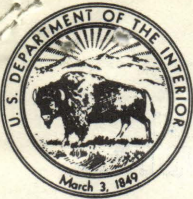
Present owner: John H. Hall.

A house-and-a-half, with some modifications.

Interiors have been stripped.

Exterior photographs only in 1960.

It is expected that Mr. Biddle will be glad to telephone an introduction for Messrs. Shaw and Robinson.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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D505

1959 SEP 8 AM 11:13

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

Mr. Thompson

September 1, 1959

Memorandum

To: Chief of Design and Construction
From: Chief, EODC
Subject: Connally HABS Investigation of Cape Cod

DIV. OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION	
SEP 8 1959	
☐	Vint
☐	Morrell
☐	Miller
☐	Sager
☒	Button
☒	Lessey
☒	Smith
☐	D&C Files
☐	Records Files

Thank you for your kind memorandum of August 24. We believe that Dr. Connally made a good start on Cape Cod and has proved that there are old buildings in the Park area which should be preserved. When the rest of the photo prints for his report have come back from the finishers we will complete and distribute the other copies.

Dr. Connally on his last day here left three memorandums, copies of which are attached. They are:

August 27 - "Cape Cod Study - August 15 - 26"

August 27 - "Recommendations for Preservation and Use of Historic Houses..."

August 31 - "Future HABS Project, Cape Cod"

We don't see how Dr. Connally could have done much more in his limited time. There were very few published studies that tackle the subject at all. Even the locations of the houses, most of them tucked away in small wooded valleys, are generally unknown. Once you find them, the people in them have usually very little knowledge about dates, etc.

We suggest that when you have received these memorandums that a meeting be called to discuss further action. At that time Dr. Connally's files can be examined. He has left many notes so the study can be carried forward, if it is desired.

WASD

We have commended Dr. Connally on the friendly and constructive cooperation he has worked up among residents on the Cape. It would be difficult, probably impossible, to make such a study without local help.

Edward S. Zimmer
Edward S. Zimmer
Chief

In duplicate

Attachments - 3 (in duplicate) *21*

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Five w/attachments
Dr. Connally w/attachments

Supervising Architect, Historic Structures

August 27, 1959

E. A. Connally

Cape Cod Study: August 15 - 26.

This is a brief report on the last phase of my preliminary survey of early architecture on Lower Cape Cod, particularly respecting the area of the proposed national park.

My work in these last days falls into three general categories, as follows:

1. Intensive literary study in libraries (Boston Public, Sturgis Library at Barnstable, Wellfleet Library and New York public) and in books and documents kindly lent to me (by Mr. Silas S. Clark of Wellfleet and by Miss Dorothea Setzer of Dennis) to provide some precise background for understanding, and some standard by which to judge, the buildings in the proposed park.

2. Concentration on the apparently oldest houses in the proposed park, to try to establish their age. This involved interviews, tramping through cemeteries, getting help (from Mr. Clark) in looking up records. I also got to see inside some important houses not theretofore inspected.

3. Outlining a prospectus of future HABS work on Cape Cod.

In general the results were fruitful. Most of what I found under item 1 has been incorporated in the material for photo-data books. Photo-data sheets have been commenced for each building surveyed, and some are substantially complete. This applies also to item 2; and especially important, I can now much more-intelligently make the recommendation regarding preservation which Mr. Vint has asked for. This will be the subject of a separate memorandum. Suggestions for future HABS work on Cape Cod will likewise be detailed in a separate memorandum.

(SIGNED)

Ernest Allen Connally
Architect

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

August 27, 1959

Memorandum

To: Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
From: Ernest Allen Connally, Architect
Subject: Recommendations for Preservation and Use of Historic Houses within Proposed Cape Cod National Seashore

As a result of my last study (August 15 - 25) of early architecture on Lower Cape Cod, I now feel qualified to offer a few preliminary suggestions regarding the preservation and use of historic structures within the proposed national park, as requested in Mr. Vint's memorandum of August 24 (L58-DCA).

First of all, in my view, no eighteenth-century building should be destroyed, and nineteenth-century buildings should be demolished only in a highly selective way, after thorough study. This is simply a matter of conserving our national cultural heritage, of which the National Park Service is a custodian; and with respect to Cape Cod, I recommend the adoption of this principle as a basic policy in future planning of the national park on Cape Cod.

It is, of course, too early for detailed recommendations regarding specific buildings. Much more study will obviously be needed. However, it is possible to say now that there are at least six eighteenth-century houses in the area of the proposed park, as follows, proceeding north to south in proposed park area:

1. TRURO

Cook House, on King's Highway at the road to Highland Light. This district is known as North Truro. This house is included in the survey report, plate 10, entitled "House on King's Highway..." I have since learned that it is owned by Prof. Roy J. Cook, who occupies it as a summer residence (about five months out of the year). I did not get to see inside; however,

comparing the exterior to authenticated eighteenth-century examples, I tentatively assign it, on stylistic grounds, to the third quarter of the eighteenth century. According to verbal tradition, this house was standing, and was occupied by workmen, when the first Highland Light (Cape Cod Lighthouse) was erected (1797). This house needs more detailed study.

2. TRURO - Joshua Rich House, Longnook Road, now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Musgrave, as a summer residence. This is one of the best dated houses in the proposed park area. According to the historian Shebnah Rich, Truro - Cape Cod or Land Marks and Sea Marks (Boston, 1883), page 340, it is "as good a specimen of the old-fashioned double house as can be found in Truro. It was built a hundred years ago by my grandfather, Joshua Rich, and...is the easternmost house in Longnook Hollow." Shebnah Rich (1824 - 1907) was writing in 1878-80, which would date the house ca. 1780. A projecting block in the gable was painted with the date 1778 and is still slightly visible. During the ownership of Irving Hale Rich (1853-1927), the house was moved farther west, to its present location (on Longnook road, opposite Mrs. William L'Engle) and was attached to an existing "house and a half" (or 3/4 house) apparently dated from the 1830's. Irving H. Rich sold to Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave in 1927. The front entrance has been closed up, and the old kitchen remodeled; however, the two front rooms still possess fine mantels with bolection mouldings and panelled over-mantels--two of the finest interiors in the proposed park. These mantels correspond closely to those in the Howes-Jorgenson House at Dennis (included for HABS this summer), which can be dated between 1766 and 1788. Measured drawings of the Howes-Jorgenson mantel and panelling are in Alfred Easton Poor, Colonial Architecture of Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard (New York, 1932), plate 128. The Joshua Rich house was not included in HABS or the survey report, although it was counted in the 65 houses reported. I recommend it be further studied; especially the interiors should be photographed and measured.
3. TRURO - Lloyd House, North Pamet Road (included in Survey Report, plate 11). This is one of the oldest houses in Truro and perhaps the oldest in the park area. According to Mrs. Ruth Dyer of Truro (who is a mine of information on local history), the house was built by Lot Harding II. His tombstone, in Old North Cemetery, Truro, says he died October 29, 1802, aetatis 81. According

to a relation in Shebna Rich (op. cit., 287-288) the house was standing in 1782 and, by inference, in 1775. Mrs. Dyer and I therefore concluded that the house was built between 1746 and 1775. After the ownership of Lot Harding III (1771-1840), the house passed through several hands and finally to Herbert Lloyd. The widow Mrs. Lloyd died this summer (1959), and the house is presumably now owned by her daughter Mrs. Margaret Lloyd Aiken of New York City and Truro. The house has been closed up, and I could not see inside. It deserves further study, particularly the interiors.

4. Wellfleet - Rowell House, Gull Pond Road (Survey Report, plates 1 - 2). The owner of this house, Miss Clara Rowell, has been ferociously opposed to the proposed national park; however, she permitted the house to be photographed, and finally let me come in, showing her house with great pride and friendliness, so that it was possible to make a sketch plan for inclusion in the photo-data book, HABS. Although this house hasn't yet been documented earlier than a wall-map of Cape Cod dated 1858 (based on a survey of 1843-48), it is obviously eighteenth century. Indeed it is the most archaic type of "Cape Cod House" I have seen on all of Cape Cod, and therefore the most significant, architecturally, in the proposed park. Apparently it has been changed very little. Comparing it with other dated examples, I should assign the house to mid-eighteenth century, probably not later than 1775. I recommend complete measured drawings for this house.

5. Wellfleet - George K. Higgins House, Bound Brook Island Road (Survey Report, plates 12 - 16). This house had been studied in some detail for the Survey Report, and there are no new findings to add. However, Mr. Silas S. Clark of Wellfleet (an attorney who specializes in land titles) tells me that "double houses" were often legally divided right through the middle when an estate was settled. This appears to be the situation in the curiously phrased deed of 1805 (Survey Report, plate 12), and I am therefore persuaded that the house was already standing in 1805 in its doubled size. The house and grounds have been developed for eventual use as a museum specimen.

6. Eastham - Chase House, Nauset Road. This house was not included in the Survey Report, nor photographed for HABS, although it was counted in the 65. I did not find it open on two visits, although I understand it is the year-round (?) residence of Ralph A. Chase. A shingled "double house," it appears to be the oldest in the proposed park in Eastham. According to a wooden tablet in the yard, the house was built

by Sylvanus Doane and was the birthplace of Captain Obadiah Doane (born 1767). It has the character of the Lloyd House, Truro; i.e., pre-1775. A photograph of the house is in Eastham, Massachusetts, 1651 - 1951 (pub. by Eastham Tercentenary Committee, 1951), which is a good primer for old architecture in Eastham. The house needs further study.

All six of these eighteenth-century specimens are likely candidates for museum houses. (There are probably others). They are rather evenly distributed over the park area. They all need further study, by HABS, with at least measured floor plans and more photographs.

As to the nineteenth-century houses in the park area; there are probably as many as sixty of them. They exist in clusters (see Survey Report, maps following page 8), and my opinion is that these clusters should be preserved. (Only sound, habitable houses were included in the Survey Report). Cape Codders have often moved their houses, and it might be possible to re-locate some of the houses according to the necessities of park planning. But in my opinion these houses should be kept, in groups, and used--say a park employee's residence in each group, the others used for summer cottages or permanent residences--all subject of course to specified standards of maintenance and external historical character.

I recommend putting an HABS summer project on Cape Cod next year to enlarge the information on which such decisions must be based.

(SIGNED)

Ernest Allen Connally
Architect

(Memorandum prepared by Dr. Connally. Final typing completed after departing from EODC.)

Supervising Architect, Historic Structures

August 31, 1959

Ernest A. Connally

Future HABS Project, Cape Cod

This is to recommend assignment of a student team to Cape Cod next summer, if possible. The buildings in the proposed park area need further study, particularly those dating from the 18th century. The HABS index cards will suggest which are most important; and I hope that my Survey Report and memoranda will be useful.

In the future, HABS should, I think, include more along the historic Bay side of the Cape -- particularly in Barnstable and Yarmouth, extending as far "up" as Sandwich and as far "down" as Brewster. This is where the most and best architecture can be found also, of course, the Lower Cape, especially buildings in the proposed park, will need further study and recording.

The quickest way to get started is to have the help and advice of local persons who know something about old buildings and how to get things done. Here are some:

TRURO -- Mrs. Ruth Dyer, North Panet Road. An advocate of the park, factually knowledgeable on Truro history and houses, pleasant, helpful. She and her son, John Dyer, Jr. (attorney, knows the land well) are keepers of the Truro Congregational Church records.

WELLFLEET -- Hon. Silas S. Clark, Panet Point Road. Former mayor of White Plains, New York, and a retired attorney, carrying on restricted practice in land titles, specializing in South Truro. Mr. Clark has developed a keen interest in local history, has good books and documents (photostats). A friend of the Park Service, he is anxious to help and wants an HABS team next year. Mr. Clark has volunteered to trace the chain of title for every building in my Survey Report. It would be a courtesy to consult with him in any future HABS work. See Mr. Clark before making other contacts in Wellfleet or Truro.

WELLFLEET -- Miss Elizabeth S. Freeman, Gull Pond Road, showed me the way to a number of difficult places and performed introductions. She is a foe of the park and should not be imposed on.

DENNIS -- Miss Dorothea Setzer, route 6a (tel. Dennis 170) lent me books, etc. She is a member, National Trust, and will help HABS all she can. Winter address: Hotel San Carlos, 150 E. 50th Street, New York 22, New York.

BARNSTABLE -- Miss Priscilla C. Crane (member SAH), Box 487, Barnstable, Massachusetts, operates Crane duplicating service, next to courthouse; publishing a series of Cape Cod maps showing inter alia, historic houses (the first one is attached). A friend of the park, enthusiastic, generous, helpful.

BARNSTABLE -- Mrs. Donald G. Trayser, Bow Lane Road, Barnstable. Works in Register of Probate Office, courthouse. Wants to help, knows a lot. Her husband (I believe) was a sound local historian. Being in Barnstable on a Saturday, I missed seeing her and understand from Mr. Clark she was disappointed.

BARNSTABLE -- Richard Gallagher, architect, has some measured drawings of historic houses he has worked on. Affable and cooperative, according to Miss Crane.

YARMOUTH -- Mrs. Maggie Perkins, can be reached through the Yarmouth Register (edited by Horatio Rogers, Jr.). An eccentric, but a real researcher, according to Abbott Cummings. I didn't see her.

SANDWICH -- George H. Underwood, architect, 101 Tremont St., Boston, in charge of restoration of Hoxie House; has studied others.

(SIGNED)

Ernest Allen Connally
Architect

Attachment

(Memorandum prepared by Dr. Connally. Final typing completed after departing from EODC)

CAPE COD:
MASSACHUSETTS

HISTORICAL DISTRICTS
I LONGNOOK AND
HIGGINS HOLLOW
II PAMET ROAD
III SOUTH TRURO
IV BOUND BROOK ISLAND

○ PRE 1850 HOUSES
○ TO BE DRAWN AND PHOTOGRAPHED 1960
////// PARK BOUNDARY

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1938.
Topography by planetable surveys 1941-1942. Revised 1958
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 580 (1954) and
1208 (1955)

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue

